

## The Eccleston Sculpture Commission for Claudia Parsons Hall

Thanks to the generosity of donors Barry and Valerie Eccleston, LU Arts is delighted to invite proposals for a sculptural work for Claudia Parsons Hall on Loughborough University's East Midlands campus.

We would like to invite cross disciplinary teams of students to develop proposals for the sculpture. As Claudia Parsons was the first hall to be named after a woman, we also want the teams to include **at least one** female student.

The winning team will receive **£8,000** to produce the work and a fee of **£2,000**. An experienced mentor will be appointed to provide guidance and support throughout the construction phase.

This competition is designed to encourage communication and collaboration between students from different disciplines, combining skills to produce an exciting new artwork for Claudia Parsons Hall.

Further information is below. For enquiries, please contact Nick Slater ([n.slater@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.slater@lboro.ac.uk))

### The Brief

Two potential sites have been identified for the work: the entrance to the Hall of residence and the courtyard space. Images of these locations are included in the separate document, but you are strongly encouraged to visit the hall and view the identified sites in person. If there is another site that you feel strongly about and you would like us to consider you can email us, in advance of your submission, to see if it would be possible. Please do not submit a proposal for a different location without checking with us first.

We are very open to the nature of the work proposed. The work could have a functional role, whether that be some form of structure/shelter or seating or way marking. Alternatively, it could be purely sculptural adding visual stimulus to the location and providing a symbol for the hall.

Applicants will need to carefully consider the following in the design of their work:

- The limitations of the budget offered and factoring in any foundations or fixings required
- Health and safety considerations
- Durability of the materials
- Any maintenance requirements for the work

It will be important that you articulate how these aspects have been considered in your proposal.

## Who can apply?

This opportunity is open to all current Loughborough University students (including PGT and PGR and Loughborough London students). We are looking for applications from teams of students rather than individuals. A team can be made up of 2-6 students and as previously stated, must include at least one female student.

We hope that this commission will encourage conversations and collaboration between subjects and would particularly welcome applications from teams consisting of students from different subject areas.

## How to enter

We are looking for ideas that are imaginative but also realistic. We are not looking for highly developed proposals at this stage, rather they should take the form of a single PDF document which includes the following information:

- A cover letter with information on the members of the team and their backgrounds. This should include an identified main contact/team leader with their email address and phone number (max 1 side A4)
- Visualisations of the proposed work (max 2 sides A4)
- Information on proposed material
- A short statement on your artistic concept and any practical considerations (max 1 side A4)
- A proposed breakdown of how the £8,000 production budget will be spent. Production costs here may include materials, transportation, installation and expert advice (e.g. consultation with a structural engineer). This need only be indicative at this stage; support will be provided for the winning team throughout the process.

The proposal document should be emailed to Nick Slater ([n.slater@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.slater@lboro.ac.uk)) with 'Eccleston sculpture commission' in the subject line and no additional information in the body of the email.

## Joining a team

We realise that there will be some individual students who would like to enter a proposal but do not have relevant contacts with other students to form or join a team. Therefore, we are running an online event to help bring students together. This will take place on **Wednesday 24 November from 12-2pm**. Although you don't need to be able to login for the full two hours, you will need to book a place at this event and provide some simple background information. This will help us match students up

and put you in breakout rooms. If you are not able to attend this event but you are interested in being involved then please email Nick Slater ([n.slater@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.slater@lboro.ac.uk)) with your name, the course you are studying and a short paragraph about yourself e.g. skills, interests, experience. We will do our best to match you to a team. **Please note** that by contacting us in this way you will be consenting to LU Arts passing on your details to other interested students.

Booking details for this event will be added to the [LU Arts website](#) by Wednesday 17 November.

## Timescales

Deadline for applications: **Monday 10 January 2022.**

We hope to install the finished work by the start of the academic year 2022/23.

## The Process

Proposals will be considered by a panel consisting of Barry and Valerie Eccleston (the donors), the Warden for Claudia Parsons Hall and representatives from LU Arts, Facilities Management and the School of Design and Creative Arts.

Following this meeting, the panel may contact applicants to request further information about their proposals. A deadline for responding will be issued at this time.

The winning team will be announced no later than the end of February 2022. A full contract will be issued at this point, to include information on the care of the work throughout its lifespan.

A mentor will be appointed to work closely with the winning team to realise their design. Along with staff from LU Arts and University Facilities Management, they will ensure that the design is safe and feasible; and will be available to advise with aspects of project delivery (e.g. budget, construction, installation).

## Additional context information

Claudia Parsons Hall is the newest hall in Loughborough University, named after Claudia Parsons, an English engineer, traveller and Loughborough alumna. Claudia attended the University from 1919-1922, graduating with an Automotive Engineering degree, and as one of just three women on a course of 300 men. Following this, Claudia became a highly respected member of the Women's Engineering Society, and the first woman to circumnavigate the globe by car.

The Hall has 480 rooms (including the Performance Athletes Block). As well as being part of the Student Village, it is also situated close to the Students' Union, Central Park teaching buildings and sports facilities. The state-of-the-art hub includes the Common Room, a study space, reception, and the launderette.

Links to further information:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudia\\_Parsons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudia_Parsons)

<https://www.cplboro.com/>

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/accommodation/halls/claudia-parsons/>