

The Bridge Studios

Call for Consultancy

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) is looking to award a short-term contract to an individual or company who can design and implement activities and systems that enable academic-industry collaboration within our new Bridge Studios.

Introduction

The Bridge Studios is a new interdisciplinary space opening March 2025 that will provide advanced technologies and physical lab space for practice-based, design-led creative research. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the West of England Combined Authority, and UWE, the Studios have been established to provide a technically enabled, accessible lab for academics and industry users. The new studio is designed to break down the barriers between the technology enabling the creative industries and the artistic process of content production. The space will deliver future-facing research that keeps pace with today's rapidly changing technologies, whilst considering aesthetic, cultural and ethical implications. Bridge Studios are based within UWE Bristol's University Enterprise Zone (UEZ), Frenchay Campus.

The Studios equipment supports digital production, augmented/virtual reality, robotics, manufacturing, and 3D printing. A comprehensive list of equipment can be provided upon request.

About UWE Bristol

UWE Bristol is recognised for its **strength and leadership through our wide-ranging economic activity and support for innovation and growth**. Our **University Enterprise Zone (UEZ)** - one of four UEZs originally commissioned by UK government - is based at our Frenchay Campus. The facility brings together the whole innovation pipeline, creating unique opportunities to drive forward enterprise, supporting the region's local economy. It includes the start up and fast-growth business spaces [Future Space](#) and [Launch Space](#), as well as the [HealthTech Hub](#), which offers tailored SME support for product testing and prototyping, advancing technology for independent living, health and well-being and the [Robotics Innovation Facility](#), which provides training, research and consultancy services to entrepreneurs, businesses, and public sector clients.

The role of the delivery and communications partner

We are looking for an individual or company with experience in designing and implementing new systems and activities/programmes that enable academic-industry collaborative activity within the new Bridge Studios, with a particular focus on innovation, contract research and training. Work would begin in February 2025 and last for three months. The successful partner will be required to participate in regular meetings, and report on progress to UWE Bristol throughout the duration of the contract. The budget for this work is £9,950 inc. VAT. This contract will be awarded and paid based on outputs and deliverables, not hours worked.

Scope of work:

- Working with UWE Bristol stakeholders to **design and develop a suite of activities/products that can take place within The Bridge Studios during 2025**. Activities should include innovation, consultancy research, training and engagement/networking
- Working with the Head of Innovation and Impact and other key stakeholders across the institution, **design and establish new operational systems for the Studios** that will help facilitate planned activities. This includes an enquiry management system, booking system and a costing/charging approach (business model). Drawing insights from sector best practice and proposing an approach and system that would fit UWE Bristol's operational model.

Deliverables:

1. A proposed suite of activities/products for 2025, to include strands for innovation, commercialisation, consultancy and training.
2. Fully develop 1-3 of these activities, with a clear articulation of the 'offer' for external audiences, to be agreed with UWE stakeholders.
3. Develop the following systems: enquiry management system, booking system and costing/ pricing model.

Commitment

The appointed partner will work with UWE Bristol staff across the duration of the project to determine timescales and schedules for delivery.

Payment

Payments will be made upon completion of pre-agreed milestones, in Pounds (£). The partner will need to be set up as a supplier to UWE Bristol and will be required to provide invoices for their services.

Applications

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Previous experience of designing activities/products in innovation, commercialisation, consultancy and training that create demand for a physical space
- Competency in fully developing these activities and pulling together an offer suitable for different external stakeholders
- Previous experience of developing systems to support facilities use, such as those named in the deliverables above.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Understanding of the brief
2. Experience and expertise (as detailed above)
3. Plan of work including proposed milestones
4. Value for money

To apply, please provide a document explaining how you meet the above criteria and listing your areas of expertise. There is a budget of up to £9,950 including VAT for this work.

Clarifying questions can be directed to alison2.davis@uwe.ac.uk. Please send applications to nicola.temple@uwe.ac.uk no later than 12:00pm on 7 February 2025.