

## **Design Associate Application FAQs.**

### **How much work will I get?**

A big part of being a design associate is managing a portfolio of different clients. This enables you to stay at the cutting edge of work in your field. We see Design Council as being a part of that portfolio – so you can draw on your expertise to the benefit of our programmes and vice versa. There is no guarantee of a set amount of work, it can vary depending on the work available. We call upon DAs when there is a requirement and their skills match the work needed. Usually DAs work for no more than a few days a month although some months might provide more intensive work than other months.

### **What will I be doing?**

Typically, you will be facilitating workshops, coaching, training and advising stakeholders at all levels of public or private sector organisations. You will help them to understand and use design and how it may be deployed to support the challenges they are addressing in their projects and guide them to achieve impact.

### **What is the process of becoming a DA?**

This is a staged process that provides Design Council with an opportunity to see candidates in action, and for candidates to get a feel for what being a Design Associate is all about.

### **What type of designers are you looking for?**

Our work covers both the public and private sector. We are looking for designers who have experience working in either sector that have one of the following design back grounds: product, service, systemic, place-based, digital, UX/interaction, fashion, interior, textile, graphic, brand & communications, sustainability, speculative/futures, community, participatory/deliberative design, ethics, data, AI and information.

### **Is there any training provided?**

You will receive inductions on our programmes and Design Council's Framework for Innovation. Ideally before you deliver you will have the chance to buddy with an experienced DA during delivery. You will also become part of a network and a community of practice with the other Design Council Design Associates and Built Environment experts

### **How are DAs paid and how much?**

Most DAs have their own limited companies or are sole traders and invoice us for their work. Design Council pays a competitive standard rate to all Design Associates.

### **Where would I work?**

Our programmes are largely in England but can run across the UK, we usually try to match the programme with the DA and their base location. There may be occasional international opportunities.

### **Who would I work with?**

You will work closely with the Design Council team and sometimes with other Design Associates and Built Environment Experts. You may also from time to time work with specialists from other industries e.g. IP, or business planning.

## **How much experience do I need?**

Typically Design Associates have more than 10 years professional experience for many reasons, for example DA's draw extensively from their professional experience to provide examples to stakeholders. However, we are open to hear from candidates who believe they have what it takes with less experience.

## **What is the value of joining the network?**

Design Associates join the network because they see the value in being part of something bigger leading to large scale change. Being a DA gives them the ability to apply their design skills to a wider set of problems and clients and provides access to Design Council networks, and the wider Design Expert network.

## **How do I apply?**

If you think you are a good fit, you have what it takes and this can fit within your own portfolio of work, and have reviewed the self-assessment question then register your interest and you can apply when it goes live on our website on 13 January.

## **What other skills do I need?**

The best Design Associates have a good mix of excellent people skills, design and design management skills and organisation consulting skills

## **If I'm employed fulltime, can I be a DA?**

If you are able to negotiate this with your employer then there is no reason why not. We have a number of DAs who have arrangements such as this, it is however your responsibility to get agreement and manage this.

## **I work in an agency, can I use my juniors to undertake DA work?**

No, a Design Associate is a role that you have been appointed to as an individual. If you employ people then they can support you with admin (i.e. diary management, invoicing, etc.) but not the delivery you are asked to perform.

## **What do the Design Council team do?**

The Design Council team manage business development, programme development, content development, client management, and admin etc. We work collaboratively with Design Associates to design the content of our programmes but we largely manage the programme to allow you to bring your design expertise to the table.

## **Do I get 'design work' from the programme? Will I get other work from being a Design Associate?**

No. When working as a Design Associate you are a mentor, coach & facilitator of public or private sector teams and individuals. If any design research or design projects are commissioned as a result of your coaching, you cannot do this work yourself. This would be a conflict of interest. Your own portfolio of work should be completely separate from Design Council. Any design research or other work would normally be carried out by the team you are supporting or commissioned by the organisation through a proper tendering process and you might help them manage that process.