

The Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships 2016-17

Project Title: Crafting Sustainability: exploring practices of resilience and development in the UK craft sector

Partner Organisation: Crafts Council UK

King's is now inviting applications for one of the Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships in the Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries at King's College London in collaboration with Crafts Council UK. The scholarship will commence from October 2016 onwards and is open to new incoming PhD students only.

Project Description:

This research aims to assess the development of sustainable practice in the UK contemporary craft sector. Craft has for a long time been a sector under-threat. With the disappearance of certain traditions of making – embedded in local arts and culture – we have seen the disappearance of valuable artistic knowledge and skills. This research seeks to explore the issue of sustainability of craft and craft-makers. We consider the role played by professional practice which starts from the development of new craft professionals during Higher Education (HE) and continues through various career stages with Continued Professional Development (CPD). The project investigates how knowledge acquisition and the development of such practices take place, in order to consider how the sector could be more resilient for the benefit of makers and of audiences. Regional variations in crafts sustainability will also be explored, as this may directly impact opportunities for sustainable career development and have strong connections with local provision of arts and cultural opportunities. This research also aims to better understand future trajectories of creation. This study aims to contribute greatly to the limited established academic research on the craft sector and sustainable enterprise development across the arts and culture sectors (both within the UK and internationally).

The Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries was included in a submission that was ranked 6th of all similar UK departments in the 2015 REF with 80% of our research activity assessed as 'world leading or internationally excellent'. It is a research-led department with a strong reputation for contribution to scholarship, teaching and practice. The Department is located on the Strand Campus of King's College London where the studentship will be based.

Supervisors:

Lead Supervisor: Dr Roberta Comunian

Second Supervisor: Dr Nick Wilson

Partner Organisation Supervisor: Julia Bennett

Application documentation: applicants must complete and submit:

- a CV
- MA dissertation
- personal statement identifying why they would like to be considered for this project and why they would be suitable

to graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk by 12pm (UK BST) on 29 February 2016. The subject line of the email should read 'RT Scholarship 1617 - [*include the relevant project title*]'

All documents should be submitted as a single pdf.

Two academic references **must** be received by the deadline for the application to be eligible. Candidates are responsible for instructing referees to submit their references to graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk using the subject line 'RT Scholarship 1617 - [*name of applicant*]'.

Funding Details: The scholarship will provide an annual payment of £15,000 which can be used to cover tuition fees and/or living costs. In addition, funds will be provided by the partner organisation for travel or fieldwork (up to £1,000 per year).

Length of Award: 3 years (PhD)
