

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department / Unit:	Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance
Job type	Part-Time, Fixed-Term, Professional Services
Grade:	RHUL 7
Accountable to:	Prof Helen Gilbert
Accountable for:	N/A
Purpose of the Post	
To play a leading curatorial and research role in the implementation and analysis of artist-led initiatives for the multi-country research project, CoastARTS, led by Professor Helen Gilbert and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in collaboration with national councils in Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Norway. The project runs for 3 years (until early 2028) and investigates the potential role of performance-based arts in understanding how local communities learn about and respond to ecological crises. Grant funds have been allocated for this senior PDRA post for 1 year at 0.3FTE, commencing as soon as feasible.	
Key Tasks	
Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To analyse the polar collection of the National Maritime Museum (NMM) and develop, in consultation with the museum's curators and the CoastARTS project leader, a specific brief for a two-month artist-in-residence project to be undertaken in 2026. To lead the implementation, curation and evaluation of the above-described artist residency at the NMM in liaison with research and cultural sector stakeholders. To (co)produce reports and in-progress blogs and A-V material recording key aspects of the artist residency. To assist with planning, implementation and evaluation of a second artist residency co-hosted by CoastARTS and the interdisciplinary performing arts company Border Crossings (based in London and Ireland). To develop and publish as lead researcher at least one peer-reviewed essay drawn from the CoastARTS project work and aligning with its aims and objectives. To contribute to the planning and implementation of work for the CoastARTS team's publications and collaborative outputs: notably a short book on creative and curatorial methods, a digital festival and a digital archive. To present research findings at scholarly and public events. 	

Events organisation

- To organise public-facing knowledge-exchange events involving artists-in-residence and/or other project researchers.

Research Administration

- To procure copyright and ethical clearances for publications and residency work as needed.
- To assist the Project Leader with the planning of consortium activities, including research integration workshops.
- To manage own finance expenses and assist PL as needed in management tasks.

Other Duties

The duties listed are not exhaustive and may be varied from time to time as dictated by the changing needs of the University. The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties as appropriate and as requested by their manager.

The post holder may be required to work at any of the locations at which the business of Royal Holloway is conducted.

Internal and external relationships

The following list is not exhaustive, but the post holder will be required to liaise with:

The CoastARTS project leader, Professor Helen Gilbert

Co-investigator David Bullen (RHUL)

UK cultural partners, The Gentle Furies, Border Crossings and the National Maritime Museum

International Co-investigators in Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Norway



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Details on the qualifications, experience, skills, knowledge and abilities that are needed to fulfil this role are set out below.

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	Essential	Desirable	Tested by Application Form/Interview/Test
Knowledge, Education, Qualifications and Training			
PhD in Cultural Geography, Environmental Arts or a closely related field	x		Application
Broad knowledge of current climate- and ocean-related scholarship in the Blue Humanities	x		Application/Interview
Broad knowledge of European approaches to decolonising museum spaces and curatorial processes	x		Application/Interview
Track record of peer-reviewed publications in Environmental Arts, including in international journals	x		Application
Knowledge of key considerations in working with Indigenous artists in research and curatorial contexts	x		Application/Interview
Firm grasp of fundamentals of ethical research, including with marginalised groups	x		Application/Interview
Good understanding of sustainable research practices		x	Interview
Some knowledge of practice-led research in creative arts, including performance		x	Interview
Skills and Abilities			
Fluency in English	x		Application/Interview
Working proficiency in German and/or French		x	Application/Interview
High level analytical skills	x		Application/Interview
Excellent organisational skills	x		Interview
Capacity to co-curate exhibition and A-V outputs	x		Application/Interview
Ability to work independently and as part of a diverse, multilingual international team	x		Interview
Ability to work well under pressure and meet tight deadlines	x		Interview
Experience			
Significant, demonstrable experience of working with UK and European arts and cultural institutions	x		Application/Interview
Experience in organising and documenting public-facing knowledge-exchange events and activities	x		Application/Interview
Experience in social media communication		x	Application/Interview
Some experience in editing academic outputs		x	Application/Interview
Some experience of working with collaborators from diverse academic and artistic backgrounds	x		Application/Interview

Familiarity with fundamentals of translation in academic contexts		x	Application/Interview
Other requirements			
A clear understanding and commitment to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion	x		Application/Interview
Willingness to participate in occasional weekend activities and work abroad (e.g. for workshops, conferences, field research)		x	Application/Interview