Visual lead, Airwars Investigations and Accountability

The organisation

Airwars is a not-for-profit watchdog that tracks, assesses, and investigates civilian harm in conflict-affected countries. Through its investigative arm - Airwars Investigations and Accountability - the organisation conducts longform research and investigations, often with major international media partners, into civilian harm and its causes. These investigations often deploy innovative and compelling visual techniques and practices, with the aim of focusing attention on civilian harm and feeding into justice and accountability efforts.

The role

The individual is an integral part of the small Investigations and Accountability team, responsible for advancing the visual language of Airwars’ investigations and working collaboratively to develop and pioneer new methods for multimedia storytelling.

The right candidate will be

- Passionate about open source collaborative journalism, and new forms of investigations and accountability, particularly with regards to new methods / methodologies of storytelling
- Have a demonstrable interest in human rights, with a particular focus on justice and accountability in conflict

The key roles include

- Identifying, pitching and conducting investigations as part of the wider investigations team.
- Developing and standardising Airwars’ methods and platforms for multimedia storytelling.
- Pushing forward the unit’s work, through innovations in new techniques and tools in the open source and visual forensics fields.
- Designing and project managing the development of open-source and crowd-source tools for archiving, investigating and publishing data on subjects related to civilian harm.

Essential skills and competencies

We do not require any particular educational qualification for this role, though we are looking for the following essential skills and competencies:
- At least two years of relevant investigative, journalistic or research practice, with published examples.
- Open source and archiving skills, such as verification, newsgathering and database management.
- Analysis, interpretation and reconciliation of quantitative and qualitative data sets.
- Strong written and spoken English.
- Fluency with visual storytelling - including using the Adobe suite.
- Some experience using or training in: data visualisation (D3.js), geospatial visualisation (Mapbox.js, DeckGL), front-end development (eg. React, CSS, HTML, PHP), back-end development, or UX best practices.

**Additional desirable skills + competencies**

- Experience with 3D modelling, including but not limited to basic familiarity with Blender or Sketchfab.
- Additional language skills, with a particular preference for Arabic, Ukrainian or Russian.

**Terms**

- The organisation is currently based at Goldsmiths, University of London. As such there is a strong preference for London-based staff who can travel into our offices.
- London-based staff typically operate in a hybrid but flexible workplace – a mixture of office and remote work.
- Full time contract, 35 hours per week. Our office hours are 9.30-5.30, with some flexibility depending on employee needs.

**Salary and benefits**

The salary range for this position is currently between £30,000 and £33,000 dependent on experience. All UK-based applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

In this position, we will offer significant networking and career development opportunities - particularly in the field of open source investigation and conflict documentation and analysis.

**Additional information**

As we monitor incidents of civilian harm, this brings with it a risk of secondary trauma due to repeated exposure to difficult and violent content. While this risk is embedded in the nature of the work we do, we work to put support mechanisms and procedures in place to mitigate this risk.

Airwars strives to be an equal opportunities employer. We welcome in particular applications from communities often underrepresented in UK journalism, including people from conflict-affected nations who are entitled to work in the United Kingdom.

**Application process**

Send a one-page cover letter and CV or portfolio to jobs@airwars.org by August 6th, 2023, with the subject matter Visual Lead. We will contact shortlisted candidates only for an interview, which we expect to take place during the second half of August.