

Role Profile – SRE Senior FinOps Engineer

ABOUT US

Hostelworld Group is the leading online travel agent focused on hostelling, with a trusted brand and a loyal global community of travellers who value connection, culture and great experiences. We operate across multiple regions with product, technology and commercial teams working together to deliver a world-class platform across web and mobile. We are listed on the London Stock Exchange and Euronext Dublin. Our standard job advert language and location wording will be used in the final posting to ensure consistency with our careers materials.

THE ROLE

The SRE Senior FinOps Engineer is the domain owner for cloud financial operations. You will shift us from reactive cost reporting to proactive optimisation and forecasting, partnering closely with SRE, DBAs, Product Engineering and Finance to create visibility, governance and a culture of cost accountability across Google Cloud Platform. Your remit includes using GCP billing exports, dashboards and tagging to drive decisions, as well as hands-on optimisation of compute, storage and databases.

WHO YOU'LL WORK WITH

You will sit in the SRE/DBA organisation and partner daily with Senior SREs and DBAs, while working cross-functionally with Product Engineering and Finance to align spend decisions with reliability, performance and business goals.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Visibility and analysis

- Create a single source of truth for cloud cost and usage using GCP Billing exports, BigQuery and Looker/Tableau; deliver self-serve dashboards that show spend by project, team and service.
- Design and govern a resource labelling/tagging standard; audit for compliance and drive adoption across environments.
- Implement budgets and alerts on all projects, with clear ownership and escalation paths.

Optimisation and engineering

- Maximise Committed Use Discounts on steady workloads; monitor utilisation and renewals.
- Right-size GCE VMs, Cloud Run, GKE node pools and Cloud SQL; tune storage lifecycle policies to move cold data to cheaper classes.

- Identify and remove idle or orphaned resources such as unattached disks and unused load balancers.
- Automate savings where sensible, for example scheduling dev/test shutdowns or flagging untagged resources using Cloud Functions or light scripting.

Forecasting and financial partnership

- Build dashboard for rolling 12–18 month forecasts linked to business drivers like traffic, orders, storage and data transfer; maintain and explain variances.
- Translate cloud consumption into business metrics such as cost-per-booking and cost-per-active-user; partner with Finance on month-end, accruals and variance analysis.

Governance, operating rhythm and culture

- Lead a monthly Cloud Cost Review with tech leads and budget owners, agree actions and track outcomes to closure.
- Embed FinOps practices that empower engineers to take cost-aware action within SLO and reliability constraints.
- Contribute to SRE runbooks, standards and ways of working so cost, performance and availability trade-offs are explicit and repeatable.

SKILLS

Expertise

- SRE/DevOps Experience in Cloud Platforms like GCP/AWS/Azure
- Proven FinOps experience at meaningful Cloud scale.
- Hands-on optimisation across compute, containers, databases and storage, with a track record of measurable savings that did not compromise reliability.
- Strong data skills and automation skills with Python

Collaboration and influence

- Able to partner with SRE, Platform and Product Engineering to convert recommendations into shipped changes, and to work with Finance to land accurate forecasts.
- Clear, concise communicator who can influence without direct authority and coach engineers to make cost-aware design choices.

Nice to have

- FinOps Certified Practitioner or Analyst, experience with GKE autoscaling and Cloud SQL Enterprise settings, and familiarity with infrastructure-as-code workflows.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE IN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS

- Reduction in avoidable cloud waste through targeted engineering and governance, with baselines and measurement defined up front.
- $\geq 95\%$ tagging compliance across production and shared services.
- $\geq 90\%$ utilisation of CUDs on eligible steady workloads.
- Showback live for all squads; budgets and alerts active on 100% of GCP projects.
- Forecast model with $\leq 5\%$ variance for steady-state services at monthly close.
- Monthly Cloud Cost Review established with $\geq 85\%$ action closure rate quarter on quarter.

RESPONSIBILITIES (GENERAL, FROM OUR HOUSE STYLE)

- Work with a dispersed SRE team in a cloud environment and interact with product and business stakeholders to deliver platform improvements.
- Contribute to capacity planning, cost monitoring and incident response to maintain service availability targets.
- Provide clear status, metrics and progress reporting; help teams define, drive and achieve objectives and key results.

LOCATION AND WAYS OF WORKING

This role can be based in Ireland, Portugal or the UK. We support hybrid working and make use of our Dublin and Porto hubs for in-person collaboration as needed. Final wording will follow our standard job description template.

OUR BEHAVIOURS (UPDATED)

Our behavioural framework focuses on how we achieve results. For this role, here is what each behaviour looks like in a FinOps context.

Master it

- Stay on top of GCP pricing and FinOps best practice; use BigQuery and Looker/Tableau to interrogate spend patterns and explain the 'why'.
- Turn data into decisions: produce clear insights that drive right-sizing, storage lifecycle tuning and CUD coverage.

Collaborate

- Partner with SRE, Product and Finance to align cost decisions with reliability and business goals; facilitate a monthly Cloud Cost Review.
- Translate technical cost levers into plain language; share wins and lessons across squads.

Adapt

- Respond quickly to traffic or pricing changes; adjust forecasts and recommendations as business priorities evolve.

- Pilot and iterate automation for idle resource cleanup and off-hours shutdowns.

Deliver

- Hit annualised savings target without compromising SLOs; focus on outcomes over activity.
- Drive actions to closure from the Cloud Cost Review; maintain accurate, trusted dashboards and forecasts.

Grow Others

- Coach engineers and budget owners on cost-aware design; create enablement sessions and concise playbooks.
- Build self-serve tooling and documentation so teams can take ownership of their spend.

We welcome applications from all backgrounds and commit to ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.