

Visiting Scholar Programme

Summary

The Centre for Distance Education at the University of London welcomes Visiting Scholars for short (four weeks) and medium (three to six months) term placements within the Centre. With extensive expertise in design, delivery and research of online and distance education, the Centre provides a rich multi-disciplinary, international, community of practice.

We invite enquiries and applications to CDE@london.ac.uk

Centre website: <https://london.ac.uk/centre-distance-education>

Background

The University of London has some 50,000 student studying distance and online education in over 190 countries and has 160 years' experience of distance education, being the first open and distance education provider in the world. Working with 11 member institutions of the University of London Federation, the University of London delivers high quality accessible education across the Globe.

The Centre for Distance Education (CDE) is a University of London initiative to support the development of expertise in the field of distance education. We support a community of practice, promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing and provide a focus for the development of high quality teaching and research in open and distance learning locally, nationally and internationally. Made up of leading experts in open and distance education, the CDE is well placed to support visiting Scholars to the University of London. The University of London and the Centre for Distance Education values the mutually developmental opportunities presented by visiting scholar schemes.

Visiting Scholars have the opportunity to engage in projects and activities that are mutually agreed with identified intended outcomes. A bespoke programme of activities is developed to support the intended outcomes for the placement. The nature of the placement can vary from specific research projects to skills development. For example, we can support research, applied research, evaluation, capacity building, upskilling, programme/short course development and training. Areas of expertise represented within the University of London include:

- Online pedagogy and curriculum design
- Learning design for small and large scale programmes
- Open education
- Digital Assessment practices
- Quality assurance, standards and enhancement
- Capacity building and staff development
- Specialist subject disciplines
- Research and Evaluation in online and Distance Education
- Publishing in Distance Education
- Student experience and well being

Visiting Scholars are supported by a team of CDE Fellows, led by the Director of the Centre, Dr Linda Amrane-Cooper and supported by our Executive Team. Visiting Scholars also have a named CDE project coordinator. Visiting Scholars are generally based in the University of London's iconic Senate House complex, provided with a desk, email account and computer facilities and granted access to

our extensive online Library with over 100 million digital items in the collection plus our physical Senate House library¹.

As appropriate, research ethics is addressed early in the placement and includes an orientation to the UK research environment if required. Through support from the Fellows in the CDE, including attendance at research seminars and regular meetings, visiting scholars receive detailed and extensive input/training to support achievement of their aims for the visit. A range of practitioner supported visits to University of London Member Institutions, for example UCL, Kings College London, Royal Veterinary College, City University of London, allows visiting scholars to access approaches taken to the support and delivery of technology enhanced education in a range of high status UK institutions. Specialist input in fast moving areas such as Virtual Reality, AI and Machine learning is facilitated. Arrangements for access to additional libraries/repositories can be made via the University of London Federation of Member Institutions.

Regular meetings with the CDE Fellows and UoL experts ensures that visiting scholars have the opportunity to present their initial research/project plans for peer review. Projects and research activities are fully supported by staff at the University of London who can, for example, provide opportunities for hands on activities in our recording studios and editing suites, or with technical workshops to support enhanced digital skills in virtual learning environment creation and development. A particularly rich area of opportunity is to work with our large learning design team to understand how we design, develop and deliver our 120+ programmes. Access to opportunities to explore primary data from students and academics working in distance education can be facilitated through our Head of Surveys and Student Voice. Exploration of programme virtual learning environments is facilitated and helps visiting scholars to undertake a detailed review of aspects of pedagogy, technical design, assessment strategies, and approaches to student engagement and student support.

See <https://london.ac.uk/news-and-opinion/centre-distance-education/sino-british-fellowship-trust-visits-uol> and <https://london.ac.uk/news-and-opinion/centre-distance-education/learner-autonomy-and-learner-interaction-what-can-we> for further information of recent visiting scholar activity.

For more information or for an initial discussion about visiting scholar opportunities contact:

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¹ Arrangements may vary during the Covid 19 pandemic.