



Job Description: Project Manager (Outriders Africa)

Contract

Freelance from March 2019

Fee

£10,000 for 12 months (March 2019 to March 2020) with review thereafter.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

The Edinburgh International Book Festival, a non-profit making organisation, is a distinctive international showcase celebrating the written word, literature and ideas. It brings leading and emerging international, British and Scottish authors and thinkers together to inspire each other and audiences in an extensive programme of public events.

In recent years, debate, discussion, performance and interactive events have become prominent features of the Festival, complementing the more traditional interview-style events and readings, and contributing to the Book Festival's reputation as a powerful forum for the public to exchange views with writers and experts on a wide range of issues: social, ethical and political as well as literary and cultural. At the heart of the Book Festival's activity is an integrated approach to creative learning and education with the aim of expanding participation in democratic discussion, fostering a love of reading and developing engaged, knowledgeable audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The first Edinburgh International Book Festival took place in Charlotte Square Gardens in 1983 with around 30 author events; now it stages over 900 each August, attracting around 250,000 visits, making it the largest public celebration of the written word in the world. The Book Festival takes place in a temporary, tented Festival Village, created and built each year in Charlotte Square Gardens and also more recently on neighbouring George Street.

The Book Festival's children's programme offers a comprehensive series of author events, activities and workshops for audiences ranging from babies to young adults, attracting audiences of 20,000 each year. In addition, an extensive schools programme is created especially for primary and secondary pupils, attended by around 14,000 school children.

Through an award from players of People's Postcode Lottery, the Book Festival has expanded its activities to create On the Road, a wide-ranging programme of events, projects and mini-Festivals which take place in communities around Scotland across the year.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival has an annual turnover of around £2.9 million. Under 12% of income comes from Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council to support core operations. The rest is raised from ticket sales and the sales of books through the Book Festival's highly successful independent bookshops in addition to corporate sponsorship, trusts, foundations and individual donations.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is a founder member of Festivals Edinburgh, the organisation created by Edinburgh's 11 major Festivals to support their joint strategic development and maintain their position as global leaders.

Outriders: background

In 2017 the Book Festival supported five Scottish writers (Jenni Fagan, Kevin MacNeil, Stef Smith, Harry Giles and Malachy Tallack) to travel on curated journeys across the Americas with a fellow writer from their destination. This was Outriders - an ambitious exploration of the idea that in shifting, disorienting times, writers can make a unique contribution to our understanding of the world, giving voice to untold stories and providing new insights on contemporary geopolitical contexts.

Outriders had a significant impact on the participating writers and created important opportunities for discourse within the Festival. We are now in a position to develop the model and realise its full potential through new editions of Outriders beginning in Africa in 2019.

Outriders Africa: 2019-2020

Outriders Africa will take place across 2019 and 2020. Having spent the past two years developing knowledge networks in the African continent, we will invite five Scottish writers to each form a partnership with a writer based in Africa who will provide different insights and an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration.

Each pair of writers will embark on a journey through a region of Africa, meeting writers and communities along their way and engaging in discussions around issues including migration, colonial legacies, inequalities and the impact of globalisation and environmental change.

Our proposal builds on the 2017 Outriders project through the creation of longer term legacies for Scottish writers, the development of an international creative network with Scotland at its centre, and unique opportunities for more diverse audiences to meet international authors and experience innovative new work.

Our emerging plans for the writers' journeys are as follows:

- A journey from Nigeria (starting at the home of Africa's great writer Wole Soyinka) along the Slave Coast of West Africa, through Togo, Benin, Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- A journey from Brazzaville on the River Congo (famously the location of Joseph Conrad's novel *Heart of Darkness*), travelling south into Angola and Namibia, spending time with the San people (formerly known as Bushmen) of the Kalahari Desert.
- A journey from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Soweto, across South Africa via Lesotho and Pretoria, into Zimbabwe to meet literary communities in these different areas and to explore the realities of post-Apartheid South Africa.
- A journey across Northern Africa, from Morocco's capital Rabat through Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, meeting francophone writing communities along the way.
- From Nairobi, Kenya, along the 'Lunatic Line' railway route to Mombasa, and then south through Zambia and Tanzania to Malawi.

The Outriders will include emerging and established Scottish and international writers representing a range of practices, nationalities, ethnicities, backgrounds and genders. Writers will be chosen based on the quality of their work, but also with consideration of the themes they explore, plus their willingness to embrace the potential for creative collaboration whilst undertaking a potentially challenging journey.

We will work with writers, poets, storytellers, playwrights and filmmakers, selected with the support of our network of international partners who help us discover and reach voices who are outwith the mainstream or challenge accepted narratives. In 2019 our key partners will include the Ake Arts Festival in Nigeria, the Jalada Collective in Kenya, the British Council, Institut Francais and many others as appropriate.

Each Scottish and international Outrider will be commissioned to create new work in response to their journey and its geopolitical context. The terms of these commissions will be deliberately broad and participating writers will be encouraged to explore new forms of creative expression and the potential of collaboration with their travelling partner, with close support from the Festival.

The Outriders will return to the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August 2019 and subsequent festivals to showcase the work produced in response to their experience. A series of discussions with each pair will also explore in greater depth the experiences and insights from their journey, enabling audiences to connect to the contemporary political and social context, and respond to a rapidly changing world.

Timeline

March/April 2019	Planning, travel logistics, contracting, network and relationship building
April - June 2019	First two journeys take place in Africa
August 2019	First two journeys are showcased at the Edinburgh International Book Festival
Autumn 2019	Third journey takes place
Spring 2019	Fourth and fifth journeys take place
August 2020	Final three journeys are showcased at the Edinburgh International Book Festival
September/ October 2020	Evaluation and reporting

Key duties & responsibilities

- Work with the programme directors, taking on board their vision and ideas, to shape a coherent programme of journeys.
- Develop and nurture partnerships with diverse organisations and individuals.
- Develop a robust planning and delivery framework to ensure Outriders Africa is integrated within the Festival cycle and communicated across the team.
- Review and develop frameworks for evaluating the progress and process of the project.
- Assess, monitor and report on progress, working closely with the team and partners to identify risks and overcome any challenges.
- Support the Festival Director in the broader reporting of Outriders Africa and its impact to stakeholders, internally and externally.
- Work with the Marketing and Press teams to ensure a strategic approach to articulating the project to audiences.
- Work with the Head of Operations & Finance to set and manage budgets, ensuring the work is properly resourced.
- Manage the administrative and logistical requirements of the project (contracts, fees, travel, accommodation, venue hire etc).
- Travel abroad in the course of the work in order to ensure the successful delivery of the project.

Person specification

- Experience of managing complex projects
- The ability to translate ambitious creative ideas into interesting and deliverable projects
- Experience of developing and managing productive and mutually beneficial partnerships
- Experience of working closely with authors and/or artists
- Experience of planning and delivering events
- Experience of setting and managing budgets
- Understanding of the cultural landscape of Scotland and Africa
- Knowledge of contemporary literature and festivals, with experience of working in a live literature or arts organisation
- Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate persuasively and with integrity
- A high level of literacy and articulation, with excellent communication skills
- The ability to work sensitively with individuals or groups and build productive relationships
- The capacity to make decisions and solve problems quickly and creatively
- Good IT skills and the ability to self-support administratively
- A strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- A positive, proactive and flexible approach, even in the face of challenges

Terms and conditions

The Project Manager will work to agreed schedules and deliverables. We estimate an initial time commitment of around two days per week, with a view to increasing this during the key periods of the project. The Project Manager will be expected to attend regular meetings at the Book Festival offices. Desk space and resources can be provided as appropriate.

The role is offered as a freelance contract and the post holder will be fully responsible for their own tax including any National Insurance contributions.

We are committed to making the Book Festival as accessible as possible to sponsors, customers, participants and staff. If you have any specific access requirements, please let us know and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is an equal opportunity employer and an Investor in People.

Applications

To apply for this position, please send your CV and a covering letter outlining your interest in and suitability for the role to roland.gulliver@edbookfest.co.uk

To discuss the role informally, please contact Roland Gulliver, Associate Director on 0131 718 5649 or roland.gulliver@edbookfest.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 4 February, 17:00

Interviews: Friday 8 February

Interviews will be held at the Book Festival offices at 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd has its registered office at 5a Charlotte Square, EH2 4DR and is a company limited by guarantee (no SC 79939) with charitable status (SCO10120).