

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

FUTURE SKILLS THINK TANK: Research Associate and Coordinator (0.6 FTE)

Job Title: Research Associate and Coordinator – Future Skills Think Tank

Role Type: 9 months fixed-term contract

Closing date: Monday 27 May 2024 (23.59 BST)

Interviews: Friday 31 May and Monday 3 June

Salary: £40,000 per annum 0.6 FTE (£18,000 pro-rated 9 months fixed-term contract)

Hours: 3 days per week – 21 hours per week

Location: Your main workplace will be The London School of Architecture, 4 Beechwood Rd, London E8 3DP. The London School of Architecture has a flexible working policy, with one core office day (Tuesday).

Duration: 9 months fixed-term contract (with the possibility of a 3-month extension subject to funding), June 2024 – February 2025)

Reports to: Neal Shasore, Head of School/Chief Executive

Submit application to: people@the-lsa.org

The London School of Architecture (LSA) is an independent higher education provider registered through the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The first cohort of students were enrolled in 2015.

The LSA strives for a transformation in how architects and other built environment practitioners can learn to create more equitable and sustainable cities. The school was founded as a radical disrupter of conventional forms of architectural education aimed at widening access to the profession. Now ten years old, the LSA is undergoing an exciting period of growth by expanding its range of innovative academic programmes designed to respond to urgent social and environmental agendas. Our purpose is to devise programmes at all levels that support the re-making of the urban built environment in that context.

We currently offer after-school courses in city making for 13-18 year olds (Part 0), a two-year postgraduate Masters (MArch) in Designing Architecture ARB/RIBA Part 2 and a post-professional programme of short courses for practitioners (Part 4). The next project is to develop a series of new programmes, including at educational levels 4-6 (undergraduate degree equivalent) that specifically privilege green skills and multi-disciplinary thinking and practice in construction, engineering and other built environment disciplines. Our Future Skills Task Force aims to gather rich and wide evidence to inform this strategic next step.

The LSA is run by a small, friendly and energetic team who are all committed to ensuring the success of its educational vision and mission. The school is based in Hackney, east London.

Project overview - FUTURE SKILLS THINK TANK

This year-long research and advocacy project will first define industry need, and then design scalable programmes for green skills in design and construction for young people and career changers from diverse and underrepresented communities in the wider construction industry. The research and resulting new programmes will help to build capacity for the LSA to deliver on its access agenda, and provide an evidence-base for decision-makers across the sector.

The Think Tank is a collaboration between the LSA, University College of Estates management (UCEM) and social impact consultancy, This Is Purpose. It is generously supported by UCEM, the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation (SLDF) and the London Borough of Hackney.

This short commission brings together a range of stakeholders and partners to drive forward the discussion around just transition in the construction industry, addressing equity, learning pathways, procurement and place literacy.

FOCUS AREAS

The interconnected focus areas of the project are as follows:

1. **PATHWAYS:** We want to understand desirable and viable pathways for underserved and underrepresented young people and career changers in the built environment sector
2. **STANDARDS:** We need to map and audit all existing academic and occupational standards across built environment disciplines from educational levels 3-7, ensure they are fit for purpose for a just transition, and produce evidence to catalyse their review by industry partners and regulators
3. **INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY:** We will adumbrate a progressive industrial strategy for construction and development in line with our vision and mission, and devise the means to understand industrial economic capacity in relation to sector-wide green skills shortages
4. **PROCUREMENT:** We will explore how to leverage social value, EDI and other procurement criteria to contribute to the sustaining and scaling of programmes we build
5. **LITERACY:** We want to understand how democratising the language, knowledge and understanding of place can play an impactful role in efforts to engage new publics to the profession; identify cross-sector future skills; improve the effectiveness of learning programmes; and facilitate procuring bodies in their efforts to create more just, equitable, and inclusive processes.
6. **POLICY:** We aspire to influence policy in relation to social mobility and skills opportunities around the following political priorities: housing supply and regeneration; industrial strategy and skills-needs; achieving net-zero through just transition; healthier and sustainable communities.

The LSA is seeking a highly competent, creative and collaborative research associate to be a part of our team, leading on and coordinating this work.

Outline brief and responsibilities:

- Recruiting voluntary expert commissioners and manage ongoing liaison
- Produce a context document to establish the purpose of the commission

- Refine research questions, design appropriate methods, produce and implement a project plan
- Convene meetings, roundtables, interviews
- Undertake desk-based research
- Identify and onboard participants for gathering evidence
- Arrange evidence taking sessions and summarise findings
- Manage project data and information flows
- Liaise with key funders and stakeholders
- Produce a concluding project report for the LSA including key recommendations, best practice case studies and summaries of evidence
- Manage a budget

Essential skills & experience:

- Excellent collaborator and communicator: written, verbal and inter-personal
- Confident and rigorous in desk-based and in-person research
- Confident in project planning, management and implementation against strict deadlines.
- Meticulous in managing project data, information flows and budgets
- Assertive in liaising with key funders and stakeholders
- Writing and producing reports

Desirable:

- Experience in organising events and meetings, aligning diaries and producing minutes
- Working knowledge of the built environment industry and education sector
- Ability to work flexibly as part of a wider team
- Doctoral or Post-doctoral qualifications (or equivalent qualification/experience) in the built environment, social policy, or other cognate areas to the focuses of the project

Application details

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please apply to us no later than 23.59 (BST) on Monday 27 May.

Interviews will be held on Friday 31 May and Monday 3 June.

Please provide the following in your application;

- An expression of interest with evidence of research capability.
- A current CV.
- An extract from a research document, e.g. peer review article, research degree submission/PhD, reports, book chapters etc.
- Contact details of two referees.

Please email or Wettransfer your application to people@the-lsa.org. You can also email with any questions you have about the project.

The LSA is committed to the promotion of equality and diversity principles and to ensuring that those principles are embedded in its culture and work. The LSA, expects suppliers to demonstrate a similarly high level of commitment to promoting equality and diversity.

About the London School of Architecture

Our vision

Our vision is that people living in cities experience more fulfilled and more sustainable lives. Our school educates future leaders to design innovations that contribute to this change.

Our mission

Network: To bring together outstanding students, practices, professionals, educators, and entrepreneurs to generate and champion essential new approaches to the design of the urban built environment.

Institution: To establish the school as independent and financially sustainable, achieving the highest standards of governance and academic delivery with the spirit of agility, openness and responsiveness.

Programme: To provide programme(s) that generate incremental and disruptive innovations in the design of architecture and cities, and which critically equip our graduates for the creative and commercial practices of tomorrow.

Talent: To be the route of choice for gifted students to become future spatial leaders, recruiting talented candidates from across the whole of society by proactively addressing soft and hard barriers to the profession/industry.

Impact: To influence the future of architecture and the city – and particularly London – by producing provocative design/research for global dissemination and by being nimble agents of change within the capital itself.

Equality, diversity and inclusion statement

The London School of Architecture is committed to being an inclusive employer, building an inclusive workplace and recruiting a workforce as diverse as London's. However you identify and whatever background you bring with you, we welcome you to apply for a role at The London School of Architecture.

If there are any adjustments that would help support you in your application, please do let us know when you apply. If you are disabled, Evenbreak is able to provide support with your application; for further information, please visit their website [here](#).

Disabled, deaf and/or neurodivergent people and those from Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse backgrounds are underrepresented in our workforce, so we particularly encourage applications from people in these groups.

Company info

Registered Charity No. 1159927

Website: www.the-lsa.org

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7206 2585

Location: The London School of Architecture, 4 Beechwood Road, London, E8 3DY