

– HEAD Genève

In association with EPFL's **Doctoral Program in Architecture and Sciences of the City (EDAR)**, HES-SO for HEAD – Genève is currently advertising the position of

HES assistant (doctoral student)
Master in Space & Communication Design
Activity rate: 80%

Institutional context: HEAD – Genève & EPFL partnership

In 2016, HEAD – Genève (University of Art and Design) initiated a collaboration agreement with EDAR (Architecture & sciences of the City at EPFL) PhD program, which is part of the Doctoral School of EPFL (EDOC). In a context where the complexity of the relationship between uses and forms calls into question the systems of representation inherited from the twentieth century and the division of tasks between analysis, creation, application, HEAD – Genève and EDAR develop inventive forms of research, combining basic research and the critical and creative openness of artistic work. The aim is to encourage a "research through the means of art and design" orientation at EDAR, allowing to welcome PhD students from the artistic and design fields. For EDAR EPFL, it is a question of supplementing its orientations with a specialization using creation as a field or as a method of work in the context of a doctoral thesis meeting the academic requirements of EPFL. The doctoral student will participate in the deployment of this doctoral orientation, which promotes a stimulating and critical dialogue between art research, knowledge production, urban phenomena in the broadest sense and social sciences. The aim of the program is to support PhD students towards an original contribution through a cross-disciplinary approach.

Institutional context: Irad (Institute for Research in Art & Design)

In addition to EDAR, the doctoral student will join the research team of HEAD – Genève, which is part of Irad (Institute for Research in Art and Design). Irad coordinates the research projects conducted by research teams at HEAD – Genève, with an emphasis on research-creation. This institute organizes research training courses with EPFL for master's and doctoral students. In addition, Irad organizes research seminars and study days bringing together doctoral students, students and teachers.

Assistant status e-PhD

The doctoral student will be employed at HEAD – Genève as a HES assistant within the Space & Communication Master. He or she will devote 40% of his or her time to the assistantship duties detailed below, and 40% to the preparation and writing of his or her thesis.

Master in Space Design & Communication (MA E&C)

The Space & Communication Master is a design course that invests in the interstices between space, objects and media. With its open and pluralist course, the Space & Communication Master brings together an international community of students from practices as diverse as visual communication, space design, architecture, product design, art, photography or film. The master is thus ideally positioned to implement a broader vision of design.

Main points of duties of the position of Assistant HES

- Participate in the realization of mandates and projects with external partners
- Provide pedagogical support to teachers during practical lessons (skills in carrying out installations at a scale of 1:1)
- Provide technical support to students in the development of their practical work
- Assist in the management of equipment and rooms, preparation of teaching and learning materials
- Administrative follow-up and organization of educational activities (study trips, exhibitions, events, etc.)

– HEAD Genève

- Manage orders and expenses incurred for mandates and teachings
- Help manage the archives of the E&C department
- Follow-up of speakers and guests

Specific conditions related to the PhD position

The PhD assistant will be recruited by a joint HEAD – Genève / EPFL commission. He or she will have to submit an online application to the EDAR doctoral school of EPFL and his or her final acceptance into the doctoral program will have to be endorsed by the EDAR committee. Once in the program, he or she will take the compulsory EDAR courses at EPFL and obtain the credits required by the doctoral school. The two places of supervision of the thesis are the EPFL and the HEAD – Genève, a regular and equal presence on these two campuses is necessary. A work place will be available in each institution.

Supervision of the thesis

The doctoral thesis will be co-supervised by a professor of HEAD – Genève (candidate: Alexandra Midal) and by a professor from the EDAR program at EPFL (candidate: Dieter Dietz). Progress reports must be presented on a regular basis. The doctoral student must participate in the elaboration of peer-reviewed publications and articles, study days, public events, and is encouraged to develop transdisciplinary projects. The doctoral diploma will be delivered by the EPFL (PhD in science).

Thesis topic

The doctoral student will develop an inventive thesis relating to design understood in a broad and intermedial sense. The thesis project may relate to the fields of design, space, even in its links with architecture or landscape, history and theory of design or relations between media, design and space. He or she may emphasize the relationships with technological and / or scientific imaginaries and hypotheses, whether they are related to space, the body, the psyche or the object. Historical or speculative, the thesis could also be developed in a dimension of “research-creation”.

Profile:

- Master in design (at least), or equivalent
- Strong interest in design research
- Strong writing and methodological skills
- Strong skills in design, space design, construction-production, performance and / or visual communication
- Ability to supervise the work of students under the supervision of the master's supervisor and thesis supervisor
- Availability, thoroughness, ability to work in an international team and to communicate, perseverance and creativity
- Relational and organizational skills
- Good knowledge of spoken and written French
- Fluent in spoken English essential

Application requirements

- Cover letter (one page)
- CV (two pages)
- Copies of diplomas obtained and transcripts with written assessments
- Names and full contact details of two referees
- Summary of the thesis project (one page)
- Note of intent of the thesis project (10 pages maximum, bibliography and images included)
- Personal works portfolio (20 pages maximum) if existing
- Master 2 research thesis
- Written work (research articles or other essays, max. 2 publications) if existing

– HEAD Genève

These documents are to be collected in a single PDF document, in the order indicated above. The file is to be sent to rh.head@hesge.ch (written in French or English). Incomplete files or those which do not meet the required profile will not be taken into consideration.

For any further information, please contact Anthony Masure (anthony.masure@hesge.ch), Head of Research at HEAD – Genève.

In the event of acceptance for the doctoral position, the contract will be of fixed duration, renewable for a maximum of four periods (art. 122 of the regulations) of the HES SO - Geneva and of the agreement between the HEAD - Geneva and EPFL.

Application deadline: November 5, 2021

Expected date of the interviews: (if necessary, by videoconference). A second interview session will be organized if necessary.

Start of the contract: March 1st, 2022. The contract will be concluded for a period of one year, renewed 4 times under the terms of the HES SO - Geneva staff regulations and the Agreement between HEAD – Genève and EPFL.

Place of work: HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 5 & EPFL Lausanne.

The HES-SO Genève / HEAD – Genève adopts a recruitment policy in favor of equal opportunities and diversity.