

Research Assistant

Department:	Computing
Grade/ Salary:	Grade 6, £ 34,403 - £ 37,258 pro rata
Contract Type:	Fixed Term Until 08/2021
Hours:	14 per week, part time, flexible
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@gold.ac.uk to make your request.



Passionate about advancing equality
and celebrating diversity.
Together, we are different



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Department of Computing

Goldsmiths Department of Computing is one of the UK's leading institutions for creative code, attracting the finest academics in the field, whilst producing world-renowned research in interaction, creativity and machine learning. Many of our staff have creative practices outside of, but frequently related to computing: they are musicians, artists, social activists, and writers. The work we do is significant on the world stage, published in the best journals and presented at the best conferences.

Job description

Reporting to: Senior Research Associate

Reports: Not applicable

Summary:

This research role supports two concurrent research grants which investigate educational technology, social learning, and gamification:

“Exploring video streaming solutions for tutor-facilitated synchronous social learning sessions in the online environment” is a project funded by the Centre for Distance Education, Teaching and Research Award. The project aims to establish a metrical framework for evaluating the success with which software enables social learning in online tutor-facilitated synchronous sessions. The research will be conducted through prototyping and iterating software solutions with in-the-wild tests being conducted between April and September of this academic year. The base platform is already built, so this role will be responsible for rapid development of experimental features during iterative cycles.

“Beyond the Quantifiable: Designing Gamified Assignments Across Disciplines,” funded by Goldsmiths TALIC Teaching and Learning Fellowships, explores the application of Gamification to teaching activities within the Psychology and Music Departments. This role will have responsibilities on the music side of the project. Muso-Gym, will be a gamified platform for toning musicianship skills. The project will build students' confidence and develop positive attitudes towards music theory by motivating repeated practice through building social connections through play. The role will be responsible for developing a prototype web app to matchmake students to practice together.

Main duties:

- Building upon our existing remote learning platform, you will further its development using JavaScript, including Node.js across the full implementation stack.
- Alongside this development work you will also be building a web-based matchmaking platform to support the Muso-Gym project.
- You may also be asked to run participatory research sessions with learners and educators. We are looking to understand the applicability of tools to online teaching pedagogy. Your duties will include collecting both quantitative and qualitative data using a variety of methods (user evaluation sessions, surveys and interviews). You may also be asked to work on collation and data analysis of this data. You will be expected to effectively communicate your interim findings to the team.
- You will be working with a team of educators, technologists and researchers as you fulfil your duties. It is anticipated much of the cross-team communication will be carried out remotely online.
- 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	
Undergraduate Degree	A, C,
Postgraduate Degree	A, C
Desirable Criteria 1 – Qualifications	
PhD	A, C
Essential Criteria 2 – Experience	
Has worked on full stack programming projects	A, I
Has conducted research in a related field (eg. Games, Education, Computing)	
Desirable Criteria 2 – Experience	
Worked in a related professional context eg. Games, Education, Computing)	A, I
Experience of Teaching (HE, FE, K-12)	A, I
Essential Criteria 3 – Knowledge	
Front end Development Frameworks (eg. React.js, Vue.js)	A
Back end technologies (Websockets, MongoDB, Docker)	A
Desirable Criteria 3 – Knowledge	
Accessibility in Front end web design (WCAG 2.0)	A
Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning	A, I
Essential Criteria 4 – Skills	
Confident programmer in Javascript, Node.js, HTML, CSS	A, I
Working as part of a team	A, I
Desirable Criteria 4 – Skills	
User Experience Design	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 Catherine Edlin Bellamy by e-mail c.bellamy@gold.ac.uk

March 2021

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
- On-site cinema, Curzon Goldsmiths, with staff discounts and special screenings
- Remote working & 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 LPFA pension scheme
- Access to exclusive discounts, including high street retailers
- Maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoption leave and pay and tax efficient childcare voucher scheme
- Contractual sick pay provision
- Free eye tests
- Wellbeing initiatives including the Chaplaincy and Staff Choir
- On-site [dining facilities](#)

- 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@gold.ac.uk, or visit www.gold.ac.uk/hr.

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