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**Techne Racial Justice Fellow Partner Placements**

Techne has established an ongoing programme of Racial Justice Fellow placements to help address issues of racial justice across the Techne community.  As a Techne community it is vital we ensure support for global majority students and students of colour at all stages of the PhD process; from application, through to experiences and support during the PhD, and then into careers beyond.  The Techne community includes a set of proactive partners from across the creative and cultural industries who work with Techne to provide opportunities for knowledge exchange through student placements, training and Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs).

Building on the work of our Racial Justice Fellows a selection of Techne’s partners (The National Archives, The Wellcome Collection, London Metropolitan Archives, Kew, The Natural History Museum and the ICA) have come together to identify the opportunity for a shared programme of Racial Justice Placements to review the current practices and processes across the partner organisations.

Although we encourage applications from global majority students and students of colour, we would like all Techne students who are eligible to consider this opportunity. We will provide additional supervision to support the emotional safety of those undertaking these placements.

We are now recruiting for the third iteration of Racial Justice Placements students. We are looking for up to 4 students that will work on separate projects with a host partner. One student will take on of activities around racial justice with the partner organisations.

For each placement a specific project with the host partner will be agreed. For example:

* Anti-racism and discrimination policies, plans and strategies
* Collections – researching content, exploring context, structure, description and language and guidance on acquisitions, dispersals and repatriation
* Archival research on past programme and institutional practices around racial justice
* Recruitment
* Training
* Pastoral Care and Mental Health; including in relation to engaging with collections
* Education/Outreach team / External Engagement / Community Activity
* Communications, including audience development, audience research, producing inclusive and accessible content.

The host partners for this call are: London Metropolitan Archives, the Natural History Museum, the ICA

The projects are:

1. **London Metropolitan Archives**

London Against Racism: a history of the Greater London Council (GLC) Anti-Racist Year 1984

The project will use the Greater London Council records (GLC) as a springboard to explore and examine anti racism work in the council through the early 1980s which culminated in the GLC’s Year of Anti-Racism in 1984 and to use this to contextualise the wider political climate in terms of race/racism at the time.  The GLC records are widely used and LMA recognises that they could be easier to access. The records contain a wealth information with regards to local authority anti-racist policy development in 1980s and are an important resource in terms of exploring and understanding the historical context of current approaches to EDI work.  As an outcome we would like the student to help us pull together some curated content which could form the basis of a future online digital resource and possibly an exhibition to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Year of Anti-Racism in 2024. The following is a link to some digitised records about the GLC’S London Against Racism agenda currently available from the LMA online catalogue:

<https://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/LMA_OPAC/web_detail?SESSIONSEARCH&exp=refd%20GLC/DG/PUB/01/253/U1232>

Alongside the core project there will be an opportunity to spend time with the other partners in the collective.

To ensure sharing and learning across the placements one placement student will take on the role of co-ordinator. This role will see them set up monthly meetings with all partners. They will be responsible for setting these up and providing opportunities for placement students and partners to meet and discuss their work.

Please contact Symeon Ververidis Symeon.Ververidis@cityoflondon.gov.uk to discuss this placement.

1. **Natural History Museum**

The Natural History Museum is a partner in the Techne CDT, and exploring our resources for cultural heritage and history research is a priority at the museum. Our collections comprise over 80 million specimens, from Darwin finches, to extensive palaeontological collections, precious gemstones, and rare books and artworks. However, much of these collections reflect a colonial history, and indeed many natural history collections represent a nineteenth century showcase of power and inequality as objects from across the globe were seized by western countries. The NHM recognises and acknowledges the past associated with our collections, and has launched various initiatives to open up discussions on the history of the museum and encourage inclusivity in our science and research going forward. There is huge scope for the direction a Techne Racial Justice placement at the museum could take. This might include working with curators and collections and archives staff, to getting involved with our Explorers Programme, which supports and encourages people from Black, Asian, Arab and other racially marginalised backgrounds to get involved with science and exhibitions at the museum. We are open to shaping the placement in line with what the Techne placement student is interested in and what staff at the museum feel would be valuable to understanding Racial Justice in the context of natural history and the museum.

Informal enquiries about the placement can be directed to Dr Helen Robertson, Head of Postgraduate Studies (helen.robertson@nhm.ac.uk).

1. **ICA**

You will be working as part of different teams and especially HR, Artistic Programme, and Communications, to develop and action anti-racism strategies and practices, which may include, but are not limited to, the listed below.

HR

* In collaboration with the Head of HR, plan, deliver and co-facilitate the weekly Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) working group meeting; contribute to develop programme and partnerships towards EDI-focused Staff Training.
* Work with the Anti-Racism Task Force Chair to update and implement the ICA’s Anti-Racism Strategic Plan, including participating actively to the monthly ARTF meeting.
* Build knowledge and act as a champion of racial justice within the organisation, promoting critical debate, supporting new ideas and challenging existing practices.

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

* Work in collaboration with the Curator of Talks and Research to implement the programme; develop content, plan and deliver a Talks and Learning event.
* Develop and organise the ICA’s onsite archive, and source materials that highlights the ICA’s support of artists of African and Asian descent
* Conduct research on the historical relationship between ICA and Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), a radical visual arts organisation working predominantly with visual artists of African and Asian descent, at the ICA’s onsite archives and at Tate Britain, and at Iniva’s Stuart Hall Library

COMMUNICATIONS

* Work in collaboration with the Communications team, to develop digital content for the ICA’s website and social media.
* Research audience development strategies to maximise the public programme’s reach to diverse audiences.

Please contact Hoda Ali hoda.ali@ica.art to discuss this placement.

**Timeline**

The timeline for the placements is:

**Feb 28th -** Deadline for applications

**W/beg 6th March -** Informally meet the partners and current placement students

**April** - Placement Students start induction and initial meetings with partners

* Meet with previous Techne Racial Justice placement students and fellows
* Agree project objectives with host partner contact

**June** - Begin project

**Sept** - Initial report to Partners

**Nov** - Report to main Techne Partners Forum

The students will work towards the partners meeting in November to share their work. This will contribute directly to policy and practice with Techne partners and shape Techne’s wider agenda and strategy for ensuring racial justice across our research community.

Each partner placement student will be eligible for a stipend extension of up to six months. In accordance with the [Techne and AHRC regulations](http://www.techne.ac.uk/for-students/training-and-support/student-development-fund) on placement-based extensions/career enhancement, a doctoral student can only receive up to six months extension during their PhD, and must start the placement during their funded period.

Racial Justice Partner Placement students will be able to work with host organisations to apply for additional funds through the training day and conflux applications should these be needed. Events and the management of the budget will be supported by the Techne admin team and will be subject to the standard Techne/AHRC regulations.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this opportunity. Please apply by responding to the questions below. You can share your ideas with us in a max 500 word statement or a 2 mins audio or video recording.

1. Why are you interested in this placement?

2. Which areas of the cultural sector are you most interested in working in and why?

3. What kinds of work towards racial justice are you interested in exploring?

Please also detail your year of study, institution and confirm that you have discussed this with your supervisor.  Please email this to techne@rhul.ac.uk by **28th February 2023**.

This is an opportunity to learn about how racial justice is being approached in the cultural sector. This work is ongoing for the partner organisations, and this is a chance for you to contribute to this work. If you wish to have an informal discussion about this opportunity, please contact: Ben Cole b.p.cole@lboro.ac.uk