Higher Education Research Manager

Are you passionate about bringing art to everyone? Do you work at the intersection of Higher Education and public impact? Are you well versed in the UK and European Higher Education funding and research landscape, and interested in developing collaborative digital projects and partnerships?

We're looking for a Higher Education Research Manager to help develop an ambitious research strategy that connects Art UK with the wider research community, realising the potential of the millions of artwork records held by Art UK.

We welcome and encourage applications from candidates who are under-represented in the creative industries, particularly individuals who experience physical, mental or social barriers to accessing the arts.

About Art UK

Art UK is an art education charity and the online home for every public collection of art in the United Kingdom. It is making the UK's national collection of art accessible to everyone online – for enjoyment, learning and research. Art UK brings together art from almost 3,500 British institutions in one of the UK's largest ever arts partnerships and showcases this art to a global audience of 5.5m users per annum. Approaching 60% of this audience is overseas.

Art UK provides significant support to museums and galleries in the UK, by providing them with a shared digital platform to showcase their art collections, reach new audiences, and generate income. Most of these collections would not be able to show their art online without Art UK. The Art UK platform is rich in story content, learning resources for teachers and students, and public engagement opportunities. A shared e-commerce infrastructure helps collections generate much needed commercial income.

About You

As the Higher Education Research Manager, you will be responsible for translating Art UK's plans, informed by a recent scoping study, into a realistic Higher Education collaboration and funding strategy, balancing short-term objectives against long-term viability and sustainability.

You will have experience of developing research projects that align organisational strategic objectives with national and funder priorities. With extensive experience of navigating the Higher Education funding landscape, you will be able to start conversations and develop partnerships that enhance Art UK's reputation as a trusted research partner, using our national

database of publicly owned art as a starting point. Art UK will be seeking interdisciplinary collaborations, which might include digital humanities, health, education, and social wellbeing.

You will be able to develop a strategic, phased and sustainable approach to growing Art UK's profile and attractiveness as a Higher Education research partner, setting realistic organisational research targets while strengthening internal culture and confidence around research.

This is a new role at Art UK. You will have the opportunity to shape it and contribute to the wider strategic development of the charity.

Your commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion aligns with our organisational values, and you are passionate about contributing to a positive workplace culture.

Key Responsibilities

- Horizon scan, develop partnerships, and make recommendations around existing internal capacity building for Art UK to better support research partnerships.
- Take the existing scoping study and translate it into a forward-thinking research strategy that positions Art UK as a leader in innovative research engagement with a database of publicly owned artworks in our museums and galleries, and in public spaces.
- Build Art UK's capacity to participate in high-quality museum and collections data research projects.
- Bring together diverse stakeholders to develop collaborative research proposals that engage with museum collections data.
- Develop Art UK's profile as a trusted Higher Education research partner.
- Develop a narrative around public engagement and public impact that helps Higher Education partners evidence this in their Research Excellence Framework submissions.
- Facilitate communication and collaboration between Art UK, the Museum Data Service (our joint venture), research partners, and external stakeholders.
- Oversee emerging research projects from conception to completion, including managing grant applications, budgeting, team coordination, dissemination and publication of findings.
- Work with project leads, project partners, and other stakeholders to ensure projects remain aligned with Art UK's strategic aims.
- Work with the Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Development to develop the research grant income stream, including the preparation of project budgets, funding applications, and proposals.

Necessary Skills

- Essential: Proven experience of managing and writing research grant proposals, with a track record of income generation through successful awards
- Essential: Knowledge and experience of the Higher Education research funding landscape, including national and funder priorities
- Essential: Proven success in developing and implementing strategic research partnerships that align with organisational goals and adapt to a changing external environment

- Essential: Experience and understanding of museum collections data and collections-based research
- Essential: Experience of positioning an organisation as a credible research partner, building its profile and reputation in the research sector
- Essential: Significant experience of managing project budgets, reporting and delivery
- Essential: Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Essential: Excellent attention to detail
- Essential: Excellent IT skills (including Microsoft Office)
- Essential: Self-motivated and reliable, with a clear focus on reaching deadlines on time
- Essential: Confident working both independently and as part of a team
- Essential: Skilled at multi-tasking and prioritising a varied workload
- Desirable: Experience of working in the arts or heritage sector, with an enthusiasm for public museums
- Desirable: Interest in the visual arts
- Desirable: Demonstrable advocacy experience, with the communication and interpersonal skills to engage and influence at a senior level across the sector
- Desirable: Familiarity with relevant UK research funders
- Desirable: Understanding of contracts, procedures and standard terms and conditions relating to research funding

Contract terms

- 3 days a week, 0.6 FTE
- 12-month fixed-term contract, with possibility of extension subject to funding
- Salary £42,000 per annum (pro rata)
- Three-month probationary period
- One-month termination clause
- Work from home, anywhere in the UK

Benefits

- 25 days annual leave plus regional Bank Holidays (pro rata)
- Paid Christmas closure period (Christmas Day to New Year's Day)
- Flexible working hours
- Workplace pension scheme
- Training and development opportunities
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Above statutory paid sick leave
- Enhanced paid parental leave
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Monthly wellbeing hour
- Trained Mental Health First Aider's
- Regular staff socials, both virtual and in-person
- Eye tests paid for up to £35, glasses subsidised up to £30

Application

Please visit our website to download the application form. To apply, please submit your completed application form to recruitment@artuk.org by **9am on Tuesday 17th November 2026**. If you are experiencing issues downloading the document or require support in completing your form, please contact info@artuk.org. Forms must be sent in MS Word or a format compatible to MS Word. Please do not send PDFs. Applications sent as a PDF will not be accepted.

Interviews will be held via video call on **Tuesday 1st December 2026**. If you have not heard from us within three weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

As part of our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion please note that we redact some details from applications ahead of the shortlisting stage to ensure the removal of unconscious bias. Details that we redact include (but are not limited to) references to protected characteristics, names of educational institutions and indications of political affiliations.