

Job Description

Position Details

Faculty/Directorate	Arts and Humanities
School/Department	School of Digital Arts
Job Title	Professor of Digital Arts [Research, Education and Citizenship pathway]
Grade	Senior Staff
Hours of Work	Full time - 37 hours
Contract Duration	Permanent
Reports To	Head of School
Responsible For	Readers and/or Senior Lecturers

Role Purpose

As a senior academic leader, to deliver high quality impactful research and education in line with the University's 'Road to 2030' strategy.

At Manchester Metropolitan, professors play vital roles in the broader leadership of the University, contributing positively to our academic culture and supporting the development of others in our inclusive community, for example through mentoring, management, supervision and teamworking.

The Professor of Digital Arts in SODA will have experience within digital storytelling, and specifically within immersive and interactive storytelling through virtual production, AI, XR, AR, VR, game engines and/or other emergent technologies, and will have a breadth of knowledge of practice-based and/or theoretical leadership within the landscape of digital arts. The successful candidate will be capable of conducting research and supporting the delivery of academic programmes that are rooted in contemporary practices while also encouraging both staff and students to explore future possibilities at the intersection of storytelling, technology, and innovation. The successful candidate will have an in-depth understanding of the latest industry and academic developments and trends within their specialism.



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Key Responsibilities

All professors contribute as academic leaders to our core goals of 'Excellent Research with Impact' and 'Excellent Education' and serve as role models in their active support for the University's commitment to sustainability and its values: student-centred, people-led, future-focused, inclusive and Manchester Met proud.

Professors are also expected to have a prominent external profile, participating in networks and taking appropriate roles nationally and internationally that contribute towards the vitality of the discipline and the reputation of the University. Such roles might be in business engagement or with other universities, funding bodies, government committees and learned societies or through public engagement.

The balance of specific responsibilities will be reviewed periodically and agreed with the Head of Department and Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Academic Leadership

Professors are senior leaders in the delivery of our Research and Education Strategies. For research, REC pathway professors will:

- Provide thought leadership to accelerate progress against key metrics for research and impact (including knowledge exchange).
- Make a sustained and positive contribution to research culture, environment, quality and impact through their own practice and leadership of initiatives.
- Provide academic leadership informally and in formal roles at departmental, faculty and institutional levels, propagating good practice throughout the University.
- Contribute positively to our academic culture, supporting the development of others including by mentoring.

Research

Building on your substantial international research profile and consistent with the research priorities of the University in your subject area:

- Undertake research that is recognised internationally as excellent for its originality, significance and rigour, and which forms a sustained and coherent programme of work.
- Initiate, lead and collaborate in research, knowledge exchange and impact activities, both with colleagues at the University and partners (academic and non-academic) externally, including internationally.
- Secure external funding as Principal Investigator to maintain a portfolio of research and knowledge exchange grants and contracts of significant value (consistent with disciplinary norms).
- Produce research outputs of high quality, as judged by peers against international norms, which may include publications in relevant and esteemed journals, monographs, books, exhibitions or performances, as appropriate to the discipline.
- Lead a research group by attracting postgraduate research students and supervising them to a high standard and/or by attracting funding for research associates and managing them to a high standard.
- Enhance the global visibility and reputation of both your research and the University as a whole, for example through citation of your work, engagement in external events (e.g. conference plenary lectures), PhD external examining and by drawing international scholars to the University to participate in collaborative research.



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Education

With the intention of ensuring an outstanding student experience and excellent graduate outcomes:

- Deliver effective, high quality research-informed teaching, supervision and assessment, to inspire undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Provide personal tutoring and pastoral support to students.
- Be responsible for the leadership, design, content and evaluation of specific areas of teaching and learning within programmes.
- Lead and participate in quality assurance and enhancement processes.

Citizenship

As a member of our supportive and inclusive university community:

- Contribute to a cohesive and collegial workplace culture.
- Contribute constructively to administration and governance processes, such as participation in committees or management of programmes across the Faculty and University, taking a lead role when appropriate or requested.
- Lead and contribute to a range of activities such as recruitment, admissions, widening participation, outreach and public engagement.
- Participate in training and development programmes (e.g. through People and Organisational Development).
- Engage fully with Professional Development Review (PDR), acting as reviewer as necessary.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonable requested that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Special Responsibilities

None

General Responsibilities

Important general responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that you understand and meet your health and safety duties and responsibilities contained within the University's [Health and Safety Policy](#).
- Applying the University's [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) in your own area of responsibility and in your general conduct.
- Reduce waste, energy consumption and carbon footprint, in line with our [Leadership in Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#).
- Optimising the use of resources to deliver value for money.

Review

This is a description of the job at the time of issue. It is the University's practice periodically to review and update job descriptions to ensure that they accurately reflect the current nature of the job and requirements of the University and to incorporate reasonable changes where required, in consultation with the jobholder.



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Person Specification

In order to be shortlisted you must demonstrate that you meet all the essential criteria and as many of the desirable criteria as possible. Where we have many applications that meet all of the essential criteria, we will then use the desirable criteria to produce the shortlist.

All disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria will be included on the shortlist.



Selection Criteria

In the table below, typical assessment stages are provided in brackets:

1 = Application letter and CV, 2 = Presentation and questions, 3 = Interview.

Attributes	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
Values	Alignment with the University's core goals of Excellent Research with Impact and Excellent Education, and commitment to sustainability and our values: people-led, future-focused, inclusive, Manchester Met proud and student-centred. [1,2,3]	E
	Commitment to the University's policies and procedures including promoting equity in own area of responsibility and in personal conduct [1,3].	E
Experience	Sustained track record of delivering research outputs of high quality, as judged against international norms, in formats appropriate to the discipline [1,3].	E
	Track record of securing external funding of significant value relative to disciplinary norms, combined with effective leadership of a portfolio of projects [1,3].	E
	Significant academic leadership contributions including leading, motivating and developing others [1,3].	E
	Significant contributions in external roles that, for example, support the vitality of the discipline, influence strategy or policy, and enhance the standing of the University [1,3].	E
	Effective and innovative research-informed teaching and assessment practices, providing a stimulating environment for learning [2,3].	E
	Supervisory and pastoral support to undergraduate/postgraduate taught students [1].	E
	Supervision of PhD students to successful completion and/or line management of project staff to a successful outcome [1].	E



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Attributes	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
Qualifications	A good first degree together with a PhD in a relevant discipline or equivalent practitioner and/or industry experience or qualifications [1].	E
	A PGCE, Certificate of Education, PGCLTHE, Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) or an agreed professional equivalent, or commitment to obtain FHEA within an agreed period following appointment [1,3].	D
General and Specialist Knowledge	Background in digital storytelling, and specifically within immersive and interactive storytelling through virtual production, AI, XR, AR, VR, game engines and/or other emergent technologies, and will have a breadth of knowledge of practice-based and/or theoretical leadership within the landscape of digital arts [1].	E
	A sustained and continuing record of academic excellence which has contributed to the furtherance of knowledge in relevant areas and is recognised by an established international reputation in those areas. [1,2,3].	E
Skills and Abilities	Strong written and verbal communication skills with the proven ability to set out a clear vision to a wide range of audiences [1,2,3].	E
	Effective interpersonal, leadership and organisational skills, as required to lead and manage project or programme teams, and support or mentor staff and students [3].	E
	Proven ability to teach, supervise and assess undergraduate and postgraduate students, including use of digital technologies [1,2].	E
	Proven ability to collaborate effectively with external stakeholders, for example non-academic partners, business, funding bodies, and Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies [1,3].	E

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