

Job Description

Role Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate
School:	School of Arts, Media & Creative Technology
Reference:	MPF1020
Grade:	7
Full or Part time:	Full time
Hours:	1.0 FTE / 36.25
Reports to:	Associate Dean: Knowledge Exchange

Overview

The City of Salford is applying to become a UNESCO City of Culture; Media Arts. This specific designation recognizes cities that are hubs for media arts, which can include digital art, film, and other creative technologies. UNESCO designates certain cities as "Cities of Media Arts" within its Creative Cities Network to promote cultural and creative development, with examples including York (UK), Toronto (Canada), Austin (USA), and Gwangju (South Korea). These cities are recognized for using media arts, such as digital art, film, and innovative technology, as a driver for sustainable urban development, economic growth, and social cohesion. Media Cities are pro-active international collaborators, co-developing opportunities for international movement of artists, research and products as well as sharing best practices and hosting events and projects to foster creativity and a dynamic cultural economy.

We are seeking a motivated and capable individual to work alongside the Associate Dean; KE and staff at Salford City Council responsible for the development of the Salford City Council application, between Jan 26 and July 26.

The post will be based in the School of Arts Media & Creative Technology at the University of Salford.

This is a Fixed Appointment until July 2025.

Role Purpose

To contribute to the submission of Salford City Councils application of the UNESCO City of Culture in the field of Media Arts.

The preparation for this application process has begun with a timeline running to the bid deadline of October for submission by Salford City Council of the application. The proposed project will allow a dedicated researcher under the guidance of the Associate Dean: Knowledge Exchange and representatives from Salford City Council to undertake work that will bring together the universities contribution towards the Media Arts bid aligned to the UNESCO application form

Initial work capturing current and historical activity across the university will enable the researcher to effectively provide information that will be fed into Salford City Councils UNESCO Strategic Innovation Project Group to fully represent the Universities contribution to the city wide application. The six Creative Cities Priority Domains are: Cultural rights, Digital Culture and technologies, Culture and education, Economy of culture, Culture and

climate action, Culture, heritage and crisis, Culture and Peace and Artificial Intelligence and culture.

Further work will be in response to the addressing relevant sections of the UNESCO application form as directed by the UNESCO Bid leads. This will include gathering information from external stakeholders and collating university or council data to demonstrate the city's strengths and comparative assets in Media Arts including

- Economic data: cultural enterprises, employment figures, creative industry contributions
 - Historical and contemporary importance of the creative field.
 - Events: major fairs, conventions, festivals (professionals and public).
 - Education & R&D: arts education programs, training, residencies, research centres.
 - Infrastructure: professional hubs, creation/production spaces, cultural venues for the public.
 - Inclusion efforts: programs for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
 - Partnerships: collaborations among public, private, civil society, academia.
 - Support for creators: policies, initiatives improving conditions for creative professionals.
 - Support for cultural industries: local industry development measures.
 - Local and international cooperation: projects with other cities.
 - Cross-sector synergies: projects linking to other creative fields.

Bid development processes will also need to consider UNESCO Creative City manifestos (e.g., Braga Manifesto) and strategic declarations (Mondiacult) agreed by member states; Greater Manchester Creative Industry and Cultural Sector ambitions (GMCA and Salford strategies and policies). It is expected that the work would be developed in order to deliver positive outcomes for Salford residents in the following strategy areas: Creative and cultural sector; Education, Skills and work; Digital and technology and Business Growth – and deliver impact across all neighbourhoods in Salford as an internationally connected Creative City.

The UNESCO application, if successful will provide access to an international network of 25 creative cities of Media Arts across 5 continents, which are committed to working together to support cultural production and engagement and to sharing inspiration, technological innovation and best practice. and work with researchers to identify future project and funding calls for the benefit of the UNESCO bid. Skills in collation; thematic content analysis; data synthesis and presentation of specified outputs in written form be required. In addition, sound knowledge of the Creative Industries in Greater Manchester would be advantageous.

Principal Duties & Responsibilities

- To support the Associate Dean; Knowledge Exchange and Salford City Council in the gathering of University evidence in preparation for the submission of the UNESCO application.
- To work with the Associate Dean:KE and Salford Council in addressing the questions within the UNESCO application document.
- To under the guidance of the Salford Council lead, gather relevant data and evidence from external GM stakeholders to further support the application.
- To attend working groups and capture actions resulting from these meetings.
- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Head of Directorate/School/Line Manager.
- Maintain high standards of academic and commercial confidentiality.
- Comply with the personal health and safety responsibilities specified in the University Health and Safety policy.

Other duties

- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Head of School/Head of Division etc.
- Comply with the personal health and safety responsibilities specified in the University Health and Safety policy.
- To engage with the University's commitment to put our students first and deliver services which are customer orientated, represent value for money and contribute to the financial and environmental sustainability of the University when undertaking all duties and aspects of the role.
- Promote equality and diversity for students and staff and sustain an inclusive and supportive study and work environment in accordance with University policy.

This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person specification follows on next page

Person Specification

The successful candidate should demonstrate the following, which are 'Essential' (E) or 'Desirable' (D), and will be assessed by Application Form (A), Interview (I), Presentation (P), or Test (T), as indicated.

Qualifications

1. A degree in a creative discipline. (E) (A)
2. A PhD in a closely related area. (E) (A)

Background and Experience

3. Experience of developing research and/or other proposals and of preparing documents for a wide range of audiences (E) (A) (I)
4. Experience of working with the Creative and Cultural Industries (E) (A) (I)
5. Experience of working on research and/or other funded projects with clearly defined outcomes (E) (A) (I)
6. Experience of engaging with stakeholders and external partners (E) (A) (I)
7. Experience of data collection and translation of data into new formats (E) (A) (I)

Knowledge

8. The creative industries and the GM Creative and Cultural Industries ecosystem (E) (A) (I)
9. Research and/or other funding opportunities in the UK and internationally (D) (A) (I)
10. An Understanding of UNESCO Cities of Culture (D) (A) (I)

Skills and Competencies

11. The ability to work independently to deadlines and as part of a team. (E) (A) (I)
12. Good communication skills including written reporting. (E) (A)

13. Capability and willingness to undertake administrative tasks necessary for the effective management of the project. (E) (A)
14. Ability to work under pressure, manage multiple tasks and deliver according to set timescales(E) (I)
15. Ability to efficiently liaise with project partners (E) (I)