

PhD position in industrial design

We are searching for a PhD student to join us at Umeå Institute of Design. This is a time-limited position (4 years full time, in practice 5 years with 20% teaching). Last day to apply is **2016-xx-xx**.

Umeå Institute of Design is a department within the Faculty of Science and Technology at Umeå University, and part of the Umeå Arts Campus education and research environment. We conduct education and research in the subject of Industrial Design on an artistic foundation. We are now looking for a PhD student in Industrial Design to join us.

Description of position

The primary objective of our research is to develop the design discipline by extending its existing practices and forming its future foundations. We aim to be at the forefront of addressing how design can, and needs to, evolve in response to changes in our social, technical and ecological contexts.

This PhD position is part of this effort, and as we value diverse perspectives it is thematically open with respect to what issues and areas to engage with. Considering contemporary and historical challenges of design research, however, some issues emerge: the need for a more sustainable development calls for addressing how design practices can be *redirected*; post-industrial changes to patterns of production and consumption call for a change in design from being oriented towards use and user, towards instead addressing the *social* in a much broader sense; networked and computational technologies altering the ways things are made and shared, even becoming new infrastructures for design. Just to name a few challenges to design – And most of all, we want to engage in research on what could become, working with practices of making and design experimentation that can give material form to imaginative, hopeful speculations on diverse design futures.

With this position we also aim to strengthen the critical dimension in teaching in the Bachelor's and Master's programmes, and thus part of this position is also dedicated to participating in teaching in our programmes and courses at UID. We believe that critical and inclusive perspectives are necessary components in the development of the conceptual foundations and future practices of industrial design. This PhD position is part of our ongoing efforts to contribute to furthering the development of such perspectives.

Essential Qualifications

Essential prerequisites at the time of registration as a PhD student include either i) 240 ECTS credits (swe. högskolepoäng) of higher education studies of which 60 should be on an advanced level (Master level) within industrial design, or proof of equivalent competence, or ii) 120 Swedish (old) credits (swe. poäng; corresponding to 180 ECTS-credits) of higher education studies if they were taken before July 1, 2007 or proof of equivalent competence. A good command of oral and written English is required.

Type of position/Salary

The position as a PhD student (doktorandanställning) is a four-year full time employment, that requires teaching or other departmental work up to 20%, which will lengthen the overall duration of the position to five years. Salary level and incremental increases in salary will occur according to a stipulated scale for PhD students at Umeå University. The PhD student will be enrolled in the PhD program and employed at Umeå Institute of Design.

Information

The procedure for recruitment for the positions is in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (chapter 12, 2 §) and the decision regarding the position cannot be appealed. See

<http://www.doktorandhandboken.nu/engelska/english.4.24cc9d95134182bfa4a800041.html> or

http://www.teknat.umu.se/digitalAssets/104/104209_120618_doktorandhandboken_final.pdf

The position is scheduled to start **x**.

For further information about the PhD position and Umeå Institute of Design, contact Director of PhD Studies at Umeå Institute of Design, Heather Wiltse, +46 90-786 88 39, heather.wiltse@umu.se or Vice Rector Maria Göransdotter, +46 90 786 7036, maria.goransdotter@umu.se. Union information is available from SACO, +46-(0)90-786 53 65, SEKO, +46-(0)90-786 52 96 and ST, +46-(0)90-786 54 31.

Application

Application shall be made through the e-recruitment system MyNetwork Pro, latest **x** 2016, and must include:

- A cover letter that states your personal motivation for the PhD position
- Your Curriculum Vitae
- Validated transcripts of records or degree certificates
- A research sketch outlining a proposed theme for your research, including its connection to design research. This is not expected to be highly detailed or definite, but it should indicate the core research area and questions/problematics, as well as the general approach you think would be appropriate for addressing them. The purpose of this research plan is to engage in a conversation with theme and topic, and the final research plan, should you be accepted, is likely to differ substantially from this first sketch.
- Names and contact details (telephone and email) of at least two suitably qualified persons willing to act as referee on your behalf
- Your design portfolio
- Your master thesis
- Any other documents supporting your competence and suitability for the position

Please observe that incomplete applications will not be processed.

More about Umeå Institute of Design

Umeå Institute of Design is ranked as one of the best design educations in the world. We do research and education in industrial design, with courses and programmes on both basic, advanced and PhD level. The education at Umeå Institute of Design has an artistic foundation, and our courses are often structured as projects together with external partners. In these projects the students at Umeå Institute of Design have a possibility to go deeper in a subject area, where design methods and design processes are used to create concepts and solutions for new products, services and experiences. The students develop and evaluate their ideas in close collaboration with users, and actively reflect about their future role in working life, always with the help of experienced tutors. Umeå Institute of Design has a creative and international environment, with a flat organization and a close interaction between students and employees. Read more about us at <http://www.uid.umu.se>.

Umeå University wants to offer an environment where open dialogue between people with different backgrounds and perspectives lay the foundation for learning, creativity and development. In each recruitment we aim to increase diversity and the opportunity to affirmative action. We kindly decline offers of recruitment and advertising help.