



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



OPPORTUNITY FOR PLACEMENT

AHRC Knowledge Exchange Fellow

FuseBox/Wired Sussex

The AHRC in partnership with Wired Sussex is looking to recruit a Knowledge Exchange Fellow to be based at the FuseBox, an exciting new business support initiative in Brighton.

This Fellowship will be funded by the AHRC while the Fellow remains employed by his/her institution.

Length of Placement
One year full-time
Proposed start date
October 2013
Location of Placement
The FuseBox, New England House, Brighton, East Sussex
Background
The Brighton Fuse project is a two-year research project funded by the AHRC to map, measure and enhance the Creative, Digital & Information Technology (CDIT) cluster in the city of Brighton and Hove. The project is a partnership between University of Brighton, University of Sussex, Wired Sussex and the

Council for Industry and Higher Education (NCUB from 1/4/13)

The Fusebox is a newly refurbished physical space in Brighton that is managed by Wired Sussex. It aims to build on some of the findings of the Brighton Fuse to develop and deliver a new model of business support for the CDIT sector. In part, this is through combining ('fusing') learning and development models from arts and humanities research with digital and tech approaches to creativity, innovation and growth.

The AHRC are looking to fund a Knowledge Exchange fellow to be based at the Fusebox who will

- a) Work with the Fusebox CDIT businesses by offering insights from arts and humanities research that will help develop new approaches to co-creation, innovation and growth; and
- b) Research and support the development of a FuseBox 'curriculum', aggregating disruptive learning approaches into a coherent and integrated methodology of business—research knowledge exchange.

"this is an exciting opportunity for an exceptional academic to be at the heart of a project whose aim is to be at the forefront of the reinvention of business support in the UK"

Phil Jones, MD Wired Sussex

Wired Sussex

[Wired Sussex](#) is a Brighton-based, not-for-profit membership organisation for companies and freelancers operating in the digital, media and tech sectors in Sussex.

Its goal is to help companies deliver innovation, creativity and growth, and to enhance the reputation of Brighton's fast-growing regional cluster on the international stage.

Wired Sussex helps businesses access talent, workspaces, investment and clients. It runs recruitment, training and internship services.

It also supports its members' collective interests, engaging with national government, the higher education sector, and local and regional authorities to facilitate the provision of relevant policies and opportunities.

What is the FuseBox?

Wired Sussex is creating a new learning and support centre for both start-ups and existing businesses in the CDIT sector. Most business support models are based upon the needs of large companies in stable markets. The FuseBox is predicated on supporting the needs of those at the smaller end of the spectrum and operating in a disruptive, digital business environment where, it is believed, a different set of rules apply.

Digital technology has challenged the basis of much conventional business thinking, generating new ideas and re-invigorating old ones. These include:

- The reformulation of the relationship between producer and consumer
- Approaches that privilege collaboration like social media, crowd sourcing and crowd funding.
- The development of co-working models and spaces
- Challenges to standard notions of innovation practice and IP through open source and other models
- Design-led business modelling
- The leadership and staffing approaches which flow from 'talent as asset' models
- Alternatives to the limited stock company model

Through the FuseBox, Wired Sussex wants to explore, develop and use these approaches to help real businesses tackle real problems. It aims to build on approaches undertaken at Stanford University's d-school, Kaos Pilots, the Brighton Institute of Modern Music and others to develop new and effective learning models which will enable the FuseBox to adapt to and embrace the evolving needs of businesses and collaborators. This includes encouraging and supporting informal and community driven learning practices in tandem with more formalised approaches and fostering radical, activity-based relationships between Higher Education and industry.

A small number of start-ups from across the arts, media and technology sector will be housed at The FuseBox, and various businesses and other stakeholders will undertake learning activities there through a series of programmes still currently in development. Wired Sussex is also based at the FuseBox.

Knowledge Exchange Fellow Role

The Fellow will act as a researcher-in-residence and be embedded within the FuseBox in Brighton.

They will:

- Identify knowledge gaps, and advise on research and knowledge exchange approaches to support Wired Sussex and the FuseBox in developing and delivering a coherent model for disruptive business support.
- Support and facilitate the translation of arts and humanities research insights into business opportunities for FuseBox users and, where appropriate, the wider CDIT community.
- Using knowledge developed in this placement, participate in the creation of robust evidence bases to help inform engagement with local, national and international public and private sector FuseBox stakeholders
- Provide businesses and start-ups that use the Fusebox with an understanding of how to engage with researchers in the arts and humanities and how to capture value from research through collaboration and knowledge exchange activities
- Pro-actively seek new connections and possibilities for research/business interaction
- Seek relevant opportunities for FuseBox businesses to link with the AHRC's funded researchers and investments and with current initiatives such as the Knowledge Exchange Hubs and to act as a conduit for information about events, reports and other outputs.
- Contribute to AHRC's understanding of the opportunities for growth that are generated by collaborations between arts and humanities researchers and the creative and digital business sector. It will capture new insights about the potential for innovation in new creative businesses and about the possibilities for the co-creation of new knowledge that result from

engaging with arts and humanities research.

There will be scope for the Fellow to shape and develop the programme of work and activities over the course of the year.

Key activities and deliverables

We are keen that the successful Fellow uses dissemination methods (including written documents, online platforms, visualisations and infographics) that are appropriate to each individual deliverable.

Key Deliverables:

- Creation of a baseline 'curriculum' for the development of Knowledge Exchange between business and higher education for the FuseBox through an analysis of existing approaches, crowd sourced idea generation, workshops with users and stakeholders, and action research. This curriculum should be capable of flexing with the evolving needs of the CDIT sector, but also have a core cultural, procedural and value-driven model underpinning it.
- A commentary on developing effective models for engagement between the FuseBox and Higher Education. This would include a critical analysis of current knowledge exchange approaches and reflections on how AHRC activities (research, hubs, events, etc) can more effectively support successful business activities in the SME CDIT sector
- A report on the placement for the AHRC which compliments and enhances the work of the Brighton Fuse project. This is to aid the AHRC in understanding the fusion of knowledge, skills and capabilities that creative businesses will need in a fast changing digital economy and the role of arts and humanities research collaborations in supporting and developing this.
- Provision of briefing documents for policy makers, Arts & Humanities researchers and CDIT businesses as required.
- Engagement with relevant Wired Sussex and stakeholder events and activities

There is an expectation that the Fellow will aim to engage with relevant academic debates and audiences through journal submissions and through conferences.

The successful Fellow will have regular access to a mentor at the University of Brighton to support this activity.

Attributes, skills and knowledge required

Applicants must be of post-doctoral standing and are likely to be an early career researcher but will also have substantial experience of working with or in the CDIT business sector.

Applicants must demonstrate the following:

- Post-doctoral experience as a researcher in an arts and humanities discipline
- An understanding of the needs and challenges of small businesses, particularly those operating in the creative industries, digital and technology sectors.
- Experience and understanding of successful knowledge exchange approaches between arts and humanities research and creative businesses
- A familiarity with new technologies, online platforms and social media tools and their application in a fast moving environment
- Existing knowledge of learning approaches, both new and traditional
- Evidence of multi-disciplinary and collaborative working.
- A willingness to challenge orthodoxies and an openness to transgressing disciplinary and other boundaries
- Sympathy with the aims of The FuseBox and with supporting and engendering creativity and innovation.

The successful candidate will be able to function effectively in a small business environment by working within the culture, time pressures, and communication requirements. It is essential that they have strong inter-personal and networking skills.

"The KE fellow needs to have a real passion for the opportunities afforded to business and society from digital technology and disruptive business models and an enthusiasm for the role that research can play in that process"

Wired Sussex

Working with FuseBox/Wired Sussex

The Fellow will be based at The FuseBox in Brighton and will work as part of the small Wired Sussex / FuseBox team, reporting on a day-to-day basis into the Wired Sussex MD. They will be funded by the AHRC and will remain employed by their home institution for the duration of the fellowship. They will receive regular mentoring support from Gillian Youngs, Professor Of Digital Economy, Faculty of Arts, University of Brighton.

Standard AHRC Terms and Conditions will apply.

The closing date for this call is 5pm Friday 9 August 2013