

Think
new things
Make
new connections

Role: Ditchley Education and Democracy Networks Co-Lead

Short Description

The Education and Democracy Networks Co-Lead is a one-year role focused on taking forward Ditchley's work across themes of education and democracy through the methodology and technology Ditchley has developed. She/he will help sustain Ditchley's growing education and democracy networks (higher education leadership; grassroots democracy-building organisations, politics, regional engagement and so forth) with an underlying focus on equity and connection to climate and technology themes. She/he will engage with all aspects of the Ditchley team in their work, and contribute to the organisation's thinking on the cohesion and coherence of democratic systems and values. We are seeking two individuals for this role, who will work as a unit within the wider team, to help achieve outcomes for related Ditchley education and democracy work.

Timeline

This job posting will close at 5 pm BST on Friday, 23 July. Those selected to participate in interviews will be contacted on Monday, 26 July with interviews taking place soon after. The successful applicant will begin in September.

Overview

Over the last three years, Ditchley has undertaken an ambitious programme of work related to agency (individual and collective) and its vital role in the renewal of democracies. We define agency as a sense of having at least partial control and access to tools to try to shape one's path, rather than just being subject to forces beyond one's control. In a world of uncertainty, having agency can be a catalyst, reassuring us that actions matter. A sense of agency or its lack can be the difference between a stable direction in a democratic society, or a lurching stagger leading to apathy and chaos.

If we want to show that democracies are where people flourish best, then we will need to continue to reflect on how citizens can retain a belief in their personal and collective ability to influence, to act, and ultimately to change the course of their country. Over the last years, we have been cultivating networks in education and democracy across the UK, the US and Canada focused on how these areas contribute to a society in which individuals and communities have agency. The aim is to build a dynamic community of individuals and organisations—spanning divides of political opinion, expertise, geography and generation—with this theme of agency at its core.

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DITCHLEY

The Ditchley Education & Democracy Networks Co-Lead is a one-year full-time role focused on implementing the Ditchley method—merging technology, research and person-to-person engagement—in order to help bring about democratic renewal. This individual will manage and grow Ditchley education and democracy networks, including a focus on the UK North East and the US Midwest as key regions. They will also engage when necessary with leaders in adjacent areas, such as climate change and sustainable development. The need for skill in the engagement of networks and connecting across divides comes at a time where socioeconomic gaps are widening, and where societies must bring people together around common ideas and sense of purpose.

The successful candidate will over time develop meaningful relationships across aspiring, current and eminent individuals in education, democracy and in adjacent themes. They will receive rigorous training in the Ditchley approach to connections and will be exposed to innovative thinking across academia, data science, technology and other related areas. The experience of connecting across divides will help to sharpen the candidate's people skills and connecting ability, as well as enrich perspective and improve their critical thinking in order to propel them in their later career.

Job description

- Map the issues (in the realm of existing education and democracy work) that need to be defined and possible candidate solutions.
- Map the community of people and institutions who have influence over these issues.
- Sustain the Ditchley education and democracy networks in collaboration with the Chief of Staff, segmenting and organising these.
- Provide key insights to relevant partners (individuals and organisations).
- Achieve quarterly targets on education and democracy network growth and other key areas.
- Collaborate with other staff members in making connections across themes (for instance, across climate and technology).
- Embed racial equity efforts across the Ditchley community.
- Conduct pre- and follow-up calls on Ditchley education and democracy themed sessions. Complete concise summary reports on Ditchley education and democracy sessions.
- Support delivery of major events focused on renewal of democracies.
- Support Ditchley's work on equity—with BAME, female and other underrepresented groups and individuals.
- Collaborate with research interns on events related research and analysis in the areas of education and democracy.
- Contribute innovative thinking on Ditchley's efforts to identify and reward exceptional talent from all corners.

Objectives

- Complete the Ditchley education and democracy thematic communities across the UK, followed by the US and Canada.
- Finalise the Ditchley regional networks in the North East of England and the US Midwest.
- Achieve quarterly targets focused on the diversification of participations in education and democracy communities.

- Ensure that insights from all education and democracy focused work are better understood by decision-makers.
- Catalyse sufficient consensus on the specific roles and opportunities in education as part of the fostering of democratic agency, between countries and companies in the political West.
- Support UK (in particular) and US and Canadian efforts to improve democratic agency at the level of the citizen—through wider engagement across sectors and divides (geographical, generational, political, etc.).
- Through success on the above objectives, bring about meaningful real-world outcomes in the target areas of work.

Requirements

- Two years of professional experience, or a relevant masters degree.
- An operations and outcomes-focused mindset.
- Team player, with exceptional listening skills. Needs to be interested in others' stories and life paths.
- Experience in organising people in pressure situations, such as in politics, grassroots community organising, or public/private sector stakeholder relations.
- Experience in roles where there is a win/lose outcome (e.g. in a political campaign; entrepreneurship; breaking a story in journalism; sport).
- Experience, or at least strong interest, in increasing access to opportunity for underrepresented talent.
- Excellent writing abilities for mainstream audiences.
- A desire to learn with individuals working in technology, data science and research.
- An interest in relationship-building as part of one's wider career trajectory and a belief in the importance of helping to foster meaningful connection between people.
- Highly disciplined worker, self-starting and entrepreneurial (creatively attempts to solve problems without relying strictly on guidance).

About Ditchley

Ditchley works with people from across the world to help sustain peace, freedom and order.

Ditchley's approach aims to build new common ground so that we can move toward solutions to complex problems. We believe that change is driven, and managed, by personal relationships, not reports or declarations. We engage local and global communities over time rather than chase headlines. We are not tied to the agenda of any government, political party or commercial interest.

We are dedicated to creating space and time for deep reflection, sharing ideas and making new connections across divides at a time when our systems find this difficult and our challenges are interconnected. In an inspiring place, we enable spirited but respectful discussion across divisions of expertise, geography, generations and political opinion. We work constantly to get better at this, harnessing the power of tradition and innovation in equal measure. No one leaves Ditchley without thinking new things.

By applying for this vacancy, you are giving permission for The Ditchley Foundation to contact you and retain your details. For more information, please contact Katie Williams, Major Events and Projects Lead, (info [at] ditchley.com) for a copy of The Foundation's Candidate Privacy Notice.