



FAQs | Frequently Asked Questions

about the role of Assistant Curator (Support Structure)

Q: Is this an access to work role/ access support role

A: This Assistant Curator role is geared towards creating, maintaining, and implementing infrastructure (systems, practices, administration, philosophies, e.g. ‘the curatorial’, and behaviours) within a creative project and, more broadly, an organisation, especially as now in 2024, all that has been listed is a big part of a curator’s job in the visual arts sector as dealing with the ‘art’ itself. The role has an emphasis on the ‘how’ – curatorial processes, procedures, and strategies – rather than the ‘what’ (but there are elements of the latter in the Job Description). The ‘what’ is the curatorial ‘work’: organising, researching, hanging, assembling, caring, interpreting, writing, and critiquing art.

The role also reflects the central importance of social justice and social practice in contemporary art organisations like DASH, without assigning these practices to the work of ‘Education’ and ‘Engagement’ departments or ‘Access’ work. DASH’s artistic focus, from Jade’s perspective, is very much system change, and Jade has taken inspiration from projects such as Serpentine Galleries’ ‘Support Structures for Support Structures’, ‘Imagining Otherwise’ at Primary and Abbas Zahedi’s ‘Holding a Heart in Artifice’ at Nottingham Contemporary to write the Job Description.

Q: Is there a planned structure for how the hours/days of this contract will be carried out? For example, are there specific pivot points in the week where I'd need to match up with Jade in person/online, and if so, is there currently a planned schedule for this?

A: No, a work plan and structure would be bespoke and come out of a conversation with the successful applicant. Jade and the Assistant Curator will test an agreed-upon structure



within the first month to ensure it works in practice. However, it is essential to note that Jade usually works 21 hours a week flexibly from Wednesday to Friday.

Q: The role is described as hybrid. Is there an expected ratio split for this?

A: The Assistant Curator must be willing and ready to travel to work with Jade in-person. It might be that this happens at least twice a month or it might end up being every week. It depends on the working relationship between Jade and the successful applicant.

Q: What are the core working locations? Are there locations other than Nottingham I would plan to be more regularly? I understand there are semi regular exceptions for events etc, my query is more the day to day working patterns.

A: The core working location is Nottingham. However, the DASH team meets once a month at Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. The Assistant Curator would be expected to attend as a member of the team.

Q: what level of paid experience are you looking for?

A: We are looking for someone with experience working within an arts organisation in a creative or support staff role as either an employee or freelancer. However, part of this role focuses on assisting the Curator in removing disabling barriers to enable them to work at their best, so if applicants have extensive experience supporting people's access needs in, for example, health and care services and have a demonstrable working knowledge of contemporary visual art through experience and/or education, this role may suit them.



Q: Would you be happy to accept a short video entry (with captions) instead of a Cover Letter for the Assistant Curator Role?

A: While we appreciate and understand the value of video applications as an accessible format, which DASH have accepted in other recruitment call outs; it is not appropriate on this occasion.

A critical aspect for this role involves supporting someone with specific access needs, including tasks like writing, proof reading, attention to detail, and written communication. As a result, we need to assess applicants' written skills as part of the application process.

To ensure we can assess the necessary skills for the role, we require applicants to submit a written application. If you need adjustments in submitting your written application, please feel free to contact us.