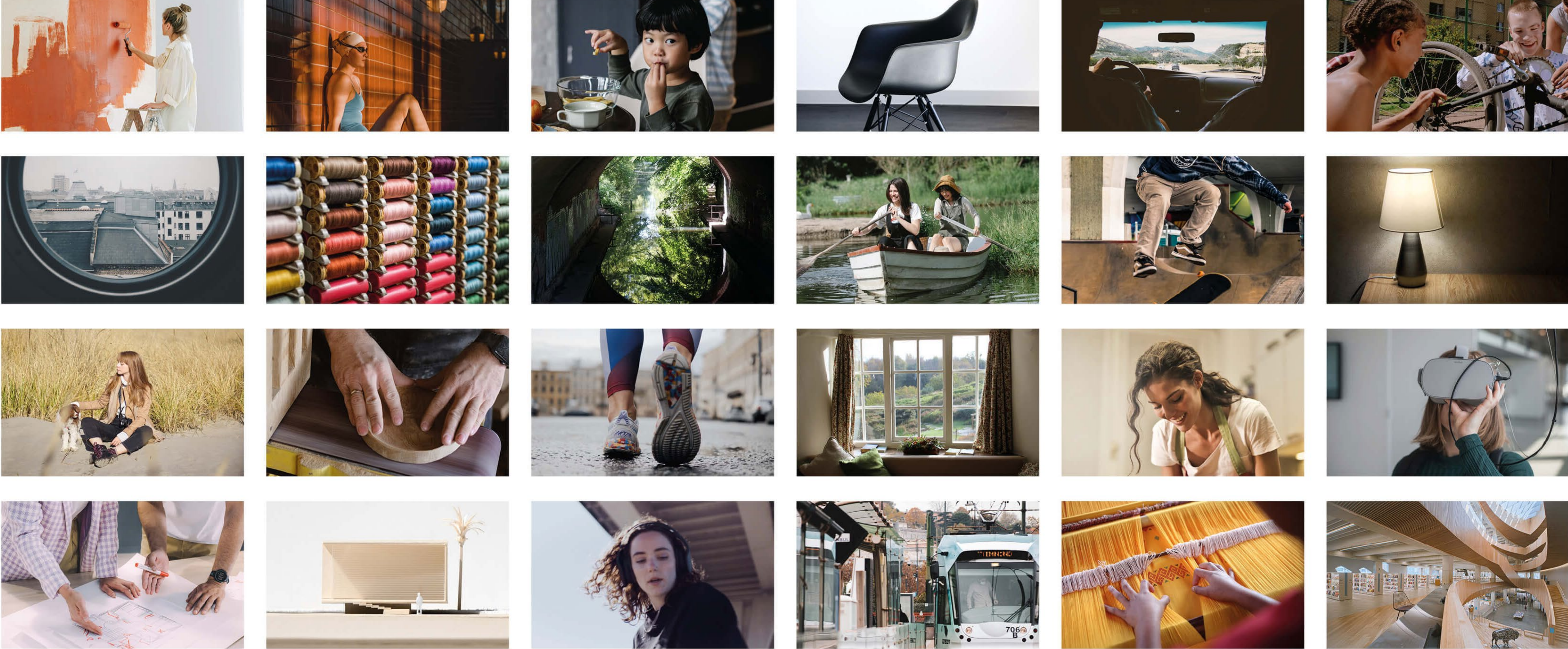




Senior Research & Impact Manager (Maternity Cover)

Design
Council

Design is everywhere....

*"From spoon
to city"*

Massimo Vignelli, Architect

Welcome from the Chief Executive – Minnie Moll

I feel so proud to be leading an organisation with such an amazing heritage and reputation. The calibre of our people, the extraordinary talent in our unique network of Experts and the impact we have working with our clients, partners and Government is without comparison. It is a real privilege to be carrying the torch as we enter the next chapter for the Design Council.

This chapter will be led by our mission: Design for Planet. The greatest challenge of our era is the climate crisis, so as the national champion for design, we will be focusing our efforts on galvanizing and supporting the 1.97m people across the design sector to make sustainability central to their work.

Design shapes the world and will have a critical role to play in meeting Net Zero targets and beyond. As a design organisation we have power and responsibility to make a difference.

At the heart of the Design Council are our colleagues. We offer a structured career path, great learning and development, exposure to unique and exciting projects and the opportunity to work with our leading Experts. In addition, our pension scheme goes up to a 7.5% employee and employer contribution, 30 days annual leave (including time off for everyone over the Christmas period) and a range of flexible ways to work as part of our Hybrid Working policy.

At more than at any other time in our long and distinguished history, now is an incredibly exciting time to be at the Design Council.



Minnie Moll

About the Design Council

The Design Council's purpose is to make life better by design. And our mission is to do that by focusing on [Design for Planet](#). There can be no greater cause than fighting to save our precious planet.

Design for Planet is a theme through all our work to create better places, better products and better processes, all of which lead to better performance.

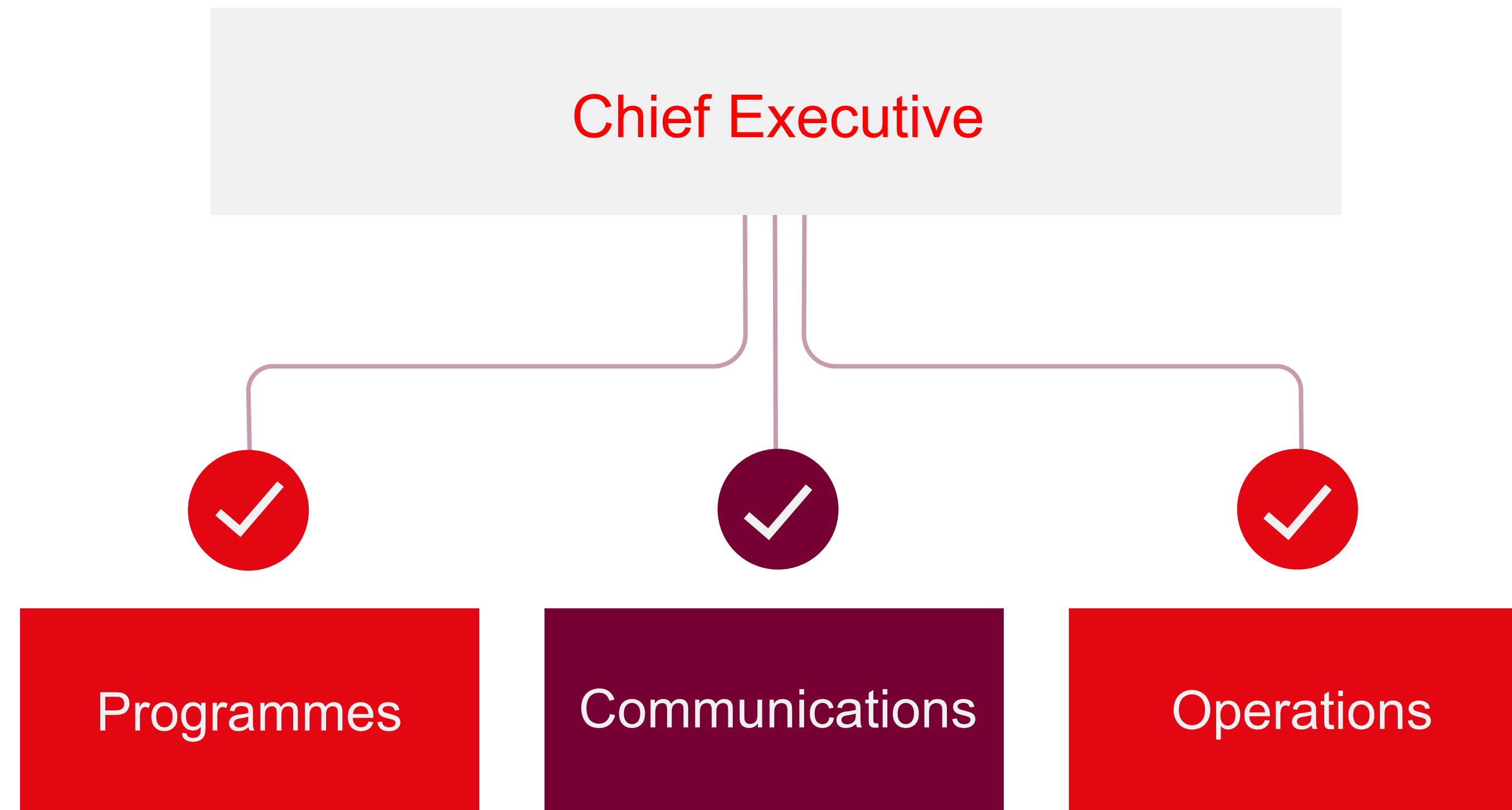
We commission pioneering evidence-based research, develop ground-breaking programmes and deliver influencing and policy work to demonstrate the power of design and how it impacts the economy, business innovation, places and public services. We bring together designers and non-designers – from grassroots to government and share with them our design expertise to transform the way they work.

Good design is inclusive design. We actively aim to employ a diverse workforce, and we have a commitment to do that. We encourage conversations around flexibility in terms of location, hours and other arrangements so we can welcome people with different, experiences, background and perspectives.



About the Team

The Design Council is a team of around 30 people. As a small team with a big remit, we work collaboratively across three teams. The **Senior Research and Impact Manager** role sits within the Programmes Team and is line-managed by the Head of Programmes.



Working at the Design Council

Induction

We want all new colleagues to feel welcome and supported from day one. Our structured induction programme introduces you to the Design Council's strategy and vision, teams, systems and processes, core publications and frameworks. It's designed to equip you with the tools, knowledge and learning opportunities you need to succeed in your role.

Career Development

We encourage and enable colleagues to continuously learn whilst working at the Design Council. We work on ambitious projects collaborating with partners from industry to policy, education and research, exposing our colleagues to extensive and diverse learning opportunities and fostering new skill sets. Our career development approach focuses on sharing knowledge, working with over 240 experts in design and beyond, and empowering colleagues to stretch themselves and achieve their goals.

Performance and development reviews

We want every colleague to have the opportunity to discuss their performance and development with their line manager. Our annual appraisal process, Development, Potential and Performance, is a dedicated space to review progress, celebrate achievements and shape future goals. During your probation period, your line manager will work with you to set clear objectives to help you thrive in your new role.



Benefits

The Design Council offers a number of benefits.

Some of them include:

- 28 annual leave days pro rata
- 2 Additional days off over Christmas
- Birthday day off
- 5% Employer Pension Contribution – going up to 7.5% if requested
- Hybrid working policy – working in office 2 days per week
- Flexible working
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Life Assurance Policy
- Cycle to work scheme
- Season ticket loan
- Enhance Maternity and Paternity Leave
- Learning and Development plan – 5 L&D full days per year
- Buy additional 5 days leave

About the role

The Design Council's world-leading research into the value of design shapes national policy, supports industry-led change, and builds public awareness of design. With our [Design for Planet mission](#), we are at the forefront of researching and communicating the social, environmental, and economic value of design.

Within the Research function of this role (80%), you will manage our flagship national research programme [Design Economy](#). You will oversee major research projects commissioned through external organisations and academic partners and deliver some in-house research. Working with colleagues across the organisation – from Policy and Advocacy, to Partnerships, and Communications, you will help translate new findings into accessible and compelling narratives and recommendations.

Within the Impact function of this role (20%), you will strategically oversee the continuous development and roll-out of the Design Council's collective impact framework. You will advise colleagues on how to measure the impact of their programmes and ensure that our framework is used across our work.

Research

- Plan and manage the delivery of Design Economy, including our trusted foundational research outputs as well as thematic satellite projects as and when opportunities for these arise.
- Support delivery of Design Economy-related research projects (e.g. EU Horizon project) managed by other colleagues as and when these take shape.
- Commission and manage third parties to deliver research and evaluation work, providing quality assurance, and adhering to project timelines and budgets.
- Work closely with external partners and stakeholders on the delivery of joint projects and publications. This includes keeping informed the Design Economy Advisory Network and managing its (at least) bi-annual meetings.
- Work closely with colleagues internally to plan and deliver Design Economy-related events.
- Manage the production and delivery of research publications and digital content for a range of audiences.
- Deliver in-house research where appropriate using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Help identify and develop policy recommendations and future research avenues based on our findings and in line with our strategic priorities.
- Work closely with Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager to link research to policy and advocacy strategy.

About the role

Impact

- Identify and help roll out metrics and assessment methods to capture the organisation's collective impact.
- Provide strategic advice to colleagues on measuring impact of large-scale projects which includes managing relationships with external M&E experts.
- Develop and maintain organisational standards for impact data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Influence

- Actively contribute to internal and external forums on research and evaluation (e.g., present at company meetings, publish thought leadership pieces).
- Stay up to date with creative industry focused networks and trends, representing the Design Council at external events, hosting partner meetings and visits as appropriate.

Support business development and other responsibilities

- Act as the organisation's subject expert on research and evaluation, including leading learning sessions for colleagues as appropriate.
- Support the Senior Management Team and Partnerships lead to develop new programmes of work, partnerships and funding opportunities.
- Line-manage the Research and Policy Coordinator, supporting their development and workload across the Programmes and Communications teams.

Salary £46,800 + DOE

Contract Up to 12 Months

Reports to Head of Programmes

Location Hybrid working with 2 days per week minimum (preferably more) in our office at AHMM, Morelands, 5-23 Old Street, London.

This role will involve some evening work and travel as required in accordance with the needs of the projects.

About you

Experience

- Extensive experience of managing major programmes of research and evaluation (with budgets of £100,000+ preferred).
- Excellent knowledge and application of research design, data quality standards, and research ethics, and adhering to best practice with regards to these.
- Proven ability to develop impactful public-facing reports and other publications, creating compelling narratives supported by rigorous evidence for different audiences.
- Experience of managing and supporting others (e.g., in defining research questions or evaluation approaches).
- Demonstrable understanding of research trends, challenges and opportunities, within the creative industries or similar sector, and their connection to policy, innovation and impact.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, with a demonstrable ability to present insights in an accessible way.
- Excellent relationship-building and stakeholder management skills, with a proven ability to establish and maintain strong external partnerships.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively, build creative consensus, and consult others across the organisation.
- Excellent analytical and numerical skills, with demonstrable experience of using a range of methodologies.
- Good IT skills, an advanced user of all Microsoft Platforms.
- Knowledge and understanding of research software such as SPSS and NVIVO or similar preferred.
- Experience in securing funding and generating income, with commercial awareness and the ability to identify new opportunities for growth desirable.
- Strong financial and budget management skills, with the ability to develop accurate forecasts, manage project budgets independently, and adapt to changing funding levels. Able to identify opportunities for cost savings and to maximise impact within available resources.

About you

Expert Knowledge and Qualifications

- Academic or professional qualifications in a relevant discipline (e.g., social sciences, economics), or equivalent experience.
- Demonstrable in-depth understanding of quantitative and qualitative research and evaluation methodologies.

Behaviours based on our values

- **Boundless Curiosity.** Curious about relevant research and opportunities within the design environment.
- **Inspire Possibility.** Passionate about creating change through research and impact that enables design to have positive impact on people and planet.
- **Powerful Together.** Inclusive, collaborative, and supportive of others across the organisation.

Corporate responsibilities

Comply with the Design Council's operational policies and procedures, including financial and risk management, project management and evaluation processes, brand guidelines, GDPR, information security, and internal health and safety policy.

Join us

Please submit your CV (max. 4 pages), covering letter (max. 2 pages), and links to two published pieces of research you have authored via this [link](#) by **28 November 2025**.

Please email Ishbel Allotey, our Head of People, at recruitment@designcouncil.org.uk if you have questions about the role.

The Design Council is fully committed to being a diverse and inclusive organisation. We welcome applications from everyone who meets the criteria. If you need any additional support, please do send in an early alert to our Head of People.

Visit designcouncil.org.uk to discover more about our work and mission.



“The fundamental idea of design is to make the world a better place”.

Bruce Mau, Designer

