



CURATOR FOR RESEARCH – JOB PACK

Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop is seeking a new Curator for Research to work closely with individuals and groups within our overlapping communities to devise, fundraise for, deliver and communicate exceptional experiences for sharing ideas and new work.

Job Title: Curator for Research

Deadline: Thursday 8 January 2026, 5pm

Salary: £30254 - £32254 Pro rata, dependent on skills and experience.

Term: Permanent.

Days: 4 days a week (28 hours)

Flexible Working Considerations: We would consider Job Share applications but please contact us in advance so we have time to consider the proposed structure for covering the work. A proposal for shorter hours may be considered depending on the approach suggested by the applicant.

If you would like to discuss the post prior to applying please contact Laura Simpson, ESW's Director. Laura@edinburghsculpture.org

Accessibility: Information and applications can be provided in alternative formats and adjustments can be made for the application or interview process. Interviewees will receive some of the questions in advance.

Interview Date: The interview date is expected to be in the 3rd or 4th week of January 2026 (information on our website will be updated with a specific date). The interviews will be in person at ESW.

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Job Title

The job title for this role is **Curator for Research**. We use the term *curator* to reflect the care and attention given to supporting artists' processes, projects and public engagement at ESW. The term *research* recognises the continual production of new knowledge within our studios and workshops, and highlights that the postholder will actively reflect on, analyse and articulate this work as part of ESW's wider programme.

JOB DESCRIPTION - CURATOR FOR RESEARCH

Summary of Role

The Curator for Research is a vital role in the delivery of ESW's programme and the development of our longer-term artistic and organisational strategy.

Research is one of our key areas of work in recognition that ESW is a place where new ideas and artworks are developed. All those who work at ESW support each other to experiment with, reflect on and innovate ideas and processes. This connects closely to our other interlinked focuses on learning and creating excellent conditions for production.

The Curator for Research's role is to devise and deliver a programme which furthers our support for artists and helps to define the role of ESW within the visual arts sector in Scotland and internationally, and to manage and evaluate this programme within the wider context of ESW's activities and ambitions.

This is a highly practical role and one where there is scope to innovate and adapt, through a mode of joint reflection, experimentation and openness to create new ways to be ambitious for our stakeholders and for contemporary sculpture practice in general.

Key Work Areas

1. Manage the artist development programmes
2. Support the programming and delivery of the annual summer programme.
3. Produce research and support the dissemination of research.
4. Manage communication and promotion of the programme.
5. Maintain positive professional relationships with ESW's partners.
6. Manage individual programme budgets and report regularly on these to the Director.
7. Carry out fundraising for activity and the organisation.
8. Being proactive about evaluation.
9. Undertake professional development
10. Core General Responsibilities

Post Holder Duties & Responsibilities

Artist Development The Curator for Research is responsible for managing and developing ESW's artist development programmes, including residencies, bursaries, fellowships and awards, and ensuring that participating artists have an enjoyable and professionally valuable experience. The Curator for Research will also organise events which enable artists in this strand to connect with our community and audiences.

Examples of current artist development activities include Reach Scotland Residencies, partnership residencies, ECA/ESW Graduate Award, Hawthornvale Mentorship Scheme and RSA Residencies for Scotland. In the recent past we have run longer term Fellowships, a Ceramics Bursary and a Youth Bursary Scheme.

Events The Curator for Research will be responsible for devising and managing a programme of research activities and events. This could include forms of workshop, discursive events, talks, visits, collaborative learning, exchanges, interviews, Members activities, joint programming and other ways to generate and communicate new knowledge.

Exhibitions and Public Art The Curator for Research will lead on the delivery of all exhibitions and public art commissions. At present this includes three exhibitions in the Hawthornvale Space and one summer exhibition (usually in the Courtyard and North Lab). We have also periodically worked with artists to make public art commissions.

Evaluation The Curator for Research will help to shape and will contribute to ESW's evaluation and assessment of its programme and activity.

Support for Artists The Curator for Research will help to ensure that a relevant support structure is maintained for artists working at ESW to enable them to develop their practice and careers. This includes providing feedback to artists applying for opportunities. Staff members are encouraged to offer advice and encouragement which will enable artists to develop, for this post this includes helping ESW Members with external funding applications and proposal writing. The postholder will need to have the skills, knowledge and network to create positive connections for ESW Members and their work.

Communications The Curator for Research will be heavily involved in creating writing and images to communicate the activity happening at ESW and sharing this online. This includes tending to social media accounts and working with press.

Key Work Areas – Breakdown of Duties

The role requires the Curator for Research to:

1. Manage the artist development programmes

- Initiating and working collaboratively on the devising of programmes.
- Managing open calls and selection processes, chairing panel discussions and providing feedback to applicants.
- Ensuring artists receive appropriate support throughout their time at ESW.
- Undertaking or co-ordinating studio visits for visiting artists.
- Co-ordinating and promoting associated exhibitions, workshops and events.
- Actively get to know and find ways to support ESW's Members.
- Scheduling for artists, team, install, production and events.

2. Support the programming and delivery of the annual summer programme.

- Contributing to discussions and strategies for choosing or appointing the artist(s).
- Liaising with selected artists and team to plan and co-ordinate the production.
- Liaising with the artists and team to present associated events and activities.
- Writing texts, interviews and press releases, promoting publicly and to journalists.
- Devising and carry out communication strategies for each project.
- Liaising with the artist, partners and funders on communications.

3. Produce research and support the dissemination of research.

- Promoting ESW's programme through participation in seminars, conferences, publications and meetings; including producing new material and research to share.
- Conducting interviews with Members of ESW and visitors and create other content which document and provide a means to share research happening at ESW.

4. Manage communication and promotion of the programme.

- Producing web posts about projects and news.
- Writing and collating information for monthly public newsletters.
- Creating and managing processes around announcements and press releases, including gaining sign off from artists and stakeholders; communicating with press contacts and publications.
- Supporting artists in publicising their work and maintains records of press coverage.
- Producing related content for social media.

5. Maintain positive professional relationships with ESW's partners.

- This includes University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh Art Festival and peer workshop, gallery and residency organisations.
- Identify ways in which partnerships can be further developed and new partnerships forged.
- Visiting and attending meetings with partners.
- Prioritise ways to collaborate for a stronger sector.
- This activity will involve representing the organisation externally and sometimes deputising for the Director when asked.
- Further develop and maintain ESW's international presence as a flagship arts organisation.

6. Manage individual programme budgets and report regularly on these to the Director.

- Planning and confirming budgets.
- Ordering and processing financial paperwork.
- Maintaining records and reviewing with the Director.

7. Carry out fundraising for activity and the organisation.

- Researching fundraising leads.
- Planning and proposing funds to apply to.
- Developing fundraising ideas and copy.
- Doing reporting.

8. Being proactive about evaluation.

- Making sure that committed metrics are evaluated.
- Gather data across all programme areas.
- Issue and manage feedback mechanisms.
- Analyse outcomes and report findings.
- Ensure evaluation commitments are met.
- Feed learning into ESW's strategic and operational planning
- Bringing evaluation and feedback into operational and strategic planning.

9. Undertake professional development

- Taking part in research, training and visits to maintain up to date knowledge of artistic practice, theory and policy.
- Reporting back to colleagues.
- Advocating for ESW and creating new connections.

10. Core General Responsibilities

- Contributing to making ESW a welcoming place for all.

- Working collaboratively within the team to ensure activity remains relevant and impactful.
- Contributing to the advancement of equality, diversity and inclusion within ESW.
- Contributing to the advancement of environmentally aware practices at ESW.
- Representing ESW with professionalism in public and on social media.
- Working closely with the Director, shadowing work and taking on delegated work where it's appropriate to your professional development plans and to the organisation.
- Providing staff support at public events.
- Participate in team meetings and training, and ensure information is prepared and shared with colleagues.
- Following financial procedures.

Essential and Desirable Criteria

Essential competencies

- Organisational and project management skills.
- High standard of written and verbal communication.

Essential values

- Team work and collaborative approaches to decision making.
- Ability to handle confidential and sensitive information appropriately.
- A caring, supportive approach to working with artists and audiences
- Professional reliability and sound judgement.
- Commitment to personal development.

Essential knowledge and experience

- Knowledge of contemporary art including beyond Western perspectives.
- Previous engagement with sculpture-based projects.
- Knowledge of artist development and artist practice.
- Experience of working with diverse artists and audiences.
- Experience of fundraising.
- Experience of working with external partners and press.
- Experience of evaluation and reporting.

Desirable

- Knowledge of Creative Scotland priorities.

How to apply

Please get in touch if you need to receive information in an alternative format or make your application in another way.

Please email your application as one PDF document to laura@edinburghsculpture.org by 8 January 2026 at 5pm.

Please title your PDF document FirstNameSecondNameESW

Please include the following within the PDF document:

- CV
- Cover Letter (500 words)

The CV and Cover Letter should include how you meet the essential criteria.

- Your address, phone number and email address.
- Contact details of two referees (we will speak to you before contacting them).
- Notes on any access requirements you think would be helpful for us to know.

We will store your information securely and will delete all applicant information one year after the open call closes.

We ask all applications to also complete a voluntary, anonymous Equalities Monitoring Form online. The information from which will be kept separate to and not linked to your application. We collect this information for internal insight and use a standardised format which is in line with our main funder reporting. [Please find the link here.](#)

Please note, at the end of this recruitment process, when we offer an individual the job, we must ask for proof that they have the right to work in the UK.

Please note that ESW is not able to offer visa sponsorship for this role. Applicants must already have the right to work in the UK.

Who can apply

Anyone who meets the criteria above can make an application.

We positively encourage applications from those who are not well represented within the sector.

Management Structure and Notes on the Wider Team

A Board of Directors (made up of voluntary Board Members) is responsible for overseeing the legal, financial and ethical management of the organisation and for evaluation of the organisation's work and charitable remit.

Line Manager: The Curator for Research reports to the Director.

Direct Reports: The Curator for Research will at times support, give instruction to and supervise programme assistants, exhibition hosts and other staff involved in programme activity and communications.

Group Working: ESW has a small, dedicated team. We work closely together, as a learning organisation, in order to remain relevant to our internal and external context. The Curator for Research will work closely with [all team members](#) including with the Director and Curator for Learning on overall programme ideas and tasks; with Technical colleagues on planning and support for artists and projects; with administrative colleagues on providing the systems and infrastructure for artists and audiences at ESW. We sometimes have support for event hosting and communications work.

Particulars of the Job

Work Pattern

The Curator for Research will work four days per week. Normal days would be Tuesday – Friday. Our standard working day is 9.15am - 5pm. Time off in Lieu is given for evening and weekend work which is required from time to time.

Work Location

The Curator for Research will be based at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop at 21 Hawthornvale, Edinburgh. There may be some instances where it's possible to agree in advance some working from home time.

Annual Leave

35 days pro rata. This includes bank holidays and we do not close on bank holidays. There is a company holiday of around two weeks in late December and early January each year (included within the 35 days pro rata).

Professional Development and Training

The post holder will have two weeks pro rata time per year for pursuing relevant and pre-agreed professional development opportunities.