

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Post:	Research Associate (RA)
Department:	The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design
Grade:	6
FTE:	0.6 (3 days per week)
Responsible to:	Leader, Age & Diversity Space, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design

Background:

The Royal College of Art is the world's most influential institution of university status devoted to the study of art, design, humanities and communication. Its international reputation for excellence in teaching, practice and research has been recognised for three successive years by the highly regarded QS World Ranking survey, with the College rated the world's number one art and design university in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The College has some 2,100 students registered for MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD degrees, over 400 full and part-time academic, technical and administrative staff, and in 2017/18 will operate on three high-profile sites in Kensington, Battersea and White City.

The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design (HHCD) provides a dedicated focus for people-centred design and innovation at the RCA. Established in January 1999, the HHCD has built a large programme of research, knowledge transfer and international outreach to academic, voluntary sector and business communities.

The HHCD runs a number of programmes, the largest and most complex of which is the Helen Hamlyn Research Associates Programme for new RCA graduates, which collaborates with external research partners to employ the graduates on a year-long programme. As the HHCD has developed in size and reputation, three research spaces have been created to rationalise the operational and intellectual structure. The research spaces are: Age & Diversity, Healthcare and Social & Global.

The RCA is collaborating with University of York's department of Sociology

on the ESRC-funded project Buildings in the Making: A Sociological Exploration of Architecture in the Context of Health and Social Care. The project aims to develop a sociological understanding of the day to day work of architects; to cast light on the way knowledge about health and social care is engineered into buildings designed for care; to understand the challenges and complexities associated with design in the health and social care sector; and to design and develop novel ways to disseminate and share findings with various audiences (e.g. architects and designers, people working in the social care sector, policy makers and the public).

Purpose of the role:

The Research Associate will be the primary RCA presence on the project, supervised and supported by the Age & Diversity Space Leader. The purpose is to contribute intellectually to the study, and bring designer perspective/skillsets to the communication and dissemination of outputs.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. Multidisciplinary working: To be prompt and efficient in collaboration with the broad range of different disciplines involved in the project; to be sensitive to different approaches and standpoints, and to show a willingness to learn from other disciplines.
2. Research: To conduct primary and secondary research in a variety of settings; to employ, tailor and develop new methodologies to gain insights from a range of different user groups and stakeholders.
3. Co-Design: To involve a range of users and stakeholders in the creative process, both individually and in group settings, to generate and evaluate a breadth of design interventions
4. Communicate: To research and realise novel communication outputs, for dissemination to a variety of audiences.
5. Research project management: To manage the delivery of the research and inclusive design component of the project, ensuring milestones are met, budgets kept, and reporting and outputs delivered.
6. Ensure translational benefit: To scope out necessary steps to implementation, and ensure the relevant stakeholders, funds and skills are present, post-project, to maximise translational benefit.
7. Other duties: To fulfil other project duties as reasonably requested by the RCA

Person Specification:

Essential skills:

- First degree in a relevant discipline and Masters qualification in Architecture, Communication or Design
- Proven interest in person-centred design and design ethnography

- Knowledge/interest in design for later life
- Ability to work flexibly as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Ability to work well amongst different stake-holder groups
- Good knowledge of literature in social aspects of design/architecture
- Excellent presentation, communication and workshop facilitation skills
- Strong visualisation and web-authoring skills

Desirable skills:

- Organisational skills for academic events
- Good writing skills
- Understanding of research data

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Salary: £18,409 per annum, pro rata from a FTE salary of £30,682 per annum, inclusive of London allowance.
- 15 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter.
- The appointment will be made on a fixed term basis, for one year, subject to a three month probationary period.
- The role is part time, working 3 days a week.
- Location: Battersea, London

PAY & BENEFITS

Pension

The Royal College of Art is a member of the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) which is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme. The college will contribute a sum equal to 16% of your salary while you pay 6%.

Holiday

5 weeks' (25 days) paid leave a year plus bank and public holidays normally observed in England and Wales. In addition, the college is normally closed for six days a year, one day either side of Easter and the remainder between Christmas and New Year. Part-time staff will be entitled to the pro rata equivalent.

Season ticket loans

Interest-free loans are available for staff to purchase annual season tickets.

Enhanced maternity and adoption pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced maternity/adoption pay: 26 weeks' full pay, 13 weeks Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of 90% of average pay for 6 weeks followed by Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay for 33 weeks.

Enhanced paternity pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to two weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay. This compares to the statutory provision of two weeks' pay at the statutory rate.

Enhanced sick pay

Occupational sick pay after six months' service is three months' full pay/three months' half pay.

24/7 confidential support

Staff and family members in their household have access to a free, external confidential support service for work, financial, legal, family and personal problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Occupational health

Occupational Health support for the College is provided by Imperial College's occupational health service at their South Kensington Campus.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Royal College of Art has signed up to the Cycle to Work Scheme – part of the government's Green Transport Initiative – which allows employees to make significant savings on purchasing new bikes and safety equipment.

Childcare Vouchers

The Royal College of Art enables staff to purchase childcare vouchers, through its partner Edenred, as a salary sacrifice scheme.

Life Cover

Active members of the SAUL pension scheme automatically receive life cover. A lump sum of four times your salary together with a refund of your contributions and a 2/3 pension for your dependent/spouse is payable should you die whilst in employment.

Library

All staff are welcome to join the college library.

Events

All staff are welcome to attend exhibitions, lectures and private views held by academic schools and programmes.