**LDoc Post-Doctoral Innovation Placement Fellowships**

LDoc has been successful in obtaining AHRC funding for Post-Doctoral Innovation Placements of between six and twelve months.

These placements provide a valuable opportunity for recent graduates to work with creative industry partners, whilst also enabling time and space for developing the broader transferable skills that emerge from doctoral research. At the heart of this funding lies the drive to further develop knowledge exchange between Higher Education and industry and so enhance the potential impact of doctoral research.

The funding for this scheme comes from the National Productivity Investment Fund, which aims to increase the capability of the UK’s skilled workforce across both industry and academia, delivering the skills and knowledge needed to deliver long term increases in productivity in the UK.

**One full-time placement (or part-time equivalent) is available from LDoc.**

1. **The Scheme**
2. To be eligible, applicants must have submitted their thesis within six months of the start of the placement (ie to start on 1st January 2019, submission should be no earlier than 1st June 2018)
3. Priority will be given to applicants who have been AHRC funded for their PhD, but not necessarily by LDoc. However, students who have not been AHRC funded for their PhD are also welcome to apply.
4. The placement will be 6 months full-time (under the AHRC guidelines, shorter time periods cannot be considered).
5. All placements must be continuous and need to be completed between 1st September 2018 and 30th September 2019.
6. A salary of approximately £24,000 will be paid, plus on-costs (NI, pension, holiday pay, London Allowance where applicable) to the employing University. Additionally, the placement holder may claim up to £1,200 for any travel and costs associated with the placement. Salary levels and eligible travel costs should be in accordance with the employing university’s own policies. As this funding is for placements rather than research the funding cannot be used for Estates or Indirect Costs.
7. The placements will need to be based with an industry partner in the area of design or in the creative sector. The AHRC use the term Creative Sector to indicate a broad range of potential topics that will involve engagement with the commercial endeavours of the Creative Industries[[1]](#footnote-1)
8. The placements must offer skills and career development for the successful candidate.
9. The Fellow must have a mentor in the host Organisation and an academic mentor in the University.
10. **Application Process –**

Applications can be initiated either by a partner organisation or by a student:

1. **Partner Organisations -** Partner organisations who are interested in finding a Fellow to work on a placement project should complete as much as possible of Section 2 on the form and send it to ldoc@rca.ac.uk . LDoc will then circulate the details to the relevant cohorts of students who will be invited to make an application using Section 1 on the application form. The Organisation will then select the student who best meets the requirements of the placement and complete Section 3 of the form and submit it to ldoc@rca.ac.uk.

*LDoc will seek proposals from existing and interested partner organisations and advertise these to students.*

1. **Students –** PhD students who have recently submitted their thesis, or who are due to do so in the next few months, are encouraged to submit an expression of interest using Section 1 on the form. If a student already has a partner organisation in mind, then they should ask the partner organisation to complete Section 2 and 3 and submit it directly to ldoc@rca.ac.uk

**Submission**: Completed applications should be submitted, together with a student CV no later than 5pm on 7th September. The Management Group will circulate and assess applications and the outcomes of their deliberations will be publicised in the week beginning 21st September.

1. **Appointment Process**

Upon successful award of the Fellowship, the host university will need to ensure that the following is in place:

* that the Fellow will be employed as a member of staff
* a Placement Agreement has been signed by both the host university and the partner organisation
* that all projects fall within the host university and partner organisation’s ethical and health and safety policies, undertaking risk assessments as required
* that both academic and partner mentors are in place before the start of the placement
1. The AHRC base their interpretation of the ‘Creative Industries’ on the DCMS definition - ‘those industries which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property.’ However, we are also extending this to include any organisation or business which uses creative elements without necessarily being a ‘creative industry’ (for example, a designer working within a banking organisation). Note: There are thirteen sub-sectors under the term ‘creative industries’ and these are: advertising and marketing; architecture; crafts; design; fashion; film, TV, video, radio and photography; software and computer games; museums, galleries and libraries; music, performing and visual arts; and publishing.’ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)