

Job Description

Please complete all accessible boxes and refer to the guidance on writing Job Descriptions

Position Details		
Faculty/Professional Support Service	Arts and Humanities	
School/Department	Manchester Fashion Institute	
Division/Section/Unit		
Job Title	Research Associate	
Grade	8	
Hours of Work	9-5pm	
Contract Duration (Perm/Fixed Term)	Fixed Term	
Reports To (Job Title)	Susan Postlethwaite	
Responsible For (Job Title)	Professor of Fashion Technologies	

Principal Accountabilities
<p>Leading on from the publication of the 2022 report Reshoring UK Garment Manufacturing with Automation. Recommendations for Government a jointly published policy document funded by RKEI Strategic Priorities Fund, Research England, and KTN/ Manufacturing Made Smarter 2022. Professor of Fashion Technologies, MFI, Susan Postlethwaite is developing a small scale robotics lab. The main purpose of the RA role is to undertake research in the field of Agile Robotics for the Fashion Industry. Working closely with Professor Postlethwaite, the RA will help support the initiation of the lab space and help scope a large-scale infrastructure project. This work will also include initial exploration into the development of small scale robotic cutting tools as a proof-of-concept project.</p>

Key Tasks
<p>Research Activities</p> <p>Carry out desk-based research into sources and resources for a Living Lab.</p> <p>Develop a master planning document, identifying infrastructure, collaborating with internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Understanding environmental and health and safety concerns and carrying out due diligence towards net zero and a carbon neutral industry.</p>

HR Only

[Role Profile]

[SOC]

[Grade]

[Analyst]

[Evaluation Number]

[Date]

Consider staffing requirements, specifying tooling, and spaces, developing tools lists and infrastructure requirements.

Develop a tender process for suppliers, develop a key stakeholder list.

Be fully aware of the health and safety issues concerned with cobot technologies and help develop safety guidelines.

Plan and prioritise own work and resources to achieve agreed research objectives, coordinating the work of research colleagues as required.

Undertake quality research and detailed analysis, and present findings to appropriate internal and external groups, such as research forums, conferences, or seminars, as required.

Use initiative and judgement to develop appropriate techniques in order to facilitate research work and resolve problems affecting the achievement of objectives and deadlines.

Develop research objectives and proposals for own and/or joint research with senior academic staff which meet funding criteria.

Engage in scholarly activities conducive to a long-term successful academic career that will support and enhance the research culture within the department.

Liaison and Networking

Participate in the development of internal and external partnerships and networks in order to disseminate information, share best practice, generate income, establish opportunities for collaborative work, and to enhance the reputation of the University.

Develop partnerships with external agencies and engage in collaborative projects that benefit both the department and the Faculty.

Service Provision

Keep relevant stakeholders updated on progress, and be responsible for exploring their needs and acting on feedback, in order to ensure that research delivers against their requirements.

Respond to enquiries and requests for information from potential students, academic staff from other HE institutions, and relevant stakeholders, when required.

Collaborate with senior academic staff to organise, manage and carry out appropriate research, and actively contribute to the longer term planning and direction of future projects.

Actively promote quality research and enhance the reputation of the University within the research community.

Proactively and effectively engage with quality assurance procedures to ensure that University standards are upheld.

Teamworking

Actively participate as a member of the research team, providing mutual support to colleagues to achieve successful completion of projects.

Allocate and monitor the work of research students when required.

Offer support to other researchers in research methodology and areas of expertise, and introduce new starters to the area, giving training on basic skills and activities to assist their induction to the team.

Attend Faculty, Department and Programme meetings/boards as appropriate and proactively contribute to decision making.

Guide and support research assistants and other members of staff within the department in areas of expertise e.g. in undertaking research and writing up papers for publication.

Special Features

The post requires the holder to be fluent in German.

Experience in physical computing and software-to-hardware integration

Has experience of lab development and project management in a university context

Self-motivated, able to produce reports and edit documents for a variety of stakeholders

Has an understanding of graphics and branding.

Proven ability as a budget holder, able to deliver projects on time and within budgetary constraints

Willingness to do additional training as necessary for the project development

Ability to apply for internal funding on behalf of the project

Miscellaneous

You have a legal duty, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that you do not endanger yourself or anyone else by your acts or omissions. In addition you must cooperate with the University on health and safety matters and must not interfere or misuse anything provided for health, safety and welfare purposes.

You are responsible for applying the University's Equal Opportunities Policy in your own area of responsibility and in your general conduct.

You have a responsibility to promote high levels of customer care within your own areas of work.

You are expected to co-operate with the PDR process, engaging in the setting of objectives in order to assist in the monitoring of performance and the development of the individual.

Such other relevant duties commensurate with the grade of the post as may be assigned by the Manager in agreement with you. Such agreement should not be unreasonably withheld.

You may be required to undertake a specific Health & Safety role, commensurate with your grade, to support the University in meeting its statutory Health & Safety obligations. This could include acting as a DSE Assessor, First Aider, Fire Marshall or Departmental Safety Co-ordinator. The allocation of such roles will be subject to the provision of appropriate training and assessment of competence.

You may, with reasonable notice, be required to work at any of the Manchester Metropolitan University sites.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to Environmental Sustainability in order to reduce its waste, energy consumption and carbon footprint.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to delivering value for money services that optimise the use of resources and therefore should consider this when undertaking all duties and aspects of your role.

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 job holder.

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 a large number of 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 minimum essential criteria will be included on the shortlist.

Selection Criteria				
Attributes		Item	Relevant Criteria	Rank
1	Skills & Abilities	1.1	Ability to lead the work of a research team, co-ordinating effort and resources.	E
		1.2	Ability to build relationships and establish networks with internal and external contacts.	E
2	General & Specialist Knowledge	2.1	Proficiency in the application of relevant equipment, software and techniques for cobot technologies	E
		2.2	Possess sufficient breadth and/or depth of specialist knowledge in agile tooling for the fashion industry (including current practice) to work within established research programmes and write authoritatively in the area.	E
3	Education & Training	3.1	A doctoral level qualification in a relevant area or equivalent research experience and evidence of continuous professional development.	D
		3.2	Master's degree in Fashion (sustainability specialism).	E
			Demonstrably high level of making competence for fashion.	

4	Relevant Experience	4.1	<p>Significant research experience in the field of in the field of Robotics and automated processes for the Fashion Industry which should have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making a demonstrable, independent contribution to projects • developing partnerships with internal and external agencies • preparing funding proposals and applications to external bodies • using initiative, creativity and judgement to develop appropriate approaches to research • synthesising complex data from different sources and communicating findings via written reports • presenting at national and/or international research meetings • experience of supervising student work and providing appropriate support and feedback. 	E
5	Special Requirements	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to travel overseas. • Fluent in German. • Understanding the policy landscape • Understanding economic theory – industry 4.0+/5.0 	D
Date of Revision		March 2017		
Key		Rank	E	Essential
			D	Desirable