

Researcher / Software Developer

Job Reference:	9708
Department:	Visual Cultures
Grade/ Salary:	Grade 5 (£31,442 – 35,861 per annum)
Contract Type:	Fixed term, 1 year (with possibility of extension)
Hours:	Full-time, 35 hours/week
Location:	New Cross, London

Goldsmiths

Goldsmiths, University of London is a world-leading centre of educational excellence where ground-breaking research meets innovative teaching and thinking. We're looking for inspiring and talented people to help build on our global reputation while also growing personally in a true learning organisation.

We are happy to supply information in alternative formats for disabled applicants. Please contact hr-recruitment@gold.ac.uk to make your request.



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Department of Visual Cultures, Forensic Architecture

The researcher will be joining a small team of researchers based on Goldsmiths University's campus, working on a frontier research project that mobilizes architectural techniques and technologies to reconstruct incidents of violations of human rights, war crimes and environmental destruction worldwide. Analysing complex historical and current political events through developing bespoke research tools.

Job description

Reporting to: Eyal Weizman (Director), Sarah Nankivell (Research Manager), and Nour Abuzaid (Advanced Researcher / Technology)

Summary:

Forensic Architecture (FA) is looking to work with an early career researcher who is versatile, proactive and has a strong ambition and willingness to engage with the use of new technologies for the investigation of human rights and environmental violations by state and corporate actors. Under the supervision of more senior research team members, the Researcher will undertake in investigative casework across regional and thematic areas. Their contribution could include assisting with 3D and cartographic analysis, graphics, software development, and contextual research.

The Researcher will have demonstrable technical experience with geospatial visualisation, data visualisation, and software development. Under the direction of more senior researcher staff, the Researcher will be given opportunities to participate in the design of new technologically-driven tools and techniques. The Researcher will be responsible for working with interdisciplinary teams towards the ideation, design, prototyping and development of platforms that enable the multi-dimensional exploration and visualisation of spatial and temporal data.

They will be required to follow and understand the day-to-day research logic and methods of the FA teams, but also able to work independently outside of these teams and engage in understanding the wider contextualisation of the cases they work on. The Researcher will be involved in each phase of a project, from the early

conceptualisation of an investigation to active participation in the project's development, and design, and finally in the production and presentation of our findings. They will contribute conceptually and work analytically to cross-check and consolidate research as it evolves. Under the supervision of the Director and Lead Researcher, they may coordinate small investigations, organise workflows within teams, and report on the progress of the project to the FA team. The Researcher will also be expected to contribute to group discussions in which larger ethical and political questions pertaining to the work and its presentation are undertaken.

Demonstrably strong skills of geospatial visualisation (e.g. Mapbox.js, DeckGL), data visualisation (e.g. D3.js, Three.js / React Three Fiber), WebGL, front-end development (eg. React, CSS, HTML), back-end development (eg. Node), devops (e.g. Ansible, AWS, Docker, Terraform), and UX best practices are absolutely necessary, as is a strong conceptual inclination to understand and help formulate research questions. Experience in mapping, VR/AR, OpenGL, GPU programming and 3D modelling and animation are strongly desired. A demonstrable capacity for learning new software and techniques, as well as for teamwork across various contexts and with people of various expertise is also required. Candidates will have to demonstrate that they are conscientious and responsible, and are interested in contextualising and understanding the ethical and political implications of the work. The latter is crucial in a line of work where our ability to be precise has real-life consequences, and where being attentive and tuned to the wellbeing of colleagues and team members both in the field and in the office is paramount.

Strong oral and written communication skills in English is required, other foreign languages are an advantage.

Main duties:

- Research source and archival material
- Analyse and interpret data
- Undertake technical work to produce videos for the purpose of spatial investigations, particularly software development
- Organise research files, data, and video workflow
- Present research findings in a clear and creative manner

- Report on progress to the FA team, soliciting and incorporating feedback
- May present findings at external events related to the project and to relevant stakeholders
- Experiment with new research tools and techniques
- You will be required to undertake any other duties as may reasonably be required
- Ensure that you are aware of and aligned with Goldsmiths' Regulations, Strategy, and Objectives to work together to proactively advance Equality and Diversity
- At all times to help maintain a safe working environment by participating in training as necessary and following the Goldsmiths' Health and Safety Codes of Practice and Policy

Person Specification

Detailed below are the types of qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge which are required of the post holder. Selection will be made upon evidence of best-fit with this criteria.

The Essential criteria sections show the minimum essential requirements for the post, therefore if you cannot demonstrate in your application you meet the essential criteria categorised below, you will not be invited to interview.

The Desirable criteria sections show additional attributes which would enable the applicant to perform the role more effectively with little or no training.

The Category column indicates the method of assessment:

A = Application form **C = Certificate**
I = Interview **R = Reference**
T = Test / P = Presentation

	Category
Essential Criteria 1 - Qualifications	
Master's degree (or Bachelor's degree + equivalent experience) in computer science, architecture, technology, design, or a relevant field	A, C
Desirable Criteria 1 - Qualifications	
Expertise or training in other areas including technical proficiencies.	A, I
Essential Criteria 2 - Experience	
Experience or training in: geospatial visualisation, data visualisation, and software development	A, I
Experience or training in: mapping, OpenGL, GPU programming and 3D modelling/animation	A, I
Desirable Criteria 2 - Experience	
Research experience a significant advantage	A, I
Past experience may include working with NGOs, investigative journalism, conducting fieldwork, exhibiting or participating in art galleries and museums, political organising and activism	A, I
Essential Criteria 3 – Knowledge	
Knowledge in film, architectural, spatial, and/or environmental theory and methods; visualisation; and aesthetic strategies	A, I
Desirable Criteria 3 - Knowledge	
Ability to integrate the philosophical and theoretical with spatial practice	A, I
Familiarity with Forensic Architecture's research methods	A, I
Knowledge of theories around politics, activism, human rights, law, and/or conflict studies	A, I
Specialist knowledges of the spatial realities of specific regions and/or of research streams within human rights (e.g. migration, environmental violence, police violence, etc.)	A, I
Essential Criteria 4 - Skills	
Technical proficiency in: geospatial visualisation (e.g. Mapbox.js, DeckGL), data visualisation (e.g D3.js, Three.js / React Three Fiber), WebGL, front-end development (eg. React, CSS, HTML), back-end development (eg. Node), devops (e.g. Ansible, AWS, Docker, Terraform), and UX best practices	A, I
Video editing and motion graphics	A, I

Be rigorous, communicative, capable of multi-tasking, willing to learn, and having a keen eye for detail	A, I
Demonstrably strong written and oral communication skills	A, I
Able to work independently with supervision but also as part of a dynamic team when required	A, I
Spoken and written fluency in English	A, I
Desirable Criteria 4 - Skills	
Spoken and written fluency in a second language	A, I
Technical proficiency in: mapping (QGIS), VR/AR (Unity/Unreal Engine/TouchDesigner), OpenGL, GPU programming (CUDA/Compute Shaders) and 3D modelling/animation (Blender, Cinema4D)	A, I

Please also note that where qualifications are required, employment is conditional on the verification of them. Qualifications (must be original documents) will be checked on the first day of appointment.

For more information about the role, please contact Sarah Nankivell:
s.nankivell@gold.ac.uk

August 2022

Summary of Benefits

If you choose to work with us, you'll become part of a learning organisation that is committed to professional and personal development, with a comprehensive and innovative staff development programme.

You'll also have access to frequent lunchtime and evening talks, seminars and performances, and annual performance and development reviews.

Our other benefits include:

- Competitive salary
- Working in Zone 2, with fantastic transport links and interest free travel to work loans
- Excellent annual leave entitlement plus additional closure days at Christmas and Easter
- Membership of USS or LPFA pension scheme, dependent upon grade
- Access to exclusive discounts, including high street retailers
- Maternity, paternity and adoption leave and pay
- Contractual sick pay provision
- Free eye tests
- Wellbeing initiatives including the Chaplaincy and Staff Choir
- On-site dining facilities and gym
- Access to [University of London facilities](#) such as Senate House Library

Further information

For more information about Goldsmiths, please visit: www.gold.ac.uk/about.

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. For this please contact hr-recruitment@gold.ac.uk, or visit www.gold.ac.uk/working/.

Thank you for your interest in working with us, we wish you all the best with your application.