



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Department: School of Architecture

Grade: 6

Hours: Full time

Contract Type: 12 months fixed-term

Background:

The Royal College of Art is the UK's only entirely postgraduate university of art and design, dedicated to teaching, research and knowledge exchange with industry. The College's 1967 Royal Charter specifies that the College's purpose is "to advance learning, knowledge and professional competence particularly in the field of the fine arts... through teaching, research and collaboration with industry and commerce". Fifty years on, the College remains in the vanguard of creative enquiry, with around 2,000 students from 65 countries registered for MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD degrees. Applications are strong, and the College's strategy sets out an ambitious plan both to increase student places to 3,000 by 2020 and to launch new programmes underpinned by its world-class research. Recent examples in the School of Architecture include the launch in 2017 of City Design, and Environmental Architecture, both initially at MA level but with plans to develop into research degree study.

The College is located on three sites in central London, in Kensington, Battersea and White City. In 2016 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an unprecedented £54 million grant to support a major expansion at Battersea to create a flagship innovation campus, housing new research centres, knowledge exchange labs and additional space for the College's highly successful business incubator, InnovationRCA. With planning consent achieved in February 2018, enabling work on the new building is due to start in early 2018 with the completed building being handed over in late 2020.

As well as welcoming students from around the world, the College's global dimension is enhanced through extensive links with business and industry and its partnerships with leading art and design, cultural and educational institutions; including, among many others, its neighbours in Kensington (Imperial College

London, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Royal College of Music, the Science Museum, and the Natural History Museum).

The College has 400 full- and part-time staff, including internationally renowned artists, designers, theorists and practitioners. These staff, together with innovative forms of teaching and learning, dedicated technical facilities and research centres, all contribute to create an exceptional creative and intellectual environment and a remarkable record of graduate employment. Numerous eminent graduates have created far-reaching impact and influence, and the College boasts such noteworthy alumni as Sir James Dyson, Thomas Heatherwick, David Hockney, Tracey Emin, Christopher Bailey, Julien McDonald, Alison Jackson, Idris Khan, Sir David Adjaye, Suzie Templeton and Sir Ridley Scott.

The post-holder will be part of a dynamic and newly established City Design research group in the School of Architecture. They will actively contribute to ongoing research projects, design studies and public events. Current research in the School includes work on: the intergenerational city; the assessment of spatial design in learning environments; urban meta-data and semantic models in housing and design processes; new interdisciplinary urban design; and the impact of social movements on architecture and urban design. If desired and in agreement with the supervisors, the post holder will have the opportunity to teach in the post-professional degree programmes at the School of Architecture.

The RCA is collaborating with universities from China on the British Academy funded project Collective Forms: Neighbourhood Transformations, Spatialised Governmentality and New Communities in China led by Sam Jacoby. The project examines the changing effects of modernity and socio-spatial design in China through a comparative study of historical and contemporary urban developments and a series of symposia and workshops with international researchers from the arts, humanities and social sciences. The aim is to develop an interdisciplinary review of urban design policy and social policy in China with relevance to the future urban challenges in the UK.

Purpose of the role:

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will work on the Collective Forms in China project as part of the project team undertaking independent fieldwork and comparative urban studies and manage its public events and collaborations with project partners and local government. The role-holder will also contribute to research activity and research capacity in the field of City Design in the School of Architecture, and support the development of public research events.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Undertake original research, including literature reviews, fieldwork, case study analysis, practice-led research and design or archival research in conjunction with academic colleagues and project partners across industry, government and public sector bodies.
- Produce robust research outputs by contributing to the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, evaluation of research results and the compiling or writing up of its findings.

- Present research results and methodology at academic conferences, industry fora and to funders, or disseminate through academic journal articles and books.
- Contribute to multidisciplinary research collaboration and the development of appropriate interdisciplinary methodologies for sociospatial analyses and reviews of urban design policy and social policy.
- Contribute to impact of research on policy-makers, especially by advising and collaborating with Chinese local government and private stakeholders involved in urban design.
- Manage the delivery of the research project, ensuring milestones are met, budgets kept and reporting and outputs delivered.
- Assist in the managing and organising of research activities and events in the School of Architecture.
- To fulfil other project duties as reasonably requested by the RCA.

Person Specification:

Essential skills

- Have, or be about to be awarded, a PhD in architecture or urban design.
- Fluency in written and spoken Chinese (Mandarin)
- Experience in planning and undertaking independent research, including fieldwork, survey drawings and analysis of architectural or urban projects and conducting of interviews
- Experience in working with stakeholders and participants from industry, academia, the public and government
- Experience in presenting at international conferences and publishing academic papers
- Experience in organising academic events and workshops
- Good knowledge of literature on urban and rural spatial development in China

Desirable skills

- Experience in working with Chinese academic institutions and government agencies
- Knowledge of urban design and planning policy in China
- Understanding of design ethnography, urban sociology and social policy, especially in relation to China
- Experience in working with Chinese publishers or journals
- Ability to design and manage digital media platforms

Additional Information:

- Salary working 35 hours per week: £30,682 - £35,132 per annum, inclusive of London allowance.
- 25 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter.
- The appointment will be made on a fixed term basis, for 12 months, subject to a 6-month probationary period.
- Location: Kensington, London
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.

February 2018

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.

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.