Artist-in-residence, School of Mathematics, University of Bristol

Applications are invited for a self-employed artist / creative to work on a fully funded project in the School of Mathematics on a part-time basis, during the first two terms of the academic year 2020-21. The successful applicant will work alongside world-leading mathematicians to produce collaborative artworks inspired by current research and engage the public on topics explored during the residency.

The project

The six-month residency is a partnership with CREATE-REACT - an organisation that pairs artists and scientists together to foster interdisciplinary art collaborations. It is envisaged that the resident artist will work three days per week on a flexible basis, inside the mathematics department to develop working relationships with research staff that spin-off into creative projects led by the artist and inspired by mathematical ideas.

There will be considerable freedom within this residency for the artist to explore their own path and develop their practice. The breadth of research conducted in the School provides the opportunity for an artist to follow their curiosity and explore different themes using the expertise around them. Successful collaborations will involve both the artist and researchers drawing on their different perspectives, learning from one another and finding common ground.

In addition to working on their artwork, the resident will help to communicate what they have learned by designing and participating in engagement activities, in collaboration with members of the School and by making use of CREATE-REACT's established links with local communities and schools. The number and scope of these activities shall be determined flexibly, in consultation with all participants.

The residency will culminate in an exhibition of the works produced, organised by CREATE-REACT.

A flat fee of £15,375 will be provided to cover the artist's time spent working on their projects. Reimbursement of other reasonable costs associated with the residency shall be available separately. Please note however, that while workspace will be provided within the mathematics department building, any additional studio space (if required) shall not be included.

The successful applicant will be required to enter into agreement that all work produced during the residency shall be owned by the School of Mathematics, except by special agreement between artist and the department at a later date.

Residency dates: Sept 28th, 2020 - March 28th, 2021
Exhibition dates (provisional): March 1st, 2021 - March 28th, 2021

Selection criteria

The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate a substantial and serious body of prior work and have a clear vision of how their practice would benefit from working with research mathematicians. They should have experience working as a professional artist / creative, preferably including successful delivery of commissioned work or previous residencies. They should be independently motivated with good interpersonal and communication skills. A collaborative mindset is key for this project and they will need to be able to engage proactively with the participating academics.

No formal mathematical training is necessary, nor is prior experience working with mathematicians or researchers. However, a willingness to engage with and appreciate the research context is essential, as is an enthusiasm for learning and working across disciplines.

Previous experience working with schools and/or community outreach is highly desirable.

Applications are welcomed from artists / creatives from all disciplines and backgrounds. We are committed to following equal opportunity best practices when filling this position.

Application process

Interested applicants should send a short CV (no more than 2 pages) and a sample of previous work (no more than 5 pieces) to hello@create-react.com. Please direct any informal inquiries to the same address.

After a shortlisting process, successful candidates will be asked to submit a more detailed application, including references and a personal statement, prior to being invited to interview.

Only the requested materials (CV & work samples) will be considered at this stage.

Closing date: Wednesday 1st July 2020
Interviews will take place in early August.

Candidates who encounter any difficulties preparing their application should contact hello@create-react.com at the earliest opportunity.

COVID-19

The above advert reflects expectations proposed prior to the onset of the ongoing pandemic. As such, some aspects of the residency may be subject to change and is likely that we will need to adopt a flexible approach to delivering this project, in collaboration with the successful applicant.

About the School of Mathematics

The School of Mathematics is one of the UK's leading research centres in pure and applied mathematics and in statistical science, ranked 4th overall in the country in the last national research exercise (REF 2014). Research in the School of Mathematics is led by five institutes, encompassing all the main areas of modern mathematics: the Institute for Applied Mathematics; the Institute for Mathematical Physics; the Institute for Probability, Analysis, and Dynamics; the Institute for Pure Mathematics and the Institute for Statistical Science.

The School has a history of artistic collaboration, previously hosting Simon Thomas as artist-in-residence in 2002 – a project that led to later commissions in 2005-06 – and most recently working with several artists in collaboration with CREATE-REACT in 2018-19.

More information:
https://create-react.com
http://www.bristol.ac.uk/maths/