

— HEAD Genève

In association with the Department of International Relations/Political Science at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID) and the Department of Interior Architecture/Space Design at HEAD – Genève, the HES-SO Genève is currently advertising the position of:

UAS Assistant (PhD student) at 100%
Research project *The Future of Humanitarian Design*
Duration of the position: 1 year, renewable 3 times (4 years)

We invite applications for the full-time position of Doctoral Researcher for the period of September 2023 to August 2026 for the research project entitled *The Future of Humanitarian Design*, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNFS Sinergia).

The Future of Humanitarian Design (HUD) is a research project based upon the principle that the dilemmas facing humanitarian action can only be addressed through a transvocational ethos integrating the insights of humanitarian actors, technologists, designers, and social scientists. Its underlying mission – and first core goal – is to develop what it terms a future-oriented ecological approach to the co-design of technological, material, and aesthetic interventions. That approach is specifically premised on combining the methodological and conceptual tools developed by designers and technologists with the sophisticated models of complex ‘ecological’ social relations that have been developed across numerous social sciences (international relations, sociology, anthropology) but which have yet to be applied to problems like humanitarian crisis. Those approaches contain a deep understanding of the ways in which human practice and sociality is driven by complex relational interactions between different actors, including material, technological, and aesthetic objects. In HUD’s view, these ecological theories of social life can fruitfully inject a deeper understanding of sociality and politics into ongoing debates on the role of design and technology in humanitarian action.

The PhD will be supervised by the Department of International Relations/Political Science (Chair Prof. Anna Leander) of the Geneva Graduate Institute (degree-awarding university) together with the Department of Interior Architecture / Space Design (Associate Prof. Javier Fernández Contreras) at HEAD – Genève and the University of Copenhagen (Assistant Prof. Jonathan Luke Austin). The Doctoral Researcher will be part of an international research community for the SNFS-funded project that includes a series of professors, postdocs researchers and PhD candidates also located at the Geneva Graduate Institute, the HEAD –Genève, the University of Copenhagen and the EPFL in Lausanne.

Main points of the position of Doctoral Researcher

- Over the course of the four years, the Doctoral Researcher will be trained to participate in international conferences and exhibitions crossing the humanitarian, academic and artistic environments, to submit articles to peer- reviewed journals, participate in research-related pedagogic activities and contribute to experimental public platforms.

Profile

- Architect / Interior Architect with a background in Humanitarian Design
- Completed Master’s degree from a “Haute École”, Art Academy, or University
- Previous experience in research, curatorial activities, with an expertise in digital innovation
- Ability to work self-responsibly and think critically, situated
- Experience working with public institutions, NGOs
- Organizational skills, reliability, social intelligence and transcultural competence
- Language skills: English (speaking, reading, writing); French, Spanish, Lingala and/or Swahili is a plus

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Main features of the position

- Duration of the position: 1 year renewable (Subject to enrollment in doctoral studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute) from September 2023 to August 2026
- The function's class for the position of Doctoral Researcher is a class 9 / annuities 2, for the holders of a Master's degree;
- PhD from the IHEID after successful defense of the doctoral research project.

Please include the following in your application:

- CV
- Portfolio
- Diplomas, Grade transcript, and sample writing (Master dissertation or equivalent)
- Cover Letter / Letter of Motivation
- A short statement on interest in the Future of Humanitarian Design project (max 3000 words);
- The name of two references to be contacted in case of shortlisting.

Complete applications must be sent in electronic format to:
rh.head@hesge.ch, javier.fernandez-contreras@hesge.ch , and
anna.leander@graduateinstitute.ch

Deadline: 1 May 2023

Interviews: 22 May 2023– 14h00-18h00 (TBC)

Start: 1 September 2023 Subject to enrollment in doctoral studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute

Location : HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 5

The HES-SO Geneva / HEAD - Geneva adopts a recruitment policy for equal opportunities and diversity.

For further information, please contact Prof. Dr. Javier Fernández Contreras:
javier.fernandez-contreras@hesge.ch