



Job Description

Research Fellow

Department: Bartlett School of Architecture

Grade: 7

Location: 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB

Reports to:

**Professor Ben Campkin,
Principal Investigator, UCL Urban
Laboratory Co-Director.**

Context

The UCL Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment is the UK's largest and leading multidisciplinary faculty of the built environment, covering architecture, construction and project management, planning and environmental design as well as other specialist fields. In recent years, teaching and research at the Bartlett have achieved international prominence. The Bartlett is one of the world's largest and most successful centres of built environment research and teaching, with the most world-leading research in its field in the UK, according to the Government's Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014).

Set within UCL's Faculty of The Built Environment, The Bartlett School of Architecture is one of the world's most exciting architecture schools, in one of its most inspiring cities. In recent years we have been ranked UK's No1 department for architectural research (RAE 2008 and REF 2014), the AJ100's best school of architecture since the poll began 13 years ago, and the UK's top school of architecture by the Guardian University League Tables on 10 occasions in the same period. Students on our professional programmes have won 3 Dissertation, 10 Silver and 6 Bronze medals at the RIBA Presidents Awards. Our staff are at the forefront of international research and teaching, encompassing individual excellence, interdisciplinary collaborations, and pioneering

methodologies. Many of our graduates have gone on to occupy leading roles in established practices worldwide, others have set up award winning practices of their own.

Main purpose of the job

Based in UCL Urban Laboratory, the Postdoctoral Research Associate is required to work on a recently awarded Humanities in the European Research Area collaborative project on 'Night Spaces: Migration, Culture and Integration in Europe' (NITE). This transdisciplinary collaboration focuses on eight European cities, to understand how night spaces are dynamically produced, imagined, experienced and narrated by migrant communities in Europe. The NITE project covers night spaces in cities in the Netherlands, Ireland, UK, Germany, Denmark and Portugal and considers how migrants' experiences in public spaces at night and the stories that emerge from them, can productively inform current and future debates, policies and practices. Thus, it contends that night time culture (expressed through e.g. music, film, digital platforms, and performance) opens up new opportunities and spaces of belonging and intercultural understanding. Through a programme of community co-designed cultural events and activities, and close engagement with policy-makers, NITE aims to contribute to policy approaches to night time economies, releasing the potential night spaces offered in creating more inclusive cities. The Postdoctoral Research Associate will work on the UCL-based study, 'Migrant Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer (LGBTQ+) communities' night spaces in London, 1980s to the present'.

This study forms part of Urban Lab's priority area, 'Queer Infrastructure', led by Professor Campkin, UCL Urban Laboratory Co-Director. This work package looks into the socio-cultural value of nightlife venues and events for migrant LGBTQ+ communities and the value of these spaces to public life more broadly. The distinct qualities of public or semi-public formal licensed premises will be studied alongside other formal and informal, transitory and long-running events that move between venues. The researchers will identify and gather evidence on case studies, seeking to understand why and how particular spaces have been created or considered appropriate as night spaces, and the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in and around them. These will be considered in relation to policies and practices on heritage, the night-time economy and cultural infrastructure, given the increasing focus on these areas since the mid-2010s. The team will work with partners including the Night Czar (Mayor of London) and Raze Collective.

The post holder will draw on local and national collections and media/policy statements and will conduct interviews (e.g. with venue operators, promoters, owners, employees and clientele). Methods in the project, drawn from social science and arts and humanities disciplines will include:

- Desk-based theoretical and archival research
- Cultural/discourse analysis (artefacts, texts, night spaces)
- Visualisation and audio-visual recordings (3D-scanning, film and audio documentation)
- Co-designed/community-based workshops
- LGBTQ+ individuals/venue operator/employee/clientele/policy-maker interviews (semi-structured; focus groups)

The post holder will join an active research environment in UCL Urban Laboratory and The Bartlett, made up of PhD students, Research Associates and Academic staff members. The post holder will be invited to contribute to Urban Lab's events programming and other Bartlett School of Architecture and cross-faculty events. UCL hosts a wide community of academic activity related to the

socio-economic, political and environmental processes of urbanization, and urban policy and planning.

Duties and responsibilities

- Assisting in the everyday management of the research project under the guidance of the Principal Investigator (PI) including budget monitoring and reporting, developing progress and final reports and dealing with logistical issues.
- Preparation of research materials (such as questionnaires for structured interviews, workshop planning, etc).
- Execution of research (e.g. conducting interviews, co-running events).
- Processing and analysis of primary and secondary information in consultation with the PI and partner university research teams.
- Contributions to and/or preparation of literature reviews and project publications as well as other outputs.
- Contribute to the integration and communication of findings with PI and partner research teams.
- Assist in the regular update of dedicated project websites, the generation of communications, dissemination of material about the project and support the project dissemination strategy.
- Oversee the work of casual research and events assistants working on the project.
- Organise London-based project meetings, conferences, workshops and other events. The post holder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager or Head of Department/Division

Other Duties:

- The post holder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager or Head of Department/Division
- The post holder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities policies and be expected to give consideration within their role as to how they can actively advance equality of opportunity to give consideration to actively advance equality of opportunity
- The post holder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations

Person Specification

| Criteria | Essential or Desirable | Assessment method (Application/Interview) |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Education and Knowledge | | |
| PhD or equivalent in a relevant area, e.g. urban studies, architectural history and theory, architecture, urban design, human geography, planning, queer studies, sexuality studies. | E | Application/interview |
| Knowledge of LGBTQ+ spaces, scenes and communities in London | E | Application/interview |
| Understanding of research ethics and procedures | E | Application/interview |
| Knowledge of academic literature and/or policy on urban night cultures | D | Application/interview |
| Experience | | |
| Experience of working with LGBTQ+ venues and/or communities | E | Application/interview |
| Experience of working and ideally leading participatory and co-design workshop | E | Application/interview |
| Experience of working in a research environment and completing research projects | E | Application |
| Experience of partnership working | E | Application |
| Experience in the management of research or development projects, including budget management | D | Application |
| Experience using multi-media communications platforms | D | Application |
| Skills and abilities | | |
| Track record in conducting inter- or transdisciplinary research using qualitative and quantitative methods | E | Application/interview |
| Excellent critical analytical skills and capacity in managing, organising, critically analysing and writing up information | E | Application/interview |
| Ability to present complex information effectively to a wide range of audiences | E | Application |
| Excellent organisational skills and a flexible approach to working as part of a team that is transdisciplinary, engages with community-based and policy partners, and operates from several locations in Europe | E | Application/interview |
| Evidence of ability to successfully co-ordinate and prioritise varied workload within deadlines and work independently both your own and teams varied workload within deadlines | E | Application/interview |
| Personal Attributes | | |
| Tact and diplomacy towards sensitive and confidential matters | E | Application/interview |
| Professional patient attitude towards all colleagues, students and internal/external staff across the School, Faculty and wider UCL | E | Interview |

