

The Curious Institute presents ...

The Culture and Arts Schools Experts Fellowship

Context:

The Cultural Education Challenge was launched by Arts Council England in the midst of change in both the education and cultural sectors. Schools are experiencing huge challenge to their ability to protect their arts and cultural provision. Schools need strong ambassadors for cultural education more than ever before. Curious Minds has already invested in over 40 teachers who are developing as Specialist Leaders of Cultural Education (SLiCE®). They are influential advocates for the power of culture across their schools networks. It is a systems leadership approach that we believe needs to be mirrored in the cultural sector.

Many cultural organisations are experiencing a high degree of challenge in maintaining or developing members of staff who can dedicate themselves to schools work. This programme is an investment from Curious Minds designed to protect, nurture and develop a team of credible schools experts from within the North West's cultural sector who can strengthen the ability of cultural organisations to work in partnership with schools and will take that passion and expertise with them as they develop as future leaders of learning departments, artistic directors or managers of venues.

What is the Culture and Arts Schools Experts Fellowship?

The Culture and Arts Schools Experts (CASE) Fellowship is an annual, year-long development opportunity that, over 3 years, will create a talent pool of around 20 credible schools specialists working in the North West's National Portfolio Organisations, in arts organisations, museums/heritage settings and libraries.

Who is it aimed at?

Each year, we will award fellowships to around 6 or 7 carefully selected individuals within organisations who will be drawn from existing education or learning roles across the North Wests' cultural sector.

- Applicants will be early to mid- career and demonstrate a passion for cultural education.
- Applicants may have some experience or knowledge of working with schools but will be eager to go deeper and to hone their knowledge and experience in such a way that they become known and credible schools specialists, able to influence and advise their own organisations and the wider cultural sector.

Content of the programme:

Fellows will access between 15-20 days of inspirational learning across the year curated and delivered by Curious Minds with contributions from regional and national experts.
Contributors to the learning programme may include:

Local and National Leaders of Education LLEs and NLEs	Cultural education leaders from regionally significant venues and organisations	SLiCE® fellows and alumni
The Cultural Learning Alliance	Creativity, Culture and Education	Schools experts and personal coaches

Timeline

- Deadline for applications: 3rd October.
- Interviews will take place 9th and 12th October in Preston

Fellows learning will take place during two residential courses

- 2 night residential in 21st – 23rd November
- 1 night residential in March dates 14th – 15th March
- 3 more intensive group workshop days across the year to include the 30th November and 8th February 2018

Learning outcomes

Specialist knowledge

The programme will focus on developing **knowledge** along with **advocating and influencing skills** such as ...

- Presentation to strategic leads and wider audiences
- Methods of impact assessment and evaluation
- Understanding how to make strategic change
- Understanding the cultural education landscape
- National policy and practice of schools and education
- Understanding how schools are funded, managed and governed
- Curriculum and examination requirements

Fellows will also...

Be offered time with a coach or mentor to support their individual reflection and learning	Explore governance	Network with existing SLiCE [®] teachers and share practice
Take part in a short placement (approx 4-5 days) in a school taking place in spring 2018	Be given the chance to practice their advocacy skills. For example, blog writing and presenting at events	Create a personal development plan

Outcomes

On completion of the programme, fellows will be able to....

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of key cultural education and education policies and research.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the current education landscape including relevant challenges and opportunities for schools.
- Draw on first-hand experience of the day to day reality of teachers and school decision makers.
- Speak persuasively about the benefits of cultural education to their peers, to schools and to senior leaders from both culture and education.
- Understand and advocate for the benefits of Artsmark and Arts Award.
- Demonstrate an awareness of their professional development and create a personal development plan.

How will the leaders benefit the wider sector?

Deployment

In year 1:

Within the first fellowship year, CASE fellows will be given a number of opportunities to practice their advocacy skills. It is a requirement that both the fellows and their employers make it possible for the fellows to be deployed by Curious Minds as cultural education advocates and schools specialists for a minimum of 5 days in year 2. This may include speaking at events, offering advice or support to other organisations, supporting schools with Artsmark or their peers with Arts Award.

Logistics and application process

Funding

The cost of each fellowship is in the region of £8000 in training, accommodation and resources and this cost will be covered in full by Curious Minds for the successful applicants. Curious Minds will also make up to £3000 available to your current employer to backfill your posts during your time on placement.

Support from your current organisation

Your current employer must be willing to:

- Write you a recommendation
- Attend the interview with you
- Release you on the required dates
- Allow you time and support to reflect on the process throughout
- Create an opportunity for you to present your learning back to your organisation
- Give feedback to Curious Minds about the impact of the fellowship on their organisation
- Release you for a minimum of 5 days in the year following your 'graduation' for deployment.

Application process and timescales

Visit the Curious Minds website for an application form.

Applications will be welcomed throughout September and October. The deadline for applications will be the 3rd October.

Interviews will take place on 9th and 12th October in Preston.

Please send completed forms to Laura.ferguson@curiousminds.org.uk

If you or your line manager wish to discuss any aspect of this programme ahead of the application submission please contact Jude Bird Head of Education, Leadership and Research on 01772 827001.