



The Architectural Association

Hooke Park Digital Fabrication Technician

Salary:	£35,000 to £39,000 per annum
Location:	Beaminster - Dorset
Department:	Hooke Park
Reporting to:	Head of Physical Production and Academic Resources
Starting Date:	As soon as possible
Contract Type:	Permanent
Hours of work:	Full-time; 35 hours Monday to Friday; 9am- 5pm

Role Overview

Hooke Park seeks a dedicated and skilled digital fabrication technician to join the team and work alongside our academic staff, students and visiting groups in facilitating fabrication activities at Hooke Park and becoming an integral part of the AA's material and fabrication research in Dorset.

The ethos of the Architectural Association is to create a safe and supportive environment for students and staff to undertake their work. Technical staff are fundamental to achieving this aim and their role is to support students with their architectural fabrication work.

The role involves the technical operation of the large-scale production and digital fabrication workshop at Hooke Park (The Big Shed), supporting students and staff with fabrication research. The Big Shed houses facilities for advanced fabrication including a large flatbed 3 axis CNC and a custom built robotics cell, with a 7-axis KUKA robotic arm and several bespoke tools for use in large scale architectural production and fabrication research. The role will involve the running of CNC operations (training can be provided) and the production of building scale components. You will also be in charge of running and maintaining the 3D printer.

The made work at Hooke Park combines traditional making techniques with digital processes, and as such the ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate a range of experience in both analogue and digital fabrication, as well as experience with a variety of wood and metal machines and hand and power tools.

We are looking for an individual who has a strong enthusiasm for making, with a demonstrated competency in digital fabrication, as well as a broad knowledge of analogue skills in a variety of materials, techniques and processes – and enjoys sharing their making expertise with students. The applicant should have experience as a fabricator or technician and have a portfolio of design through making and prototyping work. Experience of working in a Higher Education workshop is an advantage. A core focus of the work we do at Hooke Park relates to working in timber, and a broad experience with woodworking / timber construction

would be highly desirable.

A very important aspect of the role is supervising and enforcing a high standard of Health and Safety and good workshop practice. You will be working within a small team of academic staff, makers and workshop technicians. You must be good at working within a team and self-directed when necessary. The role will require a degree of flexibility to work occasional Saturdays as weekend workshop cover (taken in lieu).

Main Responsibilities

- Managing the Big Shed fabrication workshop and CNC facility
- Operating and teaching students how to use the equipment
- Supporting academic programmes in the development of fabrication research
- Assisting and advising students in the fabrication of their work.
- Communicating effectively with academic staff and visiting tutors to establish their requirements and expectations.
- Assist with and teach in Hooke Park making workshops across the school year
- Selling materials and keeping records of what has been sold.
- Administering tool loaning and the return of equipment.
- General workshop and site supervision where required – occasional Saturdays overtime / in lieu
- To ensure good housekeeping throughout the workshops and yard spaces, to help keep them tidy, well organised and as a safe a working environment as possible.
- Supervising and enforcing a very high standard of workshop Health and Safety and good workshop practice.
- Conducting Workshop Safety Inductions for safe use of machines and equipment, both in one to one situations and in small groups.
- To ensure ongoing and regularly scheduled (PPM) Planned Preventative Maintenance on all machinery and equipment within the Big Shed Workshop.
- To undertake any relevant Health and Safety training, such as First Aid or Machine Competency Training, to expand skills and help do the job safely and properly.
- To undertake other tasks when requested to do so, such as; processing deliveries, helping with any workshop improvements and any general maintenance work within the workshop department where reasonable to do so.
- To help where necessary in the administration and supervision of Workshop Student Assistants.

The above list of job duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

Person Specification

Essential

- To have a minimum of 5 years making/ fabrication experience
- Previous experience of working with a broad variety of materials and material processes is most important.

- Experience of digital fabrication and the operation and file preparation 3 axis CNC machines.
- Excellent IT skills, advanced knowledge of Rhinoceros 3D, Grasshopper and relevant CAD/CAM software packages.
- To have a strong interest, experience and enthusiasm for both analogue and digital fabrication, particularly in relation to working in timber.
- Be willing to learn new skills and undertake any required additional training for the role
- Excellent communication skills
- The ability to liaise with staff and students in a collegiate and supportive manner.
- The ability to problem solve and work in a self-directed and self-motivated way.
- To be open minded to working with new techniques and processes.
- Previous experience in a workshop supervising Health & Safety and conducting safety inductions.

Desirable

- Experience of large-scale fabrication/ construction
- Experience supervising students in a higher education environment or similar technician role.
- Carpentry experience or other traditional analogue techniques and processes for working in timber
- Experience of robotic fabrication in including the ability to develop custom scripts in grasshopper, as well as the creation of different end-effector tools.
- Experience with 3D printing technologies.
- Knowledge of various machine maintenance
- To have undertaken some training for Machine Competency, First Aid and general management of Health and Safety at work and other types of workshop relevant training.
- A degree in a making related subject, or equivalent apprenticeship.
- An interest in Art and Architecture.

Creative thinking and problem-solving are essential skills for AA employees. Ideal candidates will be high-energy individuals and team players.

All staff must:

- Comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements (e.g. Finance, HR, Health & Safety)
- Adhere to the requirements set out in the AA Code of Behavioural Expectations and other institutional policies.