GREAT SPACES
CREATE
GREAT THINKERS

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR VISUAL COMMUNICATION
WELCOME

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NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Nottingham Trent University’s strategic vision is focused on ‘Creating the University of the Future’, transforming the lives of students and through them, the world in which we live. The University is making a major investment in academic talent across research, teaching and business engagement, with confidence in their creativity and commitment as leaders of their disciplines, they will successfully implement this ambitious strategy. This is an exciting time to join a visionary university. Nottingham Trent University (NTU) has been rapidly rising in rankings, receiving a TEF Gold Award, and recently being named as The Times and The Sunday Times Modern University of the Year. The University is committed to providing a highly positive, engaged and rounded experience to each individual student.

STRATEGY

The University’s strategic plan was developed in close partnership with staff, students, and stakeholders. The University recognizes that over the next five years, changes to the domestic undergraduate student fee and number regimes will create further challenges for the higher education environment in the UK. These will include:

- more competition to attract a broader range of students;
- more expectation for universities to input into economic growth and social cohesion;
- financial challenges as the value of UK fees reduces and other budgets come under pressure;
- more intensive imperatives around widening access and improving student retention.

Students’ expectations will also rise. This will be particularly true in relation to the use of technology in relation to their studies. Employers will become more engaged in the design and delivery of a portfolio of more flexible courses to connect employer requirements and students’ career aspirations.

NTU have organised the University’s ambitions under five key themes: Creating Opportunity, Valuing Ideas, Enriching Society, Connecting Globally and Empowering People. NTU are confident this strategy addresses these challenges in a direct and rigorous fashion. Successfully implementing this strategy will transform the University, fulfil the expectations of students; and enhance the richness and resilience of the City and County they are proud to call home.

NTU believes that the role of a university is to discover and to promulgate new knowledge and new ideas and to shape the leaders of tomorrow who will be in the vanguard of change in society. Over the last decade, over £421 million has been invested in NTU campuses and facilities. With a further £175 million set aside for the next five years, the University is enjoying an exciting period of transformation. As part of that transformation, NTU have created a strategic plan to bring all of the Schools together, ensuring they are working towards the same goal of maintaining NTU’s position as a University of the Future.
NOTTINGHAM IS OUR CITY

BUILT IN THE IMAGE OF ITS MOST FAMOUS SONS AND Daughters, Nottingham’s unique spirit and independence has inspired artists, creative entrepreneurs and icons for centuries; from the “Rebel Writers” of Byron, Lawrence and Sillitoe, to fashion mogul Paul Smith, independent filmmaker Shane Meadows, and the BAFTA-winning actress Vicky McClure.

Nottingham is a creative hub for brave thinkers, as well as the spaces that inspire them. It’s little wonder that generations of our students and colleagues have laid their roots here; more than just a place of study or work, Nottingham’s a city that people are proud to call home.

ART, CULTURE, AND THE CREATIVE QUARTER: NOTTINGHAM’S DESIGN TRADITION

Our roots go back to 1843 and the Nottingham Government School of Design (NGSD), and that’s no coincidence. Along with London, Manchester and York, Nottingham – with its proud manufacturing heritage in lace and textiles – was chosen as one of four UK centres to drive innovation in artistry and design. NGSD was the result, and the springboard for what would one day become NTU.

Since then, Nottingham and the University have lived in creative harmony, feeding into each other’s cultural soul, spirit and vision. The city has inspired our art and design community for over 150 years now – both students and faculty alike.

Today, Nottingham’s Creative Quarter is the region’s hub for entrepreneurship in design. CEO and NTU alumnus Stephen Barker has helped to consolidate one of the UK’s major art and design communities into an initiative that’s making big waves on a national level.

Welcome to Nottingham – a city combining big ideas with the cosiness of community. This is where heritage meets attitude, a place that balances tradition with innovation.

A CITY THAT’S EVERYTHING, TO EVERYONE

Life in Nottingham is a moveable feast. Where else could you find a UNESCO World City of Literature, VisitEngland’s “Home of Sport”, the UK’s highest concentration of Green Flag-accredited public parks and one of Britain’s most culturally diverse communities in the same place?

Nottingham’s location is also a huge boon – here in the heart of the country you’ll be within two hours’ reach of Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and London, and with a major international airport right on your doorstep. Looking for a break from city life? We’re only a short hop from the Peak District – the world-famous landscape that inspired William Wordsworth and Charlotte Brontë.

Nottingham is a city that defies categorisation. Welcome to your new home – a place where you’ll truly have it all.

www.ntu.ac.uk/nottingham
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION

The Department of Visual Communication is one of four Departments within the School of Art and Design at Nottingham Trent University. It currently delivers courses at Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Post Graduate Research level to 1,060 students across three distinct subject areas; Photography, Graphic Design and Film and Screen. The courses are highly successful with excellent student outcomes as reflected in the Guardian Subject rankings and its QS World Ranking position.

From August 2019 a new centre will be launched, the Nottingham Centre For Creative Technologies (NCCT). NCCT will combine NTU’s Visual Communication Department along with elements of the existing Higher Education offer at Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies.

NCCT will be a world-leading centre where students, lecturers and researchers will work alongside designers; employers and creative companies to learn, teach, develop and apply creative technologies and design.

Our vision is to position NTU as the leading University in the Creative Industries; capitalising on our joint strengths by bringing together these two areas to enable us to develop new curricula and explore new areas of research and practice that will directly impact upon the creative industries in the UK.

The new Centre’s activities will be focused on four different disciplines, namely:

- Music and Events
- Film and Screen
- Graphics and Photography
- Games and Interaction

This new Centre will, ultimately offer 28 undergraduate and postgraduate courses to over 2,200 international and UK students, making it one of the largest providers of higher education in the Creative Industries within the UK. In a world where innovative design thinking, and the creative industries play an increasingly important role, we’re looking for the right calibre of colleagues to support our strategic vision.

The new Centre as part the School of Art & Design is on an academic, cultural and corporate mission: we’re committed to growing creative opportunities and relationships within the city, nationally and internationally, fostering professional links across the sector, and delivering a standard of research that expands understanding, both within the discipline and across the industry.

As Head of Visual Communication and ultimately NCCT, you’ll play a key role in helping us to grow our reputation – both nationally and internationally – as we continue to develop our pedagogy, resources, perspectives and ambitions. It’s a challenge that excites us. What’s more, we hope it inspires you to join the School of Art & Design.

HEAD OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION/HEAD OF NOTTINGHAM CENTRE FOR CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

This is an opportunity to help shape and influence NTU’s Creative Industries development, to move our creative thinking and technology development forward, and of course, to help more students launch their careers in the creative industries. s/he will be an experienced leader with a passion for innovative pedagogy, student experience, quality and the relationship between the new centres resources and its student outcomes.

Reporting to the Dean, initially you will be appointed Head of the Visual Communication department. At the same time, you will play a leading role in building the NCCT infrastructure and overseeing the merger of the Visual Communication department and the Higher Education offer at Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies. Having successfully achieved this you will become the Head of Centre for NCCT.

The successful appointee will need to have exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to engage across the broad portfolio of the new Centre through the line management of Learning & Teaching, Quality and Resources, in collaboration with the management and leadership team. With an excellent knowledge of creative industries and of Higher Education pedagogies s/he will have demonstrable experience of working in a senior role and leading change in higher education.

Ensuring Key Performance Indicators are met, the Head of Centre will safeguard the student experience, its resources, provide leadership and mentorship to other staff members within the Centre, and help build the strong profile of the Centre both nationally and internationally.

JOB PURPOSE

- Provide strategic direction, academic and discipline/subject leadership and line management of staff within the academic Centre, with accountability for delivery of the Centre’s agreed outputs and overall performance.
- Responsible for the academic performance and motivation of Centre staff to achieve the highest standards in research, teaching and practice.
- Contribute to the strategic and operational management of the School, with a clear remit for the implementation of NTU and School strategic plans and specific objectives within the Centre which align with the Key Performance Indicators of NTU.
- Be an active and engaged member of the School’s leadership team, working closely with colleagues within the School and across the University to ensure the alignment of learning and teaching, research, commercial, international and other key agendas.
- Responsible for the continued development, growth, and financial sustainability of the Centre’s and School’s portfolio.

Key Performance Indicators of NTU
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, VISUAL COMMUNICATION

JOB DESCRIPTION

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To develop and build a national and international profile for the Centre and its subjects, furthering growth whilst enhancing the quality of provision and developing the student academic experience.
- To develop and sustain appropriate structures for management, consultation, decision-making and communication with academic and professional staff and students.
- To maintain personal research activity and promote an active research environment within the Centre, contributing to the overseeing of research outputs and supporting researcher development. Work closely with Associate Dean for Research to build high quality research activity across the School.
- To work closely with the Dean, Deputy Dean and Associate Dean for Research to identify, create, develop and exploit new opportunities in order to secure additional income streams and new areas of teaching, research, international or commercial activities.
- To proactively scan sector trends and competitor offerings, drawing upon recruitment, application and retention rates (including international recruitment) and other relevant sources to assess opportunities and risks for the Centre. Refresh and develop new programmes in order to attract new students and markets. Enhance the Centre’s collaborative programmes nationally and internationally.
- To work with the School Executive and contribute to the determination, agreement and delivery of delegated budgets for; staff, revenue, staff development and travel, 3rd stream income, research (including REF), and commercial.
- To be responsible for ensuring that all University Policies and Procedures are appropriately applied and followed within areas of responsibility of the post.
- To maintain own academic standing and authority through teaching, research and scholarly activities. Develop and maintain an external profile.

Please note that this Job Description is not intended to be an exhaustive list of duties and will be subject to periodic review by the Dean of School and in discussion with the post holder. Some of the above responsibilities may be delegated appropriately within the School, with reporting lines back to the Deputy Dean.

SKILLS

- Highly developed knowledge of approaches to teaching and learning, research and trends in a relevant discipline to NCT.
- Record of research and/or scholarship in a relevant discipline.
- Understanding of the teaching, learning and research environment and Research Excellence Framework (REF) context within which the Centre is operating.
- An understanding of public policy relating to research and teaching in the Higher Education Sector in the UK.

QUALIFICATIONS

- An appropriately strong combination of academic qualifications and/or relevant professional standing in a subject area represented in the Centre.
- Evidence of continuing professional development and maintaining currency of own teaching and research practice.
- Research to hold HEA Fellow professional recognition (or must be achieved within 6 months of appointment).

EXPERIENCE

- Experience of working at a strategic and operational level within a HE institution.
- Strong leadership and management in an education or business environment including performance management against agreed targets.
- Proven track record of leading activity to improve the outputs of learning and teaching and enhance the student experience.
- Experience of leading and promoting research activity resulting in improved quality, reputation and outcomes, including securing grant capture and supporting delivery of research projects.
- Track record of supporting commercial delivery and income generation within at least one area of the School’s interest.

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Leading and Coaching
- Communicating and Influencing
- Organisation and Delivery
- Making Informed Decisions
- Customer Focus
- Entrepreneurial and Commercial Focus

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, VISUAL COMMUNICATION

PERSON SPECIFICATION

KNOWLEDGE

- Strong evidence of leading, managing and developing staff.
- Excellent leadership, communication, presentation and influencing skills with the presence to engage and empower staff and students.
- Excellent planning and organisation skills, with the ability to identify, prioritise and respond to issues with flexible and effective solutions.
- Evidence of contributing effectively to the strategic planning and staff/resource management processes.
- Ability to manage and be accountable for budgets.
- Ability to analyse, interpret and present complex data and information.
- Ability to respond to the external environment and to lead organisational and cultural change.
- Ability to operate effectively in an open, accountable and complex environment.
- Resilient, able to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- Ability to build the capability and credibility of the Department.
SELECTION PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries can be made directly to the Dean of Art & Design via email (Michael.Marsden@ntu.ac.uk) or by telephone on 0115 848 8248. Submissions must be made online, so visit www.ntu.ac.uk/jobs to complete your application.

Your application should include a CV detailing your relevant qualifications and experience, as well as your full employment history and any related achievements. Please also provide a covering letter, explaining how you fulfil the personal criteria listed in the personal specification, what attracted you to this vacancy, and what you feel you’ll bring to both the role and the School.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2019. Applications will be reviewed with next steps communicated to successful candidates.
This information can be made available in alternative formats.

Please note that whilst the University has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the content within this brochure at the time of printing, the University reserves the right to remove, vary or amend the content of the brochure at any time. For avoidance of doubt, the information provided within the content of this brochure is for guidance purposes.

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