



Greater London Assembly - Research Associate (Higher Education and Innovation)

The strength of London's world-class Higher Education and research base is key to the productivity of London, and the UK as a whole.

The elected Mayor of London is responsible for London's devolved strategic leadership, with responsibility for the city's economic development and regeneration, transport, emergency services, spatial planning and other key projects. The Greater London Authority delivers on the Mayor's objectives through policymaking, provision of key services, and the use of resources such as devolved funding, land and his convening power.

The Mayor of London's response to the Government's Industrial Strategy supports the need for research and business collaboration so that London businesses, universities and research organisations can continue to work together to preserve and promote economic success, locally and nationally.

The Government requires each region to produce a Local Industrial Strategy.

The Mayor of London is in the process of developing London's Industrial Strategy, and the role of universities and their interactions with businesses will play an important part in this.

Role description

The main purpose of the role is to ensure Higher Education forms a central part of the Mayor of London's approach to enabling more inclusive growth, as part of the London Industrial Strategy. The Mayor's [Economic Development Strategy](#) already identifies the interaction between London's Higher Education sector and businesses in driving innovation and skills across the city.

The role will include reviewing the existing business collaborations and wider knowledge exchange activity of London's Higher Education sector, and identifying opportunities for the Mayor of London to support HE-business collaborations and wider knowledge exchange activity to drive more inclusive productivity growth outcomes across the city.

You will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team, helping to identify practical actions and opportunities for working with London's Higher Education institutions and engaging with key business sectors to support inclusive productivity growth.

Duties will include:

- Working with key GLA policy leads to identify practical opportunities for increased university-business interaction to maximise innovation, entrepreneurship and business growth outcomes. This may include a specific focus on the role for Higher Education in collaborating across less R&D intensive sectors of London's economy to increase productivity growth (not necessarily through technology transfer or R&D collaborations, but through softer forms of knowledge exchange that can improve business processes and practices and support productivity growth).
- Working with GLA policy leads to identify opportunities for London's Higher Education institutions to support the Mayor's inclusive innovation agenda, such as through helping

to shape the direction of innovation e.g. through supporting the development and delivery of the Mayor's Civic Innovation Challenge (as well as identifying other effective mechanisms), through engaging HEIs in London's social, economic and environmental challenges and maximising the opportunities for R&D collaboration with businesses.

The role will help the candidate to:

- Gain experience of applying their knowledge of the HE sector in a policymaking environment, developing their strategic thinking skills
- Develop their London-based networks across HE, industry and policy.
- Better understand the broader context for UCL within London, and how it relates and interacts with the GLA and other key stakeholders
- Develop presentation, writing and reporting skills while contributing to an important, impactful strategic project for London
- Work within a policymaking team comprised of diverse backgrounds and experiences

Essential criteria for the role

- Excellent knowledge of the Higher Education sector, particularly in London, and its role in supporting city growth/productivity
- Excellent presentational skills, including demonstrable ability to tailor content and style to different audiences, including those outside of academia.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills including the ability to write clearly and concisely, and to present to both academic and non-academic audiences.
- Good interpersonal skills, including the ability to work as part of a team
- Understanding of economic policy, and the innovation field in policy and practice, desirable, but not essential.

Understanding of the objectives of the UK Industrial Strategy desirable, but not essential.

Applications

Policy placements are open to registered UCL staff and PhD students, including Professional Services. Students who are successfully awarded a placement would generally be expected to interrupt their studentship for the duration of the post and will be funded by the placement award during this time. The placement is for up to 6 months, starting as soon as possible.

UCL has funding available through the HEIF Knowledge Exchange Fund to support staff and students who would be interested in undertaking a placement, subject to eligibility and certain conditions.

Candidates must be in a position to return to UCL for a period of six months following the placement to be eligible to apply. The secondment is open to working on a flexible pattern or part-time basis.

To apply please email b.gascoyne@ucl.ac.uk with a cover letter explaining your suitability for the placement (max 1 page) and a short CV.

For more information about the role and working with the GLA, applicants are welcome to contact Catherine Glossop, Principal Policy Officer for Innovation and Knowledge, by emailing Catherine.Glossop@london.gov.uk.

The deadline for applications is **17 May 2019**.