



**\_lab\_13**

## **Scientist in Residence (Short Term) Job Description**

**Lab\_13 Koli**  
**North Karelia, Finland**

### **Background**

Lab\_13 is a dedicated space in a school, managed by young people for young people, where investigation and experiment is driven by imagination. It is a space where scientific enquiry is not bound by the curriculum, but rather children are free to engage their own curiosity about science, technology, engineering and maths. All aspects of Lab\_13 are directed by a committee of children, including decisions about projects and the recruitment of a scientist in residence who supports the children in their learning. Lab\_13 is a space where children learn not just science, but how to be scientists.

We believe that there are five essential components to establishing a Lab\_13 – we define these as follows:

- The commitment of a champion at senior level
- A space that can be dedicated to the management by children
- A management committee of pupils
- The Scientist in Residence
- Questions prompted by the curiosity of pupils of all ages.

Please see the Lab\_13 Handbook (available on the Ignite! website) for more detail.

### **Lab\_13 Koli**

Koli is a small village of 300 people on the edge of the Koli National Park, famed for its forests and lakes - a landscape that inspired writers and artists, especially the composer, Sibelius. The village is in the administrative district of Lieksa and 70kms from the city of Joensuu (where there is a regional airport and a university).

Koli school – Kolin koulu in Finnish) is small, 22 pupils from age 7 to 15 in two classes, taught in the main by two teachers, Helena Jolkkonen and Jussi Nevalainen, with specialist teachers of English and Technology visiting each week.

There is information about the school here:

<https://translate.google.co.uk/translate?hl=en&sl=fi&u=http://www.lieksa.fi/kolin-koulu&prev=search>

though watch out for the slightly odd Google translation in places.

Information about Koli and the National Park is here:

<http://www.koli.fi/en>

The visitors' centre at Ukko Koli is here:



<http://www.koli.fi/en/Places-to-visit/Koli-national->

[park#category=sights&initialsearch=true&sorting=Name&area=null&acctype=Kansallis-+ja+luonnonpuistot](http://www.koli.fi/en/Places-to-visit/Koli-national-park#category=sights&initialsearch=true&sorting=Name&area=null&acctype=Kansallis-+ja+luonnonpuistot)

## **Expectations and opportunities**

We recognize that in three weeks or so, there will be limited time to establish a Lab\_13 in the school, and to develop a relationship with the local community via the Koli National Park visitors' centre. However, this opportunity is welcomed by the school and staff at the visitors' centre, and we hope that you will plant the seed of a permanent Lab\_13 Koli. You will be preparing the ground for subsequent Scientists in Residence, both at the school and in the community, and from UK and from Finland (and other parts of Europe).

The school will support the project with a space and a student management committee. Not surprisingly, although English is taught to all pupils, the older ones are more confident in communicating in English.

English is widely spoken at the visitors' centre, and one of the staff team, Satu Naumanen, spent many years studying and working in England.

We will be looking for you as the first Scientist in Residence to work with the teachers and pupils to establish the modus operandi of a Lab\_13, setting out how children can raise the questions and lines of investigation and science research that matter to them, and supporting them in conducting their first Lab\_13 investigation.

We will also look for you to create a Lab\_13 space, with suitable signage, and to help the children populate the Lab\_13 with items of interest, basic equipment (although there is not an equipment budget as such), and curiosities (many Lab\_13s have a cabinet of curiosity, or a curiosity corner).

We will also expect you to support the children in contributing to the Lab\_13 network blog at <https://lab13network.wordpress.com/> Raising the profile of Lab\_13 Koli is an important task and opportunity; we want others to follow you.

In the community and at the visitors' centre there will be opportunities to create a space for public enquiry and citizen science projects – again we recognize that these will be limited in scale and duration, but we want to establish the principle that science is part of the cultural life of the community, both for local people and tourist visitors. The village supports an Artist in Residence each month, and we hope that you will make contact and explore possible joint activities – or again at least to lay the groundwork for future relationships.

The opportunities are to work in a close, friendly and international community, to learn at first hand the key features of the Finnish education system, and to explore the wonderful diversity of the natural habitats and landscape of a unique ecosystem.



## Person specification

Previous management groups of Lab\_13 have been thinking about the qualities they need in their Scientist in Residence, and are seeking an individual who can:

‘work with different ages of children, be helpful and explain things well, have an appropriate sense of humour - because kids will enjoy things more if they can have a laugh while doing them, be adventurous and know a lot about science, be lively and exciting with wild ideas, carry out simple, cheap and exciting experiments such as making wacky cars, communications devices, building models from scrap and finding out how toys work.’

- You may be a scientist or engineer or technologist or you may have experience in working with children as a practitioner in science, technology, engineering or maths.
- You will have lots of practical experience in making things or finding out how things work and a broad interest in science.
- You will have a genuine drive to encourage creativity and independent thought in young people.

And this is what we adults at Ignite! think are important qualities:

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	Degree level qualification in a STEM related subject OR extensive accredited experience of working in a STEM environment	A teaching or STEM related communication qualification A craft or arts-based qualification
<b>Experience</b>	Experience of working in a STEM research, experiment environment Experience of working with children Experience of preparing and applying risk assessments and operating safe protocols in a STEM environment	Broad, practical experience of STEM subjects Experience of designing experiments or activities Experience of making things (and/or taking things apart) Experience of working in a community setting
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	Ability to communicate effectively with young people and the general public Capacity to receive instructions from the management group of Lab_13 and with the School management team. Excellent interpersonal, negotiation and communication skills	Ability to research experiments the children come up with and to help them realise their goals Excellent time management skills Understanding of the educational aims and needs of school pupils across a wide age range Understanding of school pressures and opportunities
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	Ability to think creatively and intuitively Resourceful, dynamic and enthusiastic Willingness to operate under the direction of the Lab_13 management group.	Patience, calm under pressure Capacity to seek alternative ways of finding solutions Interest in the arts and creativity Interest in community development opportunities



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## Terms and Conditions

- This is a fixed term post for up to three weeks duration starting on or around 14 August 2017. Starting times and exact duration is open to negotiation.
- The contract will be with Ignite! (Ignite Futures Ltd).
- The post will be based in Koli School, Koli, Lieksa, North Karelia, Finland and at the Ukko Koli (National Park) Visitors' Centre.
- The post holder will report to the teachers at Koli School for daily operational tasks, and to the management team at the Koli National Park visitors' centre.
- As this post requires extensive contact time with young people the successful candidate(s) will be required to agree to a CRB/DBS check in accordance with the Child Protection policies of Ignite!.
  
- Flights and transfers from the UK to Koli and return will be paid for by Ignite!.
- Accommodation will be provided (exact location and address to be confirmed).
- A per diem of €40 will be paid by Ignite! to cover living and incidental expenses.
- Please note that this contract is not a contract of employment and does not offer holiday entitlement nor pension contributions. You will be responsible for any NI contributions and your own tax affairs during the period of this contract.

## Applications

Please send a brief CV (no more than 2 pages) and a covering letter describing your interest in the opportunity by 5:00pm Monday 22 May 2017 to:

Rick Hall

[rick@ignitefutures.org.uk](mailto:rick@ignitefutures.org.uk)

Ignite!

11 East Circus Street, Nottingham, NG1 5AF

We plan to hold interviews either in person or online on Friday 26 May.

We will offer an induction opportunity at a UK based Lab\_13 in June.

Please note this job description does not constitute a contract of employment.