

**Lecturer In Design**

**Job Description**

**Key responsibilities**

**1. Teaching**

a) contribute to the development of new and existing undergraduate design curricula;

b) prepare distance learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by the Open University;

c) support the presentation of design modules working with different tutors and students;

d) support the teaching and assessment processes of the University, monitor samples of marked work, and support examination processes;

e) contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of learning and teaching within the School, in line with University standards, and complete any training deemed necessary

f) work with all academic and academic-related colleagues in the support of student engagement and progression and other School and Faculty objectives

**2. Scholarship, research and enterprise**

a) undertake a self-directed programme of individual or collaborative scholarship or research in a field that will contribute to the national and international profile of design and support existing areas of design research in the School;

b) undertake design research or scholarship that leads to high-impact publications and applications for external funding in line with School and Faculty objectives;

c) work effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture in design;

d) generate grant income to support the post-holder’s research and to strengthen the existing design research portfolio at the Open University;

e) attract and co-supervise postgraduate research students.

f) undertake professional development as an academic educator and researcher

g) engage with appropriate academic leadership and administrative tasks, and play an active role within the School and Faculty, as required by the Head of School.

**3. Outreach and public engagement**

a) develop and build stronger relationships and collaborations with OU design alumni, industrial sectors, philanthropic funders and other educational providers;

b) lead and/or create external communications promoting OU Design via social and other media;

c) contribute to the outreach activities of the E&I School, the STEM Faculty and the University.

**4. Administration and Management**

a) engage with, and support, the external promotion of design education at the Open University;

b) work with others to complete OU documentation and processes to approve new curricula;

c) engage with appropriate administrative tasks (e.g. workload planning, Career Development & Staff Appraisal) and support peer-to-peer review processes.

**5. Other responsibilities**

a) comply with the University’s Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies in the performance of their duties;

b) cooperate with the Open University in ensuring as far as necessary, that Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies, and Departmental Health and Safety arrangements are complied with;

c) have a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity;

d) have a strong commitment to the principles and practices of sustainability.

## Person Specification

**Essential**

* A PhD or equivalent\* in design or a related discipline and a Masters degree or good Honours degree in design. \*Research degree equivalence will be demonstrated through work-based independent research projects. Candidates should evidence their knowledge and engagement with design for sustainability themes.
* Experience of developing design teaching materials at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels
* Experience of using new technologies and media to engage others in creative activities
* Evidence of demonstrable research (or equivalence in design research practice) that complements existing areas of design research at the Open University
* An ability to write on issues outside of immediate area of expertise but in a related topic, in an informed and coherent manner.
* Commitment to support distance learning through the application of new technologies
* Excellent oral, written and visual communication skills in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism
* Evidence of applying for funding, appropriate to career stage
* Evidence of being able to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines
* An ability to work collaboratively, adaptively and responsively with others in multi-disciplinary teaching and research contexts.
* Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University

**Desirable**

* Experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials.
* Evidence of leadership in teaching, research and/or practice
* Experience of supporting adult learners within online and/or distance learning environments
* Higher Education Academy professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.
* Experience of supervising research students and research budgets, appropriate to career stage
* Experience of working with and influencing the professional design and creative industries sectors beyond HE.
* Experience of creating social media communications and engaging external audiences

Applicants will be expected to be on campus in Milton Keynes approximately twice per month.

If you would like further details about the role before making an application then please email your query through to Careers@open.ac.uk

**School of Engineering & Innovation**

The School of Engineering and Innovation (E&I) is one of the largest Schools in the STEM Faculty, with circa 80 academic staff and around 40 PhD students. It is a broad-based multidisciplinary School that leads the OU’s teaching in the areas of Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management, Design, Systems Thinking and Environmental Management. We support qualifications including the IMechE, IET, IED and IOM3 accredited BEng/MEng, the IED accredited BSc in Design and Innovation, the BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Environmental Management route), the MSc in Engineering, the MSc in Technology Management, the MSc in Systems Thinking in Practice, and the IEMA accredited MSc in Environmental Management. We are also developing a new undergraduate Batchelor of Design (BDes) qualification. Our diverse teaching reaches across disciplines and embeds wide-ranging pedagogies that support teaching excellence. This high standard is reflected in teaching across the Open University which has achieved a Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) award.

E&I is one of the most research-intensive Schools in the University, hosting two submissions in REF2021 from Engineering and Design. Other areas of E&I research that contributed to the university’s REF2021 submissions include Energy, Acoustics, Waste Management, and Systems Thinking.

E&I adheres to the Athena Swan Charter and holds an Athena Swan Silver award.

## **Design**

The Design Group at the Open University is part of the School of Engineering and Innovation. We aim to advance understanding of design and innovation’s role in society, to transform lives and to challenge the ways that people participate in this change. Both our teaching and research aim to develop a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of design thinking and processes and to promote strategies of resilience and adaptation to creatively address messy and complex real-world issues. We integrate a range of expertise from across the spectrum of design teaching and research and reflect a non-discipline-specific approach to understanding design and design processes often drawing on, and combining with, other disciplines.

Over the last 50 years the group has developed world-leading expertise in the processes, approaches and tools for delivering design education at a distance. The first course in 1972, *The Man-Made World,* contributed to the OU’s first technology foundation programme. Since then, we have developed many design modules and an undergraduate curriculum in Design, teaching over 1000 undergraduate students in design each academic year. We also contribute to other postgraduate modules in E&I and support doctoral training.

Design research is clustered around key themes: Design Processes; Sustainable Design and Innovation; Collaborative Design; Complexity; and Distance Design Education. We work in many sectors and contexts including product and manufacturing, fashion, urban and built environments, participatory design, sustainability, innovation, energy and climate change. The group is recognised for its internationally excellent research and has been consistently highly ranked across all research assessment exercises to date. The first journal in design, *Design Studies*, was founded by the group in 1979, and today the group has editorial and review input to several key design and related journals. We also have long-standing organisational responsibilities in the international design research community, specifically the Design Society and the Design Research Society. The Design Group has been directly involved in two AHRC-funded doctoral training programmes: the Design Star Collaborative Doctoral Training consortium in collaboration with Brighton University, Loughborough University, University of Reading and Goldsmiths College, University of London (2014-2023); and the Open Oxford Cambridge Doctoral Training Programme (2019-present). The group has several research resources staff can engage with including a FabLab and extended reality studios to support augmented and virtual reality opportunities in teaching and research. We encourage our staff to engage with the University’s unique Open Societal Challenges programme which supports interdisciplinary research and provides seed funding for projects that address the complex areas of sustainability, tackling inequalities and living well.