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Student in Residence – UCL East Programme

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Student in Residence with the Digital and Physical Environments, UCL East

Introduction

UCL East Project team wishes to appoint a student from the Slade School of Fine Art, Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Computer Science and or UCLIC to join them as a Student in Residence for a 12-month period.

This very particular opportunity has been developed as a result of a cross disciplinary research project, begun in response to the global pandemic, that is exploring our understanding of our digital and physical environments and the different ways in which we can build bridges between the two.

Central to this research is a reflection on public and private spaces and how to create interactive social spaces physically and digitally and what these could mean and how they might inform the educational - teaching and learning - experience.

The research group has been generating discourse and provocations reflecting on this, asking questions such as:

1. how the digital can inform real spaces?
2. how can students retain an autonomy over their working environments?
3. how to encourage serendipity - allowing for the unexpected and spontaneous use of spaces.

The debates taking place in this group allow for a diversity of perspectives which will inform thinking about our campus going into the future.

There will be two students in residency appointments funded through the UCL East development programme. The appointed students will be invited to observe, comment and creatively reflect upon this research with a primary objective to explore ideas for creative initiatives, work and projects that can contribute to this debate with a focus on the new UCL East Campus.

One student will be embedded with the Sustainable Physical and Digital spaces for Education and research project (SPiDER) working with a focussed research group while a second student will be appointed to work with the UCL East project team and will take a broader role in generally observing and commenting on the UCL East Campus development.

This brief is for the student in residence working with the Sustainable Physical and Digital spaces for Education and research project (SPiDER)

Both appointments will be made to start work early in 2021.

The Opportunity

Prof Susan Collins, Slade School of Fine Art and Prof Yvonne Rogers Director of UCLIC will, at commencement of the project, be the lead academics. The student will, in the first instance, be observing the research groups by attending discussions and meetings which are held fortnightly.

Through the support of Prof Collins and Prof Rogers, and Sam Wilkinson Head of Public Art – where appropriate, we will provide the student with guidance to identify particular areas of interest in order to widen their research. The broader research group will be available to the appointed student

The SPiDER research group is a pan UCL group which has a remit to consider these questions, and this opportunity invites the student appointed to develop their residency work in responding to these questions in relation to UCL East in particular. This is an extensive building and refurbishment programme which will create sustainable spaces that meet UCL’s world-class aspirations and commitment to excellence and innovation.

Transforming UCL is the largest capital programme in the University’s history.

It will see substantial investment over the next 10 years to refurbish and develop some of our most iconic buildings whilst also bringing forward new world class buildings. Together these will enable and support the University’s continued growth as we continue to build now and for the future. UCL’s Bloomsbury campus has limited room for growth and UCL East presents a unique opportunity to build an open and accessible new campus with a commitment to cross-disciplinary working, partnership, collaboration and public engagement.

A new UCL campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP) will be the largest single expansion of UCL since its foundation in 1826.”

For more information visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east/>

The student in residency will also be given access to the UCL Operations Team who are planning how the building will be programmed and managed, how the thinking about our shared spaces is being implemented into a new building will inform some of the residency activities.

1. UCL East Themes

UCL East brings together researchers and students from 8 faculties across UCL breaking down barriers between education, research, public engagement and enterprise. It will embody our “EAST” themes: Experiment, Art, Society, Technology to work on solutions to the biggest, and most fundamental, challenges facing humanity – both today and in the future.

Existing academic departments will not be moving to Stratford, rather a dynamic, innovative, cross disciplinary programme of academic programmes has been created especially for the new campus, centred on these themes. Following an extensive process within UCL, academics were invited to propose academic programmes that would be suitable. From these proposals a select group was chosen to become “day one users” of the campus. Whilst these “day one users” have been part of the design process, it is envisaged that the departments and activities at UCL East will be subject to develop and change over time. Therefore, the building must be flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing needs.

UCL already have a presence within the QEOP. Bartlett and UCL Engineering Sciences have established a collaborative space at Here East, approx. 1.5km north of the UCL East site. Unpinning the four key themes are a further four that reflect the aspirations of the UCL East.

The academic vision for UCL East is underpinned by four sub-themes:

UCL East Making - experimentation, learning, hands on activities, making, manufacturing and innovation.

UCL East Connecting – shared collaborative learning, experimental forms of cultural production,

cross-disciplinary and immersive.

UCL East Originating – innovation and intersection between humans, social interaction and technology.

UCL East Living – future living, urban regeneration, global futures and their challenges.

2. Student in Residence Digital and Physical Spaces Research Opportunity

2020 - 2021 represents a significant period in the UCL East project development, work on site for is progressing and during this year we will see radical change on the development site.

This opportunity will be the second in a series of residencies with the UCL East Project Team. Being the second year means that the student selected to work on the project will be further informed and supported by the shared knowledge and experiences of the two Year 1 artists in residence.

It will be supported through the overarching public art programme currently under development by UCL Culture <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/>

This is an exciting moment in the development process for a student to join the team as they navigate the delivery of UCL East.

The Project Team is based on the Bloomsbury Campus but the main contractors have extensive site presence and site compounds that will be available to the Student.

The student will have access to the Project Team, academic leads, designers, architects and the construction delivery team. Furthermore, the wider UCL East team will be available to the appointed student. This includes professionals in community and public engagement, public art commissioning, public realm design and public programming, will be available to the appointed student.

3. Scope of work

This opportunity is open to any student at the Slade School of Fine Art or Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Computer Science and UCLIC working in any creative discipline and there are no preconceived ideas about how they will work or the outcomes they will produce.

The UCL East Project Team would like to invite the appointed student to:

- Explore their own creative practice whilst they observe and contribute to the work of the research group.
- Through this lens observe and offer new perspectives and a creative interpretation of the UCL East development.
- Consider and investigate architecture and interior special planning of the UCL East development

- Engage with the people and communities that this development is being created for - students, staff, visitors and its neighbours, with support for the UCL East Public Engagement team
- Liaise with the second student in residence
- Create artworks which reflect the finding of the research and experience of the residency.

The UCL East Project Team will support the student in making connections and facilitating their integration into this wider team and the rich research and academic vision for UCL East. This Residency provides the opportunity for a student to observe all processes and develop artworks that reflects and comments on the UCL East development.

The student can work in any medium. The UCL East Programme Team, the Slade / Bartlett and UCL Culture will support the student in exploring opportunities to exhibit and document the outcomes from the residency.

Exhibition opportunities across the UCL campus may arise over the course of the project. All students considering applying for this opportunity should consult their Heads of Year or Area and personal tutors in advance to ensure that this work can be integrated into their studies and the outcomes can be part of their course work.

The appointed artist will be supported by Sam Wilkinson, Head of Public Art UCL Culture and mentored by their Head of Area.

4. Programme and time commitment

The invitation is for a full academic year.

Time commitment will be agreed with the appointed student. There is an expectation that the appointed student would commit time each week to embed themselves into the work of the Project Team.

5. Honorarium

An honorarium of £1000 will be offered to the student as a fee payable in two stages, 50% at the start and 50% at the end of the residency.

A £2000 materials budget to explore exhibition/commission ideas will be available on agreement with the Project Team. The breakdown of this budget will be agreed with the Head of Public Art and payment process agreed during the residency period.

6. Selection process

7.1 Stage one - Expression of interest

Students are invited to review this outline brief and submit a written expression of interest no more than 1 side of A4 outlining why this opportunity would be of interest to you. The submission must include a statement as to how you see this opportunity furthering your practice or studies. In addition, the submission must include no more than 10 images of current or past work.

All images need to be clearly labeled and described.

January 24th 2021

The submissions must be saved as PDF and send to public.art@ucl.ac.uk

6.2 Stage two – Interview

From the written submissions a shortlist of 4/5 students will be made and those students invited to interview and meet a small representative group from the Project Team.

One student will be selected to fulfil the Student in Residence role.

Interviews will be held in in the first week of February