



## Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

### *Occidental College Computer Science Department*

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#### **POSITION SUMMARY**

The Department of Computer Science at Occidental College (OXY) invites applications for a full-time postdoctoral scholar in the area of Computational Media focusing on Virtual and Augmented Reality, Computer Graphics, Computational Geometry, or a related field.

The postdoctoral scholar will be a part of a four and a half-year grant funded through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for *Arts and Technology in a Cultural Metropolis* (spring 2019 through 2022-2023) that will enhance collaboration between our arts departments and computer science, integrate arts and technology, and effectively advance teaching and learning in the digital liberal arts.

The position will begin in August 2020, for a two-year appointment. The successful candidate will be based in Los Angeles, California. The course load will be the equivalent of two courses in the first year and three courses in the second year of appointment.

Occidental is a nationally-ranked small liberal arts college recognized for its diverse student body, its commitment to academic excellence and equity, and its outstanding undergraduate research programs. In the Computer Science Department, we are committed to a future where computer science is accessible to all. For the arts and humanities, computer science has provided a new medium for analysis and new modes of expression such as social media, animation, and interactive games. Through this fellowship, we are seeking candidates who can enhance support for computer science students who are interested in media, music, and/or the performing and creative arts, and for art students who are interested in computational techniques. For more information about the Computer Science Department, please visit the department website at <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/areas-study/computer-science>. The mission of Occidental College is accessible at <https://www.oxy.edu/about-oxy/mission>.

#### **SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS**

The successful candidate will be expected to assist with supervision of relevant student thesis and research projects in the departments of Media, Arts, and Culture, and Computer Science. They will also develop cross-disciplinary courses for first- and second-year students in collaboration with arts faculty, organize a summer institute for faculty, and collaborate with existing researchers on campus.

The following statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by an individual assigned to this job.

- The Mellon postdoctoral fellow will develop new courses for first- and second-year students, and co-teach the second-year course in collaboration with arts faculty and professors of the practice. These courses will introduce

students to cross-disciplinary collaborative techniques, which will prepare them for upper division courses and research projects that explore connections between art and technology.

- The fellow will organize summer workshops (the “Arts and Technology Summer Institute”) in 2021 and 2022 to help faculty incorporate technologies into existing coursework or to inspire new scholarly projects or collaborations.
- The fellow is expected to work independently and also collaboratively with faculty in the Media, Arts, and Culture, and Computer Science departments.
- The fellow is expected to prepare for a future career in academia as they are developing their pedagogy and sharing their expertise with the Occidental community. Fellows will maintain disciplinary research and professionalization, and will receive a modest budget for professional development.

## QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will have:

- a Ph.D. in Computer Science or a related area to be completed by Fall 2020;
- expertise in Computational Media focusing on Virtual and Augmented Reality, Computer Graphics, Computational Geometry, or a related field;
- familiarity with art applications and expertise in a relevant area of computational media/art practices, such as web design and coding, app development, data visualization tools and platforms, visual programming software such as Max/MSP/Jitter, 3D geometric modeling, AI as it relates to creativity, or similar;
- an excellent track record in research and teaching;
- demonstrated oral and written communication skills;
- ability to think creatively about collaboration and interdisciplinary inquiry;
- ability to interact comfortably with interdisciplinary academic and campus partners; and
- strong interpersonal and decision-making skills.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline for receiving application materials is Monday, January 27th, 2020.

Please submit the following as electronic files to [compsearch@oxy.edu](mailto:compsearch@oxy.edu) with the subject line “Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Application” (1) a two-page cover letter that addresses your interest in the position and how it meets the qualifications specified above; (2) a teaching statement that addresses diversity in the classroom; (3) a research statement that addresses how undergraduates might be involved; (4) your curriculum vitae. Please arrange to have at least three letters of references emailed to [compsearch@oxy.edu](mailto:compsearch@oxy.edu), one of which addresses teaching.

**Salary and Benefits:** The fellow will be considered a faculty (9-month) employee of Occidental College with an annual salary of \$55,000 plus the standard benefits and leave accrued by employees.

Questions about the position should be directed to Search Committee Chair Kathryn Leonard at [compsearch@oxy.edu](mailto:compsearch@oxy.edu).

*Occidental College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, sexual orientation, military and veteran status, or any other*

*characteristic protected by State or Federal Law. We strongly encourage all underrepresented candidates, especially women and persons of color, to apply.*

*As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.*

*We will consider for employment all qualified Applicants, including those with Criminal Histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles' Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.*