



Curator | February 2022

Closing Date: 13 March 2022 | Ref: A3672



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Lancaster Arts

Lancaster Arts is excited to be recruiting a Curator to be at the centre of our artistic programme. You will work closely with the Director to realise our potential as a combined arts National Portfolio Organisation, situated within a leading university which is committed to interdisciplinary practice and civic engagement. We operate within an Arts Strategy for the University that places art and creativity at the heart of the institution.

Our programme integrates our presentational programme with commissions and artist development, on the university campus and beyond. You will be highly committed to developing collaborative practices and partnerships that build on our working values and support new and brave artistic practice.

The postholder will be a part of the Senior Leadership Team, helping us shape a new future and supporting our work as a relevant and valued member of the cultural life of Lancaster and the surrounding region. Lancaster Arts is a distinctive, exciting, and ambitious contemporary arts organisation in the northwest of England. We are situated on the campus of Lancaster University, and our venues include the Great Hall, Nuffield Theatre and Peter Scott Gallery as well as regular site-specific work in the district.

Photo: Attendee at the Lives in Print exhibition, July 2018





Our University

Lancaster University is an international leader in the provision of inspiring teaching and research and ranked 11th in the UK in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is among the best in the world, with Arts and Humanities ranked 45 in the top 100 in the 2022 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, highlighting that Lancaster is a world leader in this field.

Our research is truly international in focus with research partnerships in over 60 countries around the world. Lancaster University is committed to the national Civic University initiative and prioritises public engagement alongside teaching and research.

This collaborative approach is fostered by its mixture of formal and informal structures - including Institutes and University Research Centres - bringing together experts from different disciplines to address regional, national, and global challenges. Lancaster is one of only a handful of universities with a collegiate system which has helped to forge a strong sense of identity and loyalty and continues to be a distinctive feature of Lancaster University life.

Our campus is one of the best and safest in the UK. On campus you will easily find banks, shops, cafés, and medical offices to make your life easy. Alongside the Nuffield Theatre, the Peter Scott Gallery, and the Great Hall (which Lancaster Arts utilises as our concert hall), there are also many outdoor and indoor in which we present work. Our next commission is taking place in the University Library, for example. We see the campus as our 'fourth venue.'







Our People

Lancaster's success depends on talented, creative and committed people who work hard to make this University so special and distinctive.

Our vision for the future is to be a sustainable and an academically excellent institution recognised as one of the leading universities in the world.

You will be joining a university which is amongst the best on any objective measure, but also modern, forward thinking, and quick and nimble in adopting the latest developments in teaching and research.

Lancaster University is committed to attracting, developing and retaining the best staff, celebrating equality and diversity, and recognising how all staff contribute to and enhance the overall success of the University. Our People Strategy 2020 clearly articulates that the core strength of the university is our people.



About Lancaster

Lancaster District is a thriving and growing cultural community and Lancaster Arts plays a key role both locally and regionally in the cultural ecology. The district of Lancaster has a long and diverse history, having gained its first charter in 1193. In the heart of the city centre lies a 12th Century castle – one of the best preserved in Great Britain – which dominates the hill above the River Lune.

Lancaster itself is situated in a delightful part of North West England. The rural landscape is superb, with the Lakeland fells in full view across the expanse of Morecambe Bay. The River Lune runs along the edge of the Forest of Bowland, an area of outstanding natural beauty, past many villages, into Lancaster and to the sea. There are two National Parks, the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, all within a 30-minute drive. Lancaster is two and a half hours by train to London and less than one hour to Manchester airport.

Lancaster is small enough to explore on foot, but big enough to keep you entertained all day, and was recently ranked as one of the top ten most vibrant cities in the UK (the Experian Vibrancy Report), thanks to its established arts scene and student population. It offers excellent shopping, cinemas, theatres, and restaurants, with many well preserved older buildings. The area is also well served with state, private and church schools.

Lancaster and Morecambe have a burgeoning and dynamic cultural scene with several National Portfolio Organisations such as Ludus Dance and More Music. The District Council have identified culture as a key priority and recently adopted local museums and there are many heritage projects, often partnered with the university. Lancaster University is fortunate to have the renowned Ruskin Archive, housed at the Ruskin Library. Music festivals are growing in scale and ambition and there is a lively dance ecology.

The annual light festival, Light Up Lancaster grows from strength to strength. The Storey offers gallery and studio spaces as well as office space for freelancers of which there are many and innovative community-based arts organisations have recently emerged. Lancaster University has a formal relationship with the Dukes and we frequently collaborate on city-wide initiatives. It is a unique moment in Lancaster and Morecambe where there is everything to play for.

Photo: Mim Suleiman in pop up concert in Lancaster





The Role

Lancaster Arts is excited to be recruiting a new member of our senior leadership team, leading our creative team, and helping us shape a new future as a combined arts organisation of Arts Council England. The Curator is responsible for the visual arts programme, be this in the Peter Scott Gallery, the campus or in the city of Lancaster and Morecambe, as well as with regional, national, and international partners. This role oversees the care and maintenance of the University Art Collection, ensuring its sustainability and capability to grow and flourish.

Lancaster Arts has been part of the combined arts portfolio of Arts Council England for almost 15 years with a renowned reputation for cutting edge arts practice in all art forms. We are proud of our support for artists exploring new directions for their work and fostering new relationships with arts professionals, colleagues at the university and particularly with people who have nothing to do with the arts. You will have a high degree of relational skills for working with a broad range of people, and a track record for maintaining ongoing relationships with artists and producers over a period of time.

For further details about the role please visit www.lancasterarts.org/get-involved/jobs-at-lancaster-arts/



Photo: Ballet Nimba as part of Afrika Eye North 



Employee Benefits and Reward Package



Remuneration

£35,326-£40,927

The role attracts a highly competitive starting salary. Further salary progression will also be achievable through annual increments, with faster progression available based upon performance in the role.

Pension

For this role the University offers the opportunity to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

Relocation

For those relocating nationally or internationally a generous relocation package is available.

Flexible Benefits

All staff are eligible to participate in the University's sector-leading flexible benefits scheme. The scheme provides staff with the opportunity to purchase benefits at discounted rates and also to take advantage of tax and national insurance savings on some of the benefits chosen.

The current benefits include:

- Childcare Vouchers
- Pre-School Centre
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Season Ticket Loan
- Low Emission Cars
- Charitable giving
- Shopping discounts
- Dental insurance
- Health cash plan
- Sports Centre membership
- Lancaster and external courses
- Professional Bodies' membership fees
- Car parking
- Subsidised annual bus pass
- Discounted staff dining card
- Local retail discount card
- Theatre membership
- Home technology
- Additional annual leave



Process

If you wish to discuss the role or have any questions regarding the application, please contact our Director, **Jocelyn Cunningham** at jocelyn@lancasterarts.org

Lancaster Arts is committed to attracting and recruiting diverse candidates, particularly from communities who are currently less represented in the North West, particularly disabled, D/deaf and/or neurodivergent people and those from black, Asian and ethnically diverse backgrounds and we particularly encourage applications from people in these groups. We will guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet all essential criteria.

Applications should be made online at <https://hr-jobs.lancs.ac.uk/>

Applications should consist of the completed online application form addressing the criteria in the job description with a covering letter.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **13th March 2022 at 12 midnight.**

Interviews will be on **24th March 2022**. We would like to meet all shortlisted candidates the day before (**23rd March 2022**) for a walk around the campus and a chance to meet the team. Lancaster Arts would pay for your accommodation on campus. This is likely to take place in the afternoon of the 23rd to allow for travel.

Recruitment Statement

The role will be located in Lancaster and there is a requirement that successful candidates will live within commuting distance of the Lancaster University Bailrigg campus. If this might involve a re-location for you, it is of course important that candidates consider how the move might affect anyone who may accompany you (for example, early consideration may need to be given to local schooling, housing and other employment opportunities where other family members are involved, as early as possible). We will support you as much as possible with this and are happy to discuss any concerns you may have.







Where ideas, creativity and people connect

Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YW

www.lancasterarts.org