

*Think*  
*new things*  
*Make*  
*new connections*

**Role:** Education and Democracy Networks Lead

### **Short Description**

The Education and Democracy Networks Lead is a six-month role focused on taking forward Ditchley's work – combining networks, technology and research – in helping to bring about democratic renewal. This individual will put the *Ditchley National Framework for Lifelong Learning* into practice with a focus on equity and regional engagement across the UK. They will engage with all aspects of the Ditchley team in their work and refine their skills in network-building as well as their thinking on topics related to the development of modern education and democracy.

*Remuneration is highly competitive within the non-profit sector.*

### **Timeline**

This job posting will close at 5 pm BST on Friday, 6 November. Those selected to participate in interviews will be contacted on Friday, 13 November with interviews taking place soon after beginning on Monday, 16 November. The successful interviewee will be notified on Friday, 20 November with a view to beginning as soon as possible after.

Applications should be submitted in the form of a CV of no more than three pages, together with a covering letter that addresses any previous work you have undertaken focused on network or community building; which divides in society you believe most need to be bridged, and what actions you believe can help to connect across these or other divides. Please send your application to Emerson Csorba, Chief of Staff, [emerson@ditchley.com](mailto:emerson@ditchley.com)

### **Overview**

Over the last three years, Ditchley has undertaken an ambitious programme of work related to modern education and its vital role in the renewal of democracies. We have been cultivating networks across the UK, the US and Canada focused on lifelong learning but always keeping a wider focus on education and its connection to our democratic systems and values.

Our approach echoes previous Ditchley efforts on the theme of education. In 1964, a Ditchley conference on educational television helped to sow the seeds of The Open University. This took place in the wake of the Second World War, at time of rebuilding and reimagining in British society, and we have since engaged over 1,800 exceptional leaders in education in Ditchley discussions.

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**DITCHLEY**

We are undertaking our current work in Transatlantic partnership with Lumina Foundation, the leading American foundation focused on post-high school education. This includes engagement with UK social enterprises focused on identifying and empowering underserved and underrepresented talent, as well as a series of conferences and working group style discussions with hundreds of aspiring, current and eminent individuals in the education sector and in related fields.

Now we are expediting this work, widening our engagement across networks, refining our approach to connecting people and carrying forward important discussions into successful action and delivery. The pandemic crisis makes bridging across divides even more important, with a need to enable spirited but respectful discussion across divisions of expertise, geography, generations and political opinion. Democratic countries such as the UK and the US also face the massive challenge of engaging millions of adults in new forms of work, preparing for the emerging future.

The Ditchley Education and Democracy Networks Lead is a six-month, full-time role (with the possibility of extension) 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 help grow Ditchley education and democracy networks, with focuses on equity and regional engagement across UK cities and towns (for example, engaging leaders in Newcastle, Carlisle and Consett). They will also engage when necessary with leaders in adjacent areas, such as climate change and sustainability. The need for skill in network-building and connecting across divides comes at a time where socioeconomic gaps are widening, and where new leadership is necessary in order to bring people together around common ideas and sense of mission.

The successful candidate will over time develop networks across aspiring, current and eminent individuals in education and democracy. They will receive rigorous training in the Ditchley approach to networks 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**

- Implement the Ditchley method with a focus on the themes of education and democracy.
- Put the *Ditchley National Framework for Lifelong Learning* – a document we have developed over the last year – into practice, connecting across the main divides outlined.
- Conduct pre- and follow-up calls on Ditchley education and democracy sessions and liaise with the Chief of Staff and Chief Technology Officer in reflection on and analysis of these discussions.
- Complete summary notes/reports on Ditchley education and democracy sessions.
- Liaise with the Impact Lead on the development of the Ditchley palette of ideas for renewal of democracy and education themes.
- Lead a successful pilot regional network-building effort in the Metropolitan Area of Newcastle upon Tyne as well as Carlisle and Consett.
- Maintain regional networks in other select cities.

- Collaborate with the Major Events and Projects Lead and Chief of Staff on preparation for and delivery of the Ditchley Second Summit.
- Collaborate with the Director, Major Events and Projects Lead and Chief of Staff in strengthening Ditchley's work on equity – with BAME, female and other underrepresented groups and individuals.
- Collaborate with Chief Technology Officer and 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.

## Requirements

- Two years of professional experience, or a relevant masters degree ('relevance' is to be interpreted widely – it is up to the applicant to explain relevance).
- 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 with some leadership responsibility, where there is a win/lose outcome (e.g. in a political campaign; entrepreneurship; breaking a story in journalism; elite sport).
- Experience, or at least very strong interest, in increasing access to opportunity for underrepresented talent.
- Experience, or at least very strong interest in, ideas across a variety of domains (e.g. philosophy, theology, psychology, cultural studies, social network theory) as well as in the exchange of ideas.
- Excellent writing abilities for mainstream audiences (preferable to academic writing).
- A desire to learn with individuals working in technology, data science and research.
- An interest in network-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.*

*The Ditchley Foundation, Ditchley Park, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 4ER*