

Young Associates

Developing the Next Generation of the Cultural Education Workforce

Young Associates Recruitment Information

Applications are now open for this year's Young Associates programme. Curious Minds is proud to support early career professionals to build the skills and attributes needed to become the next generation of leaders and changemakers in cultural education.

Context

“Powered by curiosity, we work to tackle unequal access to creativity and culture for children and young people who are often excluded by social and economic inequalities”.

Since 2008, Curious Minds has been connecting children and young people, teachers and youth workers with incredible artists and creative practitioners; giving them access to information, expertise, space, and resources to facilitate collaboration and innovation in the field of creative and cultural education. We are proud to be based in Wigan and our work reaches across the North of England. For more information please visit

www.curiousminds.org.uk.

About Young Associates

Young Associates is Curious Minds' commitment to building a more diverse workforce for the cultural education sector. It is a bespoke training and development programme designed to make pathways into working creatively with children and young people more accessible and visible. To meet our most recent cohort, please visit:

<http://curiousminds.org.uk/im-curious-about/young-people/young-associates>

With **Curious
Minds**

Who we are looking for

We are looking to recruit a diverse group of up to twelve early career professionals to help grow and develop their skills as the next generation of creative and cultural education leaders. The programme is designed for those aged 18 to 25 years old, based in the North West or Yorkshire, who want to work creatively with children and young people. **We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you are from these areas: Wigan, Liverpool, Lancashire, Yorkshire.** You could be starting out as a creative practitioner, a newly qualified teacher or a youth worker.

Essential Experience and Skills

- Passion and enthusiasm for working creatively with children and young people. This could be as a teacher or youth worker, or using your creative skills as a dancer, musician or storyteller.
- Leadership experience within an arts organisation, school or youth work setting. This could be leading a workshop, small event or project – whatever that looks like for you, we want to hear about it.

Desirable

- Flexible availability to attend wider Curious Minds meetings and events as appropriate.

As part of our commitment to diversity, we are focusing our energy on making sure our opportunities and offers reach far and wide. We are particularly keen to welcome applicants for this opportunity from people who are currently under-represented in the arts and culture sector. You can find more information about who is under-represented on [Arts Council England's website](#). We ask that you complete the inclusion survey as part of our recruitment process to ensure we achieve our aims.

How it Works

This year's Young Associates programme will take place from January 2024 to March 2024. Successful applicants will take part in high-quality training led by experienced industry professionals. Focussing on key areas such as project management, facilitation skills, access and inclusion, youth voice, to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work creatively with children and young people.

The training will be a combination of:

- In-person training days approximately once a month on a Saturday 9:30am – 5pm. These will take place in Wigan and Yorkshire.

- Online sessions on Thursdays 4:30pm – 6:30pm. These will be weekly during the three month period.

All dates will be given in advance. It is expected that you will attend all of the training sessions unless you are ill or there is an emergency. Travel expenses will be reimbursed and refreshments will be provided for all of the in-person training days.

Please note that the Young Associates programme is a training and development opportunity, not a permanent job with Curious Minds.

Further Opportunities

Once you have completed the training period, you will be invited to join our wider networks, attend other training opportunities, and connect with creative and cultural education professionals across the North.

You may also undertake paid work opportunities by Curious Minds to ensure young people's voices are authentically embedded across our work. Examples include;

- being part of the delivery team for our careers & employability work.
- attending careers fairs to represent creative careers.
- helping with project coordination and administrative tasks.

This will be offered as and when opportunities are available. Ideally it will be on a freelance basis, but we can look at other options if that presents a barrier. Rates of pay are between approximately £80 - £150 per day, dependent on the level of responsibility involved. Travel expenses up to £30 will be reimbursed.

Statement of Support

We want our investment in you as individual to benefit the wider creative cultural education community that we serve.

With this in mind, we ask that any of the following that you are either currently involved with, or have recently been involved with*, endorse your application to become a Young Associate.

- an arts organisation.
- education provider.
- youth organisation.
- a freelance creative professional that you have either worked with or have participated in their work.

**By recently we mean within the last 12 months.*

They need to provide a statement of support that confirms your involvement with them and gives brief examples of the work you have done with them. This could be paid or voluntary work.

The Statement of Support must be submitted as a separate document on headed paper and should be no longer than one side of A4.

How to apply

Please complete the [online application form](#) and send your statement of support as a PDF document to info@curiousminds.org.uk. If accessibility is a barrier, we are happy to receive an audio application, no more than ten minutes long, as an alternative.

Deadline for applications is **9am on Monday 8th January 2024**.

We also ask that you complete our [inclusion survey](#) to help us in our commitment to diversity. In the first question, please select 'applying for an opportunity' from the options given.

Following this, we will invite shortlisted applicants to an informal interview. **Online** interviews will take place on **Thursday 11th January** between 4pm and 7pm.

If you already know that you are not available during this period, please state this with your application and we will do our best to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, we will expect you to be available barring any illness or emergencies.

Need more information?

If you have any questions and would like an informal chat before applying, please get in touch with Hattie Kongaunruan at hattie.kongaunruan@curiousminds.org.uk.