



# Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

## JOB DESCRIPTION

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| <b>Post:</b>           | Research Associate, Global Health Index                                       |
| <b>Department:</b>     | Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design  |
| <b>Responsible to:</b> | Research Fellow, Healthcare Research Space,<br>Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design |

### **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.

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 Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design (HHCD) is the College's largest and longest running centre for design research, founded in 1991. It is endowed by the Helen Hamlyn Trust with a remit to advance the study and practice of design that contributes to improving quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. The centre employs around 30 staff and has an annual income in excess of £1.5 million. It derives funding from a variety of sources: the Helen Hamlyn Trust, other third sector organisations, business and industry, UK Research Councils and European funding programmes. The HHCD's work is organised into three research spaces: Age & Diversity, Healthcare and Social and Global.

The HHCD is collaborating with leading engineering consultancy company WSP to research and design a new Global Health Index. The aim of the project is to compare healthcare policy, services and infrastructure of cities and regions around the world, creating an index of value to the industry, and to position WSP as thought-leaders in the field.

### **Purpose of the role:**

The RA will be supervised and supported by a Senior Research Associate. The purpose is to lead on the research and design of the index, specifically by:

- Comparing existing global indexes
- Interviewing thought-leaders both within WSP and wider network
- Identifying metrics and corresponding data
- Designing the data analysis framework
- Communicating potential findings through data visualisations
- Developing a plan for delivery of the index by WSP

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- **Multidisciplinary working:** To be prompt and efficient in collaboration with the different disciplines involved in the project; to be sensitive to different approaches and standpoints, and to show a willingness to learn.

- **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.
- **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
- **Prototype:** To detail and realise index/framework to a testable level, and to establish criteria for valid assessment.
- **Research project management:** To manage the delivery of the research and design, ensuring milestones are met, budgets kept, and reporting and outputs delivered.
- **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.
- **Dissemination:** to lead on promoting the project research and design at the relevant conferences and in the relevant press, including scheduled workshops at project milestones to inform the research and design.

#### **Person Specification:**

- First degree in a relevant discipline and Masters degree.
- Proven interest in people-centred design research and methods.
- Proven interest in data science and/or global healthcare.
- Ability to work methodically and to identify, analyse and interpret data.
- Strong data visualisation and presentation skills.
- Self-starter with ability to work both in a team and autonomously.
- Confidence working within the engineering profession, and to engage different stakeholder groups including industry experts.
- Excellent written communication and workshop facilitation skills.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Salary working 35 hours per week: £30,682 - £35,132 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 35 hours per week over five days, with an hour each day for lunch.
- The appointment will be made on a fixed term contract for seven months.
- For the fixed term contract of seven months, there are 14.5 days of annual leave plus bank holidays and College closure days.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.

**April 2018**