

Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officer (1.0 FTE)

Research Department

Permanent

The Role

Job Title Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officer

Department Research

Reports to Head of Research Support Services

With proven ability and experience in a relevant field, the post holder will support academic staff across the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) to undertake knowledge exchange (KE), drive innovation and achieve research impact, contributing to our strategic objective for GSA be a global leader and partner for quality research, KE, innovation and impact in Art and Design.

GSA is a small, specialist institution with research expertise in the history, theory and practice of art, design, architecture, digital visualisation and design innovation. In REF 2021, 87.5% of our research impact and 82% of our research overall was judged to be world leading or internationally significant. We are committed to ensuring that our research makes a positive difference beyond higher education, including through strategic collaborations with cultural, civic and industrial partners.

One of the core objectives of GSA's Strategic Plan to 2027 is to achieve impact through creative research, KE, innovation and partnership. Building on this, Research Impact forms one of three main areas of focus in our Research Strategy 2022-27, including the development of our institutional infrastructure and capacity for knowledge exchange and impact, building world-leading collaborations with industry and other partners, and supporting public engagement with our research.

The successful applicant will make a significant contribution to our achievement of these goals, as a member of GSA's central Research Dept support staff team, working closely with academic researchers and other colleagues across each of our Schools. They will be responsible for: supporting the growth of GSA's strategic networks and collaborations with industrial, cultural and civic partners; developing income- and impact-generating KE projects, academic consultancy and collaborative R&D; supporting the development of research Impact Case Studies, and the institutional processes and infrastructure to facilitate that work; and contributing to an organisational research culture that promotes KE, innovation and impact and captures its value effectively.

Key Accountabilities

- Lead on the development and management of income-generating KE and Innovation projects, collaborative R&D projects, applied research and consultancy contracts – aligned with strategic objectives and our ambitions to achieve research impact.
- Contribute to the development of GSA's networks with industrial, cultural and civic sectors and the development and management of strategic partnerships with relevant non-academic organisations.

- Support colleagues to identify opportunities to achieve research impact, including by helping to broker and maintain relationships with partners and research users, obtaining funding and resources to support income- and impact-generating activities and advising on the collection and management of evidence of impact.
- Coordinate and make a leading contribution to the development of Impact Case Studies for potential submission to the next REF, including close involvement in the production of evidence-based impact narratives.
- Play a significant role in the development of systems and processes to improve the collection, monitoring, evaluation, management and understanding of evidence of research impact at GSA.
- Contribute to relevant guidance and training to help academic colleagues gain a better understanding of how to plan, enhance and assess research impact.
- Provide guidance on the commercialisation of research, including the management and exploitation of intellectual property, and liaise with relevant external service providers as required.
- Attend and contribute to relevant GSA committees and research-related institutional meetings, including by preparing written reports and giving presentations.
- Contribute to the development of institutional policies, strategies and procedures as relevant to the role, and play an active role in GSA's preparations for the next REF exercise.
- Attend external meetings as required on behalf of GSA, and maintain relationships with relevant initiatives to support KE and innovation, such as the West of Scotland KTP Centre, Interface and Universities Scotland sub-groups.
- Coordinate public engagement with research (PER), including the promotion and showcasing of GSA research and KE to relevant audiences and stakeholders.
- Contribute to institutional reporting of KE, innovation and impact metrics and narratives, including to Scottish Funding Council and HESA.
- Actively promote and encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in KE, innovation and impact at GSA.
- Participate in GSA's career review and development procedures and undertake relevant training and staff development.
- Undertake other duties as consistent with departmental and organisational needs, as directed by line managers.

Relationships

- Internal
 - Head of Research
 - Deputy Director Research & Innovation
 - Head of Research Support Services
 - Research and Innovation Funding Officers, and other professional support staff in central Research office
 - GSA research groups and Research Leads, Heads of School and academic researchers in the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Innovation School and Schools of Design, Fine Art and Simulation and Visualisation
 - Members of Research Committee and other relevant GSA committees and working groups
 - Finance Department

- External
 - Partners, potential collaborators and professional bodies and networks in cultural, creative, civic and industrial sectors.
 - Scottish Funding Council
 - Universities Scotland
 - Innovation support bodies such as Interface, KTP centres and Innovation Centres
 - Innovate UK and other providers of funding and investment to support KE, innovation and impact
 - Other higher education institutions and independent research organisations
 - Service providers supporting KE and impact
 - Regional development agencies and initiatives such as Enterprise Agencies.

Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential

- Educated to degree level or equivalent in a relevant discipline

Desirable

- Postgraduate taught degree and/or research degree in relevant disciplines
- Relevant professional qualifications

Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Experience of working within a higher-education research, KE and innovation environment (or equivalent) in a similar or related role or capacity.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the KE and Innovation policy and funding landscape, in Scotland, throughout the UK and internationally.
- Experience of building and maintaining professional networks, partnerships and collaborations across different organisations and sectors.
- Excellent understanding of all aspects of Research Impact – its facilitation in a range of contexts, tracking and capturing evidence, analysis of results and articulation of outcomes; thorough knowledge of how to plan and prepare REF Impact Case Studies.
- Experience of administering contracts and collaboration agreements, and good understanding of the management of intellectual property arising from research.

Desirable

- First-hand experience of contributing to institutional research assessment exercises in higher education, particularly the analysis and presentation of research impact for REF Impact Case Studies.
- Excellent understanding of KE, innovation and impact in GSA's core academic disciplines of art, design, and architecture and corresponding knowledge of wider cultural and creative sectors.
- Experience of managing and commercialising intellectual property, negotiating competitive contractual terms and/or involvement in supporting spin-out or start-up company activity.

- First-hand experience of supporting innovation projects, such as the development and implementation of a new product or service.
- Experience of developing public engagement with research.

Skills

Essential

- Ability to manage, organise and prioritise a busy and varied workload in a pressured environment, while demonstrating good organisational and time management skills, to ensure that key deadlines are met.
- Ability to work enthusiastically as part of a small team, and to collaborate effectively with a wide range of GSA and external colleagues.
- Resilient and adaptable, and willing to take responsibility for a range of duties.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication (written and verbal) skills, including strong presentation and report-writing abilities, and the capacity to persuasively and effectively convey information to different audiences.
- Good networking skills; confident to represent employer in different situations and adept at building relationships with a range of partners, collaborators, stakeholders and audiences for GSA research.
- Ability to rapidly process and understand complex written information such as policy documents, funders' terms and conditions and research assessment regulations, and respond effectively to promote positive outcomes.
- Ability to identify opportunities and develop new initiatives, with the necessary persistence to implement and complete them effectively.
- Strong numerical skills, with the ability to prepare and analyse data using spreadsheets – including collating and analysing data to quantify KE performance and research impact.
- Excellent reflective, analytic and problem-solving skills, and good decision-making ability.
- Proficient in the use of standard software tools for office work.

Desirable

- Proficient in the use of databases, and financial systems.
- Ability to draft collaboration agreements, licensing agreements and contracts.

Terms and Conditions

Contract: Permanent

Probationary Period: It is recognised that there is an inevitable 'settling in' period in any post.

The probationary period is therefore an opportunity for the employee to fit within the culture of the School. It should also be determined during this time whether the job is in line with expectations as expressed in pre-appointment discussions, interview and as set out in the Job Description.

The probation period for this role is 6 months.

Hours of Work: 35 hours per week (Monday – Friday)

Salary: Grade 7 (£41,931.00 - £52,841.00) per annum, pro rata

Holidays: 35 days plus 11 statutory holidays per annum

Pension: Local Government Superannuation Scheme

Notice Period: 3 months

To find out more information about the Glasgow School of Art, please visit our website;

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/>