**Job Title:** Research Associate – Chatty Factories  
**Present Grade:** 6P

**Department/College:**  Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (Design)  

**Directly responsible to:** Dr Daniel Richards

**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:** Partners and stakeholders in the Chatty Factories 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 explore ‘digital twin-driven product design’ through the design, prototyping and testing of digital twinning technologies that seek to supercharge existing design processes associated with downhill racing bikes. By visualizing novel streams of product-use data that can be interacted with by designers, the project aims to identify opportunities for design improvement and innovation that can be tested in collaboration with the team at Atherton Bikes.

In this role, you will be working closely with colleagues at Edinburgh and Cardiff Universities to develop tools/techniques and disseminate the findings, and with the design team at Atherton Bikes to test the tools and evaluate the approach.

The major duties of the research associate are:

1. To work with the research associates at the partner institutions and academic staff to design and test the digital twinning techniques for modelling product use-data.
2. To apply design and technical expertise (where needed) to develop research prototypes that support the research goals.
3. To work with other research associates to incorporate user feedback, feedback from project partners / advisory board and evaluation within the iterative design cycle.
4. To analyze and synthesize study results and develop appropriate dissemination material for the various dissemination activities.
5. To participate in Chatty Factories 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.
6. To write high-quality conference and journal articles suitable for submission in appropriate conferences and journals.