

## Lecturer Senior Lecturer in Design

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*Full Time*

*Grade AC3 or AC4 commensurate with skills and experience*

*Permanent*

*Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*

### **About the role**

The Design Group is part of the School of Engineering and Innovation in the STEM Faculty. Design at the OU has a long history with the launch of pioneering distance design teaching in 1972. The Design Group promote an approach to design that is open in different ways: open to the general principles, methods, working practices and outputs that span the boundaries of different design domains; open to design practices and outputs that contribute to ecological wellbeing; and open to design practices and outputs that are inclusive to people, issues and ideas. This celebrates an approach to design as a power of people and society to create meaningful change and address local-global social, technological and ecological challenges and opportunities.

Our teaching and research places emphasis on conceptualising design and innovation in terms of evolving technological, social and ecological interconnections. The design curriculum focuses on Design Thinking, Design Processes, Strategic Design, Design Research, Design Leadership, Design Engagement, Design Collaboration and Design Facilitation within design and non-design sectors and industries (e.g. media, health, services, manufacturing, transportation, retail, build environment, education) and within fields of work that engage with diverse issues such as Innovation, Technology, Communication, Policy and Participatory Practices.

The post-holder will work as part of a collaborative team producing innovative learning resources across our design curriculum.

In addition to the primary role supporting and leading design teaching, the post-holder will be expected to conduct independent research at a level commensurate with their career stage and to contribute to the Open University's Art and Design REF submission. They should undertake research that aligns with the School's strategic research priorities in design.

## **Key responsibilities**

### **1. Teaching**

- a) contribute to the development of distance learning materials for new and existing undergraduate design curricula;*
- b) contribute to and/or lead the delivery of design modules and other related modules, including assessment processes;*
- c) contribute to the direction of teaching and assessment by the University, monitor samples of marking by Associate Lecturers, and Chair and/or act as a member of examination boards;*
- d) contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of learning and teaching within the School, in line with University standards;*
- e) work with Staff Tutors, other academic and academic-related colleagues in the support of student engagement and progression and other School and Faculty objectives.*

### **2. Scholarship, research and enterprise**

- a) develop and lead individual or collaborative scholarship or research, at a level commensurate with career stage, that leads to high-impact publications and supports existing areas of OU design research;*
- b) generate external grant income at a level commensurate with career stage, supporting the post-holder's research and complementing the existing design research portfolio at the Open University;*
- c) work effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture in design;*
- d) attract and co-supervise postgraduate research students;*
- e) undertake professional development as an academic educator and researcher;*
- f) engage with appropriate academic leadership and administrative tasks, and take an active role within the School and Faculty, as required by the Head of School.*

### **3. Outreach and public engagement**

- a) develop and build stronger relationships and collaborations with OU design alumni, industrial sectors, philanthropic funders and other educational providers;*
- b) promote the study and uptake of design education particularly in respect of under-represented groups;*
- c) contribute to the outreach activities of the STEM Faculty.*

### **4. Administration and Management**

- a) engage with appropriate administrative tasks (e.g. workload planning, career development and staff appraisal);*
- b) contribute effectively to relevant academic or management fora;*
- c) undertake a programme of continuous professional development.*

### **5. Other responsibilities**

- a) comply with the University's Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies in the performance of their duties;*
- b) cooperate with the Open University in ensuring as far as necessary, that Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies, and Departmental Health and Safety arrangements are complied with;*
- c) have a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity.*

## Person Specification

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### Essential

- A PhD or equivalent in design or a related discipline and a Masters degree or good Honours degree in design. Research degree equivalence will be demonstrated through work-based independent research projects.
- Ability to develop design teaching materials at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels.
- Ability to use new technologies and media to teach design and engage others in creative activities.
- A broad knowledge of developments within design, relevant to teaching or research/scholarship needs.
- Ability to carry out research that complements existing design research at the Open University.
- Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University.
- A demonstrable passion for teaching, whether in distance learning or face-to-face teaching environments.
- Commitment to support distance learning through the application of new technologies.
- Excellent oral, written and visual communication skills in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.
- Evidence of being able to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines.
- An ability to work collaboratively, adaptively and responsively with others in multi-disciplinary teaching and research contexts.

### *Additional essential requirements for a Senior Lecturer*

- Evidence of leading the development of design teaching materials at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels.
- Experience of strategic leadership in teaching and/or research.
- A track record of successful academic research that complements existing design research at the Open University.
- Evidence of leading applications for funding to support teaching, research or scholarship.

### Desirable

- Experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials.
- Experience of supporting adult learners within online and/or distance learning environments.
- Higher Education Academy professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.
- Evidence of applying for funding, appropriate to career stage.
- Experience of supervising research students and research budgets, appropriate to career stage.
- Experience of working with and influencing the professional design and creative industries sectors beyond HE.

If you would like further details about the role before making an application then please email your query through to [Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk](mailto:Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk)

## About the Unit

### Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised of:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum; Research, Enterprise and Scholarship; Laboratory Infrastructure; and Faculty Administration

**“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”**

The Faculty of STEM consists of 2500 staff including 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

*We are inclusive:*

- We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
- We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

*We are highly innovative:*

- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
- Our high-quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

*We deliver significant social and economic impact:*

- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.
- We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.

- The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.
- Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

### School of Engineering & Innovation

The School of Engineering and Innovation is one of the largest Schools in the STEM Faculty, with circa 80 academic staff and around 40 full-time PhD students. It is a broad-based multidisciplinary School that leads the OU's teaching in the areas of Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management, Design, Systems Thinking and Environmental Management. We support qualifications including the IMechE, IET, IOM3, IED and CIBSE accredited BEng/MEng, the BA/BSc in Design and Innovation, the CIWEM accredited BSc in Environmental Science (Environmental Management), the MSc in Engineering, the MSc in Technology Management, the MSc in Systems Thinking in Practice, and the CIWEM and IEMA accredited MSc in Environmental Management.

The School is one of the most research-intensive in the University, hosting two submissions in REF2021 from Materials Engineering and Design. Other areas of active research within the School that have contributed to the university's REF2021 submissions include Energy, Acoustics, Waste Management, and Systems Thinking.

The School adheres to the Athena Swan Charter and holds an Athena Swan Silver award.

[School of Engineering and Innovation | \(open.ac.uk\)](https://open.ac.uk)

### Design

The Design Group at the Open University is part of the School of Engineering and Innovation. We aim to advance understanding of design and innovation's role in society, to transform lives and to challenge the ways that people participate in this change. Both our teaching and research aim to develop a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of design thinking and processes and to promote strategies of resilience and adaptation to creatively address messy and complex real-world issues. We integrate a range of expertise from across the spectrum of design teaching and research and reflect a non-discipline-specific approach to understanding design and design processes often drawing on, and combining with, other disciplines.

Over the last 50 years the group has developed world-leading expertise in the processes, approaches and tools for delivering design education at a distance. The first course in 1972, *The Man-Made World*, contributed to the OU's first technology foundation programme. Since then we have developed many design modules and an undergraduate curriculum in Design, teaching around 2000 undergraduate students in design each academic year. Alongside our doctoral training in design we also lead other postgraduate modules in the School.

Design Group research is clustered around key themes: Design Processes; Sustainable Design and Innovation; Collaborative Design; Complexity; and Distance Design Education. We work in many sectors and contexts including product and manufacturing, fashion, urban and built environments, participatory design, sustainability, innovation, energy and climate change. The group is recognised for its internationally excellent research and has been consistently highly ranked across all research assessment exercises. The first journal in design, *Design Studies*, was founded by the group in 1979

and we continue to have editorial input. We also have long-standing organisational responsibilities in the international design research community, specifically the Design Society and the Design Research Society. The Design Group hosts the AHRC Design Star doctoral training centre in design, in collaboration with Brighton University, Loughborough University, University of Reading and Goldsmiths College, University of London. It also supports design studentships through the AHRC funded Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP. The group has a number of research resources including a suite of design research laboratories - the FabLab, a Robotics and Autonomous Systems Laboratory and a Digital Media Laboratory – which we encourage staff to utilise in both teaching and research.

[Design | School of Engineering and Innovation \(open.ac.uk\)](https://open.ac.uk/design)