Design Council

RED Internship

The Design Council is offering two design internships with the RED Unit for six months from March 2006.

About RED

RED addresses social and economic issues through design. We run rapid live projects in areas such as healthcare, climate change and citizenship to develop new markets for design.

For each project we put together interdisciplinary teams of designers, policy analysts and sector experts. Our approach is human-centred, involving users, service providers and our partner organisations in the design process.

Our projects deliver both policy recommendations and practical design solutions for new systems, services and products. These inform future Design Council campaigns, the work of partner organisations and provide new contexts for design skills and thinking.

To find out more, visit www.designcouncil.org.uk/RED

About the Internship

Role

You will be a fully involved member of the RED team. There are eight of us, including four designers from a product/interaction background. The team is led by Hilary Cottam, Designer of the Year 2005. Colin Burns, former director of IDEO Europe, is our Design Associate.

We work collaboratively, and you will be expected to take part in all design team activities, using and developing skills in areas including user research, concept development and execution. We have a wide network of experts both in the design field and in various other disciplines with whom we work.

Projects

This year's project is on ageing.

In addition to this we will be further developing an 'open' approach to our work and methodology and developing new ways of communicating work in progress.

Profile

We are looking for interns who already hold a graduate degree, or who are carrying out post-graduate studies in Product, Interaction, Communication Design or similar design field.

You must be able to demonstrate:
A user centred approach
An ability to think strategically
Strong communication skills
Resourcefulness and an ability to self-direct
Team-based, collaborative approach
A passion for design in a social context
Talent and enthusiasm

Your previous work should show:
Insight and empathy
Strong design thinking
An ability to create compelling solutions
Visual sensitivity and flair

You must:
Believe in magic and mischief…

We are looking for someone who will inspire us!

Required Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Technical Skills and Qualifications	• Undergraduate Degree or equivalent in Design related subject (e.g. Product Design) • Able to communicate ideas in a graphic form • Good visualisation skills • Ability to facilitate ideas • Illustrator/ Photoshop/Director or Flash skills or equivalent	• Postgraduate Degree (completed or currently studying) • Video editing and/or multimedia skills
Behavioural Skills	• Self Starter • Team Player • Excellent Communication Skills • Problem Solver • Thinks laterally and makes connections	• Strategic Thinker
Knowledge and Experience	• User centred approach to design (rather than client based) • Enthusiasm for Design in a social context	• Experience of conducting creative sessions • Previous Work Experience in Social Design/User Research/Web Design/Visual Prototyping or Graphic Design
Portfolio should reflect;	• Strong Design Thinking & Innovative Ideas • Visual sensitivity and flair • Insight and empathy with the user	

Requirement in role for demonstration of Design Council qualities

Level	Leading & Inspiring	Taking responsibility	Communication	Planning & Organising	Collaboration	Creativity	Learning
Advanced			✓		✓	✓	✓
Competent		✓		✓			
Foundation	✓						

Duration of the internship
6 months from mid March. Specific dates to be negotiated.

Pay
Net Salary of £1000 per month. Expenses relating to the project will be paid however it is expected that normal expenses (subsistence, travel & accommodation in London, etc) will be covered by the intern, not the Design Council.

Non UK residents
We welcome applications from all students who are residents of the European Economic Area, or who hold valid Work Permits for the UK, (unfortunately we cannot accept applications from non EEA residents without a valid Work Permit).

How to apply

Please send:
- Contact details including email address
- A covering letter
- A curriculum vitae
- Examples of recent work in .pdf format or equivalent digital portfolio and/or website
- (For non-EEA residents) Details/photocopy of document/s showing right to work in the UK.

Applications should be sent to nina.penlington@designcouncil.org.uk or Nina Penlington, Design Council, 34 Bow Street, London, WC2E 7DL, by 5pm on Friday 3rd February 2006 in order for applications to be considered. All applicants will receive an email confirming that their application has been received, and an email confirming whether or not they have been selected for interview. Interviews will take place in person or over the phone as appropriate.

Please send all text documents in .pdf format.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT RETURN ANY HARD COPIES OF PORTFOLIO WORK/CDs

Interviews
We will hold interviews/phone interviews week beginning 13th February

If you have been selected for interview we will be in touch before Thursday 9th February

We look forward to hearing from you!