CoSTAR National Lab

Candidate pack
Royal Holloway, University of London

Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 30 universities in the UK*. Through world-class research that expands minds and changes lives, the dedication of our teachers and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that inspires individuals to succeed academically, socially and personally.

The university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK’s leading research-intensive universities we are home to some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. We are strengthened by diversity, and welcome students and academics who travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring an international and multicultural perspective within a close-knit and historic campus.

*Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2023
Key facts – Royal Holloway, University of London

- Royal Holloway is currently ranked in the top 30 in the UK in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2023. We are also ranked in the top 400 in the world and 41st overall in the UK in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023. In its category 'International Outlook', Royal Holloway is ranked in the UK’s top 40 universities.
- Royal Holloway sits within the top 25% of universities in the UK for research rated ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021.
- The National Student Survey (NSS) 2022 revealed that Royal Holloway, with a rating of 79%, remains above the sector average.
- Our world-leading researchers continue to address global challenges, including the development of treatments and therapies for rare diseases and life-limiting conditions, the rapid decline of bees and protecting the UK’s national infrastructure from cyber-attack.
- Recognised as world-class experts in the arts, humanities and sciences, many Royal Holloway academics act as advisors to policy-makers and the Government on a wide range of issues, such as combating radicalisation and terrorism.
- Royal Holloway has a total of 11,844 students (FTE, at December 2022). Of these, 9,421 are from the UK, 601 are from the EU and 2,002 are from further afield internationally. We currently have 9,943 undergraduates, 1,308 postgraduate taught and 595 postgraduate research students.
- In addition to the main campus in Egham, Surrey we also have a growing campus at Bedford Square in central London where over 300 of our postgraduate students are taught.
- We have 1,671 FTE of staff working at Royal Holloway across academic, professional services and support areas.
- Royal Holloway has an annual income of around £201 million (2021/22). We estimate that in the same year, we contributed c.£657.1m to the UK economy*.
- There are over 95,000 alumni of Bedford College, Royal Holloway College and Royal Holloway and Bedford New College worldwide. Notable alumni include novelist George Eliot, suffragette Emily Davison, the first woman doctor in the west Dr Elizabeth Blackwell, actor Mark Strong, EU Foreign Minister Baroness Cathy Ashton, writer, actor and campaigner Sir Lenny Henry, and Paralympic triple gold medallist Sophie Christiansen.

*Biggar Economics
CoSTAR National R&D Lab

Royal Holloway, University of London is the lead partner for the new CoSTAR National R&D Lab for Creative Industries, a £51.1m investment by the UK Government in Applied Research to ensure the UK’s screen and performance industries have the research infrastructure and the research and innovation skills to compete globally.

By bringing together world leaders in technology, research and story, we will catalyse innovation for the UK’s Creative Industries. Partnered with University of Surrey, Abertay University, Pinewood Studios, BT, Disguise, National Film & Television School and Surrey County Council and drawing on a huge network across the creative sector, the National Lab will place R&D at the heart of UK storytelling and storytelling at the heart of R&D. Our Lab will include large Stage and Studio space, featuring advanced creative computing technologies: a large-scale LED Volume, a 5G/6G Private Network, a Motion Capture rig, and a state-of-the-art creative Artificial Intelligence (AI) compute facility accessible across the UK.

With Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL) as lead organisation, our consortium brings together world-leading research teams from creative media production, psychology, business and drama at RHUL, AI at University of Surrey and Game Engines at Abertay University. Our consortium further includes Disguise and BT, spanning expertise in Virtual Production and Networked capability that will put the UK at the forefront of advanced computing technologies for the creative sector.

The CoSTAR National Lab is part of a CoSTAR national network comprising of a National Lab, three Network Labs and a Foresight Lab, with £75.6M of funding from AHRC, with additional private co-investment.

Our National Lab will enable SMEs and industry to do what they could not do alone by:

- Providing unique access to world-leading creative businesses and talent to help close the feedback loop between creative technology R&D and commercial and creative exploitation
- Placing Equality, Diversity and Sustainability at the heart of all we do: ensuring over 30% of users having global majority senior leads by 2029, with 40% of innovation projects focused on these areas
- Fusing R&D with production expertise and an industry front-door at the UK’s National Film and Television School, the world’s leading film school, coupled with research-in-action PhD programmes.

We will create an innovation architecture to enable UK screen and performance sectors to lead the world in future waves of advanced computing technologies. We will do so by placing our nations’ leading-edge advantage in storytelling IP at the core of the National Lab, providing a unique catalyst for innovation that is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Read more.
How to apply

Please apply through Royal Holloway’s online recruitment system at jobs.royalholloway.ac.uk.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact:
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