

Associate Research Scholars - Planning and Design for Resilient Cities and Landscapes

Description

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation is seeking to hire up to three Associate Research Scholars in Resilient Design and Planning. The positions, within the newly established Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes (CRCL), will collaborate with staff from 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) and work directly with local leaders and stakeholders in communities around the world that are experiencing the ever-growing stresses and shocks of the 21st century. Researchers at CRCL will provide critical research and project design and planning to support the implementation of major projects which integrate resilience within complex financial and political contexts. Specific research tasks will include: surveying and analyzing existing plans and policies for infrastructure and spatial development at the project location; sourcing, organizing, and visualizing geo-spatial data on hazards, vulnerable populations, ecosystems and infrastructure and other assets; collecting, synthesizing, and documenting existing research on other locations with comparable circumstances; and developing risk profiles that describe the long term impacts of climate change, urbanization, and other significant trends. Additionally, researchers will work with local stakeholders under the direction of the Center leadership to develop strategies for mitigating risk, managing growth, and reducing impact on the environment for these locations, and test and evaluate these strategies using scenario planning and visualization. Project locations under consideration span the globe and include Palma, Mozambique; Miami, Florida; Montevideo, Uruguay; Can Tho, Vietnam and Pune, India.

The Associate Research Scholar(s) will manage the convenings of stakeholders called “accelerators,” intensive multi-day, design driven workshops which bring together global experts and local leaders to build momentum and sponsor innovation at critical moments in the life of a project. They will be central to producing these accelerators and will be responsible for programming, developing materials, arranging site visits and other logistics, presenting case studies and other research, and facilitating engagement with local stakeholders and experts. The researchers will be responsible for documenting the output of these accelerators through writing, photography, and video. In addition to the accelerators, incumbents will work with the Center to develop a scope of independent research in support of project implementation. The scope of the research will be defined by matching the project’s needs with the incumbent’s abilities and aptitude. It may consist of the documentation of local conditions, geospatial analysis, data visualization, precedent research, scenario planning, policy analysis, and advanced visualization including graphic design, 3D modeling, animation, and film production.

These positions will offer a rare opportunity to expand the incumbents’ experience through immediate interaction with projects and constituencies around the world. The incumbents will hone their research and technical skills and will develop the leadership qualities needed by the next generation of professionals in planning and urban design to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. These positions will be one year in length with renewal based on satisfactory performance and available funding.

Requirements

Candidates must have at minimum a Master’s degree or the equivalent in Urban Design, Planning, Architecture, Preservation, Landscape Architecture, or a related field such as urban policy. Candidates should demonstrate sustained interest in resilience and climate change adaptation through academic and independent research, with at least one year of research experience in a related field. Superior verbal and written communication skills are required. All tasks will involve multiple actors and cross-disciplinary boundaries and will depend on open and clear communication. Candidates should demonstrate personal initiative as well as superior time-management skills, judgement, and ability to manage relationships with complex, multi-stakeholder client groups and accommodate complex political dynamics. Researcher will be required to visit one or more project location (two or more trips) during their appointment. Preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated ability to independently synthesize their research and data into a coherent and concise design strategy.

Minimum Software Skills and Abilities: Adobe Suite, including, GIS/ArcMap, Microsoft Office

Additional Preferred Software Skills: Adobe After Effects, Rhino modeling software, Grasshopper

Please visit our online application site at: <https://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=66310> for further information about this position and to submit your application. You will be asked to submit a letter of interest, CV, and a portfolio (or website link) that demonstrates your work and research experience. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.

Columbia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.