

Northern Bridge/Little Inventors Placement Opportunity

Little Inventors

Little Inventors turn children's ingenious, bonkers or perfectly practical ideas into reality by working with skilled makers, scientists, manufacturers and designers. We encourage children to believe in the power of their own creativity and become the inventive thinkers of the future. We are a creative organisation, inspiring children in and out of schools around the world to gain a passion and understanding for the world of invention and all its exciting possibilities.

We deliver projects in the form of competitions and educational resources supported by diverse partners in the UK and internationally, from government bodies to brands or funded projects.

Over the past three years, we have delivered outstanding programmes with the Canadian Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Space Agency; Mr Men & Little Miss books; Ocado; the V&A and Aquafresh. In 2018 we delivered the main primary schools programme for the Great Exhibition of the North, and worked with young people across the UAE for the Sharjah Children Biennial. We've also published our first book through Harper Collins.

The Little Inventors team are based in Newcastle, Durham and London.

<https://www.littleinventors.org/>

The role

Little Inventors invites Expressions of Interest from Northern Bridge PhD/NPIF students for a fully funded placement focused on the planning and delivery of its Little Inventors Pioneers (LIP) Research and Development programme, funded by Arts Council England, during 2019/20.

(LIP) R&D programme will test new models of creative engagement that: deepens the impact and longer-term engagement of our participants and audiences in three priority areas in the North East of England (Tees Valley, Northumberland and Sunderland) and accelerates Little Inventors' ability to sustainably scale across the region.

Little Inventors' cross sector, interdisciplinary approach is situated at the cross roads of often distinct sectors, research disciplines and industries. LIP is an action research programme exploring the new knowledge that can be gained (and shared) from a deeper understanding of the impact of our work. To support this aim, the programme is underpinned by the delivery of a formal evaluation by the Faculty of Education and Society in University of Sunderland.

While we are keen to hear from PhD students from all disciplines, those with an interest in Creativity within Education and STEAM based approaches, Creative innovation, Making, Art, Design, Participatory Art, Interdisciplinary and cross sector practices and the Creative Economy may have a particular interest in this placement.

Our mission is to inspire and encourage children to build creative confidence and develop a lifelong passion for creativity, problem-solving and imaginative play through invention. This opportunity provides a chance for a PhD student to gain; significant professional experience in a research led project within cultural and creative sectors, project coordination and delivery; insight into our national and international activities; practical experience of working within a skilled and diverse creative team.

The placement holder will develop a range of transferable skills including:

- project management
- event planning, management and delivery
- communications

and gain an understanding of

- audience development
- learning and engagement programmes
- stakeholder relationships
- evaluating educational creative practice projects

You will gain in-depth, practical, hands-on knowledge of how Little Inventors programmes are produced and managed, and support the successful delivery of Little Inventors Pioneers. The project includes a region-wide invention challenge, R&D activities, and a final engaging public exhibition in a high profile regional venue.

The post will be flexible and run between November 2019 to November 2020. You will work independently, with regular meetings and contact with colleagues in the NE and London.

The post holder will work up to 120 days over the course of the placement, based on 1 - 3 days per week, depending on the project timeline and tasks, with the work schedule to be planned and agreed in advance. Work hours will be usually between 9.00am and 5.00pm, although some evening and weekend work will be required.

Responsibilities

1. Work within the logistical arm of the Pioneers project team to support the day to day project management of Little Inventors Pioneers
2. Project management of schools' and maker networks, liaising with schools and makers for events, managing workshop bookings and delivery, and collating subsequent feedback
3. Support the planning and delivery of regional events, including teacher panels, makers creative practice discussions, Pioneers sessions, and the final Pioneers Energy exhibition

4. To assist and contribute to the Little Inventor's self-evaluation of the Little Inventors Pioneers delivery, and the collation of the final report.
5. To liaise across the organisation to ensure that information is shared effectively and that internal communications are handled smoothly.
6. To assist in day to day office and budget administration tasks and activities carried out by the Project team.

What we're looking for

Essential

- You must be a Northern Bridge/NPIF award holder
- A strong interest in the arts, creative and education sectors
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Initiative and creativity in problem solving
- Ability to apply research skills in a new professional context
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Self-starter with the ability to work unsupervised
- Experience of using IT systems including Word, Excel and databases

Desirable

- Research expertise relevant to creativity, art and education
- Ability to write for non-academic audiences
- Full, clean driving licence

Terms

- Flexible working hours between 1 - 3 days per week
- Availability between November 2019 - November 2020
- Northern Bridge grant with expenses for reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with the placement
- Mainly working independently from home or existing academic facility, and available to attend regular meetings in Newcastle
- 4 weeks notice required if need to withdraw from placement
- You will need to have your own laptop, access to Wi-Fi and Skype

Expressions of Interest

To apply for this placement please submit to northernbridge.admin@ncl.ac.uk:

- a 250-word expression of interest explaining your interest in the placement, how you fulfil the criteria, and how this placement would support your training and development needs.
- a CV
- a 100-word supporting statement from your supervisor

Deadline for submitting your expression of interest - 10am, Friday 25 October. Successful shortlisted candidates will be notified on Monday 28 October and need to be available for interviews on Friday 1 Nov.

Please note that the Northern Bridge Training Grant will be able to meet reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with undertaking this placement.