



UCL SPRC Activist-in-Residence (AIR) Programme

Programme Overview 2022/23

Overview

UCL's Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation is welcoming applications for our Activist-in-Residence programme (AIR).

This initiative aims to encourage mutual learning and collaboration between activists, students, and researchers and thereby to foster new models of publicly-oriented scholarship and community engagement.

The Activist-in-Residence (AIR) programme is part of UCL's desire to transform UK Higher Education provision so that it can foster working through colonial and imperial history, and engage better with matters of concern to Britain's black and ethnic minority communities - which are not always accorded the significance they should be.

The AIR programme will bring two activists into UCL for a six-month period, during which they will be expected to conduct their own research project, contribute their organisational skills and activist experience to the work of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre and UCL more generally, as well as to work with other stakeholders on site to enrich the intellectual and political experience of UCL students and staff. **We will be looking for one activist to start in September 2022, and a second activist to start in January 2023.**

The programme will provide activists, artists, and public intellectuals with opportunities to explore or study a complex issue arising from the political, social and cultural work undertaken at community level, and to imagine new approaches to scholarship and research that will improve the lives of people in local and national communities.

The programme will support the development of thoughtful and innovative leadership engaged directly with government, in charitable and campaigning organisations, and in groups that influence public policy, community advocacy and grassroots activity.

We hope that the AIR will address the problems revealed inside and beyond UK higher education by the uneven distribution of risk and vulnerability along racialised lines that has been revealed by the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AIR will be offered a grant to work within the SPRC in ways which benefit both the UCL community and wider networks of individuals, groups, and communities struggling against racial hierarchy and inequality in Britain and globally.

The *Activist-in-Residence (AIR)* programme

A grant of £15,000 will be awarded to the AIR, who will be asked to:

- Engage with the UCL community and/or the wider public on issues related to 'race' and racism through public activities. These could be panel discussions, lectures, seminars, workshops, performance events, podcasts or any other medium that allows people to explore issues of concern to the Centre and UCL more broadly.
- Directly work with students at UCL, engaging with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) cohort and the Student Union.
- Produce a piece of work that will be of enduring use to those researching and resisting racism, both within UCL and in wider communities. For example: developing a repository/archive of resources on a specific event/issue; writing a report on a given topic; curating an online space; hosting an exhibition; completing a scoping study into a particular issue.

- Join some of our discussions at UCL around the legacies of colonialism and the dynamics of contemporary racism, within and without the institution.

This list of tasks remains broad because the issues of interest to the centre are diverse and multifaceted, and we encourage applicants to bring their own ideas and plans for the programme. *Responsibilities and deliverables will be arranged once an individual activist is appointed, but please respond to the above bullet points in your application.*

Importantly, the AIR should conduct work which will be of use to those organisations and communities to which they are accountable, and the residence should be viewed as an opportunity for a kind of sabbatical, an opportunity for reflection and research. As such, applicants should make clear how being part of UCL for six months will benefit their longer work and goals.

Activists do not need to have any prior experience of working with a university, and we are committed to providing support to help the AIR to navigate our university 'walls' and engage meaningfully with our communities.

The grant will be paid in two instalments - the first at the beginning of the residence on agreement of an outline plan; the second halfway through the residence. There may also be a small amount of money available to support any production costs you might incur as a result of running an event online.

Sarah Parker Remond Centre

The UCL Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation explores the impact of racism - scientific, metaphysical and cultural.

Part of the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, we work closely with many partners on-site to provide a focal point for scholarship, teaching and public engagement activities that are addressed to various problems of racial inequality and hierarchy.

As one of our AIRs, you would join this community and be encouraged to engage with researchers and research students to explore shared areas of interest.

The Sarah Parker Remond Centre is concerned broadly with the study of Racism and Racialisation, but there are several priority areas. This year we are particularly interested in running events on the following issues, and would like the AIR to be able to contribute to and build on these themes:

- Covid-19 and racialised patterns of inequality, ill-health and premature death
- The climate emergency and the Anthropocene
- The social and political life of data
- Bordering and anti-immigration politics
- Policing; legislative attacks on civil liberties and right to protest; deaths in state custody
- The articulation of race and racism with gendered power relations
- Histories of racism and resistance in Britain (we are particularly interested in building repositories of resource on these local histories)

The Sarah Parker Remond Centre (part of the Institute of Advanced Studies) will act as the base for the AIR, providing access to a community of interdisciplinary researchers to expand the opportunities for exchange of ideas that the residence provides.

What you will bring

- Curiosity about research and a desire to be embedded in the SPRC at UCL: the AIR should give a clear account of what they (and the group(s) they are involved with) will gain from the residence
- Openness to working with academic researchers, educators or students and a desire to create public facing, educational content on issues related to 'race' and racism
- Willingness to plan and then lead some digital sessions that explore themes of interest to the centre
- Deliver a piece of work that will be of wider benefit to the UCL community and those working against racism outside the university.

What UCL will bring

- Support for you to meet and develop creative collaborations with academics who are interested in anti-racism from across the Faculties of Arts and Humanities
- Membership of the Institute of Advanced Studies community, including access to all IAS events
- Access to UCL library and archival collections and museums for the duration of the residence

Application process

Applications should make clear how being part of UCL for six months will benefit their long-term community work and contribute to career development. Applications should also make clear your availability to start in September 2022 and/or January 2023.

Please complete and submit an Expression of Interest Form along with your CV and/or link to a digital portfolio/website to the Sarah Parker Remond Centre Administrator: Kaissa Karhu, k.karhu@ucl.ac.uk

Timeline

Deadline for submission of applications: 30 June 2022, 5pm

Interviews: TBC

Residence starts: September 2022 and January 2023 (by agreement)

Residence ends: 6 months after start date

Contact for enquiries/applications

Kaissa Karhu, Administrator of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre: k.karhu@ucl.ac.uk