



- Position Title:** **DARE Academic-in-Residence**
- Status:** **12-month unsalaried honorary appointment.** The terms of the appointment will vary depending on the academic, who may be from any discipline, but is ideally for one complete academic year.
- Accountable to:** **DARE Partnership Project Team** which comprises of representatives from the University of Leeds and Opera North.

For 15 years DARE has been the flagship partnership between the University of Leeds and Opera North, making a joint contribution to learning and practice in the cultural sector.

Over the years, DARE has worked with a number of academics who have been granted honorary status as DARE Academics-in-Residence. Each has been involved in working alongside Opera North to undertake original research into aspects of the company's work, create new material and deliver academic and/or public-facing events.

Main Purpose of the Role

The aim of the residency is to provide opportunities for an academic from any academic field working at the University of Leeds to explore their area of practice-based research alongside the operations of Opera North, one of the UK's five national opera companies.

The DARE Academic-in-Residence will have access to staff, performers, rehearsals and performances as well as desk space at the Howard Opera Centre to explore their work on a part-time basis alongside their usual academic role. During the residency there may also be opportunities to connect with Opera North audiences and partners in the academic, cultural and community sectors.

To guide the role-holder in understanding the working structures, practices and culture of Opera North, support will be provided by a dedicated senior staff member throughout the residency to act as an ally/facilitator. The role-holder will also benefit from regular liaison and engagement with senior staff at the University of Leeds.

In addition, the DARE Academic-in-Residence will be supported to:

- give talks or engage with the wider university community, public and other audiences about their work.

The DARE Academic-in-Residence will be required to:

- participate in the evaluation of the residency
- provide documentation on the residency experience for use in reports, publications and presentations, and on the DARE/Opera North/University of Leeds website
- positively represent the DARE partnership.

Funding of £1000 is available to support research activity, subject to prior approval.

For further information and to apply

Please apply in writing with a CV and expression of interest (of no more than 500 words which communicates your:

- approach to enhancing one or more of the themes outlined in Opera North's Research Agenda:

1. Develop our artistic quality, innovation & repertoire e.g.

- a) Explore the nature of creativity
- b) Apply and integrate digital & immersive technologies and live performance
- c) Explore new directions and artistic form in contemporary opera

2. Ensure diversity and inclusion in our work e.g.

- a) Improve access to our work
- b) Understand and address contemporary issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion
- c) Co-create new knowledge relevant to the issues in contemporary society

3. Connect with our community e.g.

- a) Measure the impact of specific educational and community engagement programmes
- b) Support creative health & wellbeing initiatives
- c) Demonstrate our commitment to supporting refugees

4. Demonstrate & advocate the value of culture to our society e.g.

a) Measure the public impact of our work and that of the wider arts and cultural sector

b) Contribute to the development of policy affecting the creative industries

5. *Ensure a sustainable business e.g.*

a) Develop artists & creative careers

b) Engage with our audiences through our venues

c) Operate in an environmentally sustainable way

d) Enhance our operational resilience

- proposed path of inquiry related to your research/methodological orientation and experience
- envisaged outputs

You can include appropriate supporting material to demonstrate the quality of your work e.g. photographs, websites, video clips/written material.

Applications should be emailed to Becky Smith, Head of Academic Partnerships, Opera North becky.smith@operanorth.co.uk

Application Deadline: 2nd October

Application reviews and interviews will be conducted by a panel from both the University of Leeds and Opera North.

If you have questions or would find a preliminary conversation helpful to frame your proposal, we are open to this. Please contact Becky Smith to arrange this.

Past DARE Academics-in-Residence have included:

Most recently, Prof. Edward Venn, Professor of Music at the University of Leeds, whose specialities include opera studies, music theory and music analysis has spent a year working alongside the company to bring together diverse voices from all areas of the performing arts and academia for a series of discussions and events questioning how (and which) audiences listen, of who has the right to tell certain stories, and how organisations facilitate or inhibit authentic creative voices. Professor Venn's residency also included the facilitation of an exhibition displayed at the University of Leeds focusing on race, ethics and representation in operatic storytelling.

Prof. Karen Burland-Clark, a University of Leeds Professor of Applied Music Psychology, who undertook an ethnographic study of Opera North: Artistry, community, identity. Her research involved observing the development of various rehearsals and performances and consulting with Opera North performers to better understand the nature and impact of a professional career in music.

Edmund Gordon, writer of the critically acclaimed biography of Angela Carter and Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at King's College London, spent time with practitioners and students during Opera North's 2017 Fairy Tales season. He found the DARE programme to be "a hugely valuable initiative allowing academics to peer outside their discipline, gain first-hand insights into a vibrant artistic community, and present their research to fresh audiences."

Philip Kitcher, a John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, who became immersed in the creative process for Opera North's Ring cycle in 2016. He engaged with the creative team, wrote for the programme and lectured at the University of Leeds.

About DARE

[DARE](#) is a unique collaboration between **Opera North** and the **University of Leeds**, the first partnership of its kind in the UK. DARE celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 2022 and is a world leader in building collaborations between the arts and higher education.

As two of the UK's leading institutions of culture and education Opera North and the University of Leeds fuse the artistic with the academic, combining the very best of both organisations to inspire and stimulate new ways of thinking and working.

Initiatives including the creation of new work, research, conferences, work-based learning programmes, fellowships, scholarships and the sharing of ideas and aspirations are having a positive impact on students, audiences and the wider sector – and making a positive contribution to the business development of our organisations.

About Opera North

[Opera North](#) is a national opera company based in Leeds, and is a leading UK arts organisation. Rooted in the North of England, international in outlook, we create extraordinary experiences, every day.

Our award-winning work tours to theatre stages and concert halls throughout the North and beyond, including to London and major international festivals, and we curate an eclectic artistic programme of gigs, concerts, spoken word and film in the Howard Assembly Room. Our aim is to make bold, innovative, ambitious work and share it in new ways.

Opera North believes opera and music is for everyone, and champions diversity in artists, repertoire and audiences. Through its Education department, Opera North seeks to encourage people to explore the work of Opera North; to connect with communities and inspire each generation through opera and the artistic resources of the company.

Opera North is grateful for the generous support of Arts Council England and Leeds City Council, sponsorship from the private sector, trusts and individuals, the Friends of Opera North, the Opera North Future Fund and the box office income from its audiences, which allows us to continue to mount our award-winning work.

About the University of Leeds

The University of Leeds is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, with more than 38,000 students from more than 150 different countries. It is renowned globally for the quality of its teaching and research.

A values-driven university, it harnesses expertise in research and education to help shape a better future for humanity, working through collaboration to tackle inequalities, achieve societal impact and drive change.

The University is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities, and plays a significant role in the Turing, Rosalind Franklin and Royce Institutes.

8 August 2023