

## JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

**Job Title:** Impact Research Fellow,  
Institute for Social Design

**Accountable to:** Director, Social Design Institute

**Contract Length:** 2 years

**Hours per week:** 1 FTE

**Weeks per year:** AYR

**Salary:** £45,603-£54,943

**Grade:** 6

**College/Service:** Academic and Development Services

**Location:** King's Cross

### Purpose of Role:

The aim of this role is to contribute to the establishment of a new UAL Social Design Institute. This is an ambitious and exciting initiative that will bring together expertise and knowledge across UAL within a new Institute that will consolidate, amplify and extend UAL's research expertise, teaching and knowledge exchange (KE) in social design and design for sustainability.

As one of several members of staff working towards the formation of the institute, the successful candidate will be expected to lead the theorisation and articulation of how social design and design for sustainability result in meaningful outcomes for society, and assessing the contextual factors and consequences of these developments.

This role will be instrumental in shaping the institute's emerging mission to shape the international research agenda in social design and design for sustainability and help to realise the strategic aims of UAL to work with partners to achieve positive societal and environmental outcomes through design. It will involve working alongside colleagues across UAL's six colleges and research centres, including academic staff, PhD students and knowledge exchange staff.

The successful candidate will play a key role in helping consolidate UAL's research and knowledge exchange in social design and design for sustainability resulting in stronger internal and external narratives; collaboration pathways for external partners; sustainable infrastructure and evidence to support research, knowledge exchange and impact; and opportunities for doctoral, MA and BA students and staff.

For initial informal discussion please contact Professor Lucy Kimbell via [l.kimbell@arts.ac.uk](mailto:l.kimbell@arts.ac.uk) by 12 April 2019

### Duties and Responsibilities

#### Specific duties

- To lead the development of an articulation of social design and design for sustainability that will support the building of frameworks, data-gathering, and analysis about the impact of UAL's social design and design for sustainability projects with partners, including businesses, public sector and third sector organisations, realised through research, practice and knowledge exchange
- To support the production of research and accounts of impact about design projects by UAL researchers and KE staff in the form of thematic analyses, case studies and other outputs
- To support the development and dissemination of and engagement with frameworks so that staff and PhD students are better able to articulate their impact while being conversant with the consequences and limitations
- To initiate, prepare and submit bids for funding to UK Research and Innovation, European and other funding bodies as principal or co-investigator

#### General duties

- To support the development of the Institute as agreed with the director and in dialogue with senior stakeholders across UAL
- To continue to develop an individual research profile as agreed with the line manager
- To be involved in the recruitment, selection and training of PhD students studying social design and design for sustainability

- To contribute to programming events relating to social design and design for sustainability including for and with UAL's PhD student community
- To lead to the building of knowledge about social design through preparing and presenting papers at conferences, contributing to refereed journals, and editing and/or authoring of books and book chapters, suitable for return to the Research Excellence Framework
- To support and participate in any additional tasks as required
- To perform such duties consistent with your role as may from time to time be assigned to you anywhere within the University
- To undertake ethical research, health and safety duties and responsibilities appropriate to the role
- To work in accordance with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy and the Staff Charter, promoting equality and diversity in your work
- To personally contribute towards reducing the university's impact on the environment and support actions associated with the UAL Sustainability Manifesto (2016 – 2022)
- To undertake continuous personal and professional development, and to support it for any staff you manage through effective use of the University's Planning, Review and Appraisal scheme and staff development opportunities
- To make full use of all information and communication technologies in adherence to data protection policies to meet the requirements of the role and to promote organisational effectiveness
- To conduct all financial matters associated with the role in accordance with the University's policies and procedures, as laid down in the Financial Regulations

**Key Working Relationships:**

- Director, Institute for Social Design
- Institute staff working on administration, digital learning and communications
- UAL research centres and hubs working on social design and design for sustainability
- UAL knowledge exchange managers
- UAL PhD students and supervisors working on social design and design for sustainability
- UAL staff involved in teaching and learning relating to social design and design for sustainability
- UAL Research Management and Administration and Academic Enterprise teams

**Specific Management Responsibilities**

**Budgets:** Depending on projects

**Staff:** None

**Other** (e.g. accommodation; equipment): None

Signed Lucy Kimbell Date of last review 6.02.2019  
(Recruiting Manager)

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**Grade: 6**

**Person Specification**

Specialist Knowledge/ Qualifications	<p>PhD in sociology, anthropology, the humanities, sustainable innovation, sustainable HCI, design or similar</p> <p>Regarded as an authority in their field of specialism</p> <p>Experience of applying to research and innovation funders and being accountable for outputs</p> <p>Strong record of successful research activity including publications in significant journals or edited books</p> <p>Good working knowledge of challenges of analysing research impact from innovation and change projects in the public sector, business and third sector, in particular through applied service design, digital design, participatory design and sustainable design</p>
Relevant Experience	<p>Familiar with the challenges of participating in collaborative research and knowledge exchange with stakeholders including in government, the public sector, third sector, social enterprise or business</p> <p>Experience of working in a research project with many internal and external stakeholders</p> <p>Experience of analysing project data and outputs produced by others</p> <p>Experience of supervising PhD students</p> <p>Experience of programming and organising seminar series and events and workshops</p>
Communication Skills	<p>Communicates effectively orally and in writing adapting the message for a diverse audience in an inclusive and accessible way</p>

	Experienced in producing a range of outputs, from reports to workshop briefings to (co-) authored academic papers suitable for peer reviewed journals
Leadership and Management	Proven ability as an operational task leader, assessing and articulating requirements and ensuring appropriate resources and support are available to enable the team and individual members to achieve their objectives
Research, Teaching and Learning	Applies innovative approaches to conducting research  Evidence of track record of high quality academic publications
Planning and managing resources	Experience of ensuring that time and resources are used effectively, continually reviewing progress to improve efficiency and to ensure that work is completed in line with team objectives
Teamwork	Works collaboratively in a team and where appropriate across or with different professional groups and academic specialisms  Builds and maintains positive relationships with colleagues and project partners across the university
Creativity, Innovation and Problem Solving	Suggests practical solutions to new or unique problems