Job Title: Qualified Selves	**Present Grade:** 6
Department/College: Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (Design)	
Directly responsible to: Prof Leon Cruickshank	
Supervisory responsibility for: None	

Other contacts

Internal: Colleagues and students in ImaginationLancaster, Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Data Science Institute together with colleagues in other faculties, Research Support Office and other relevant university actors.

External: PI and RAs at Edinburgh University. Partners and stakeholders in the Qualified Selves project, the EPSRC, professional bodies, employers, business organisations, local and UK government organisations, academic and research networks.

Major Duties:

The primary goal of this project is to improve how individuals make sense of personally and automatically generated data (from social media to activity trackers to home IoT devices) in order to enhance personal decision making, increase productivity, and improve quality of life. The project will comprise a novel 18-month co-creation process in collaboration with Microsoft Research and a group of participants with extreme amounts of personal data. The following cross-cutting questions drive the project:

1. What does it mean to craft meaning from personal data, specifically what aspects of personal data need to be rendered intelligible to empower people to make better decisions?
2. How can individuals better make sense of large personal datasets, specifically what tools and techniques would enable people to analyse their data across applications?
3. How do these tools and techniques generalise, specifically how might we afford everyday people with access to their own data in ways that add real value?

The major duties of the research associate are:

1. Identify, recruit and manage a participant cohort for this 18-month project.
2. To Work with participants and research team to understand personal data use, as well as the challenges and opportunities for innovation.
3. To work with the research associates at the partner institutions and academic staff to design and deliver a series of co-creation workshops.
4. To Work in collaboration with technology-based researchers at Edinburgh University and Microsoft Research to imagine and prototype digital tools that help our participants manage their data, to ultimately develop further into commercial products and services

5. To work with other research associates to incorporate user feedback, feedback from project partners / advisory board and evaluation within the iterative design cycle.
6. To analyze and synthesize study results and develop appropriate dissemination material for the various dissemination activities.
7. To participate in Qualified Selves project meetings as well as meetings with external partners. Tasks to include preparation and presentation of talks, writing of reports, and active participation in discussions.
8. To write and present conference papers at top-ranked international conferences and to write journal papers for publication in top-ranked international journals.