

DESIGN *for* AMERICA



DFA Design Coach

Posting Date: Dec 2021

Applications Due: Friday, January, 14, 2022

Date Range: Jan 24- May 13, 2022

Time Commitment: 20 hrs/week

Payment: \$20/hr

[Design for America](#) (DFA) trains the next generation of social innovators. From college students to young professionals, educators and beyond, DFA's tools, model, and coaching instill community, encourage creativity, and build capacity to take on any challenge.

The Role

The DFA National Team seeks a Design Coach to facilitate and manage our unique model of design training by coaching dedicated college students to use design for social good.

As a Design Coach, you will support 25-30 active DFAers from 5 studios through the design process while they work on a sponsored National Project with a leading financial institution. The ideal Design Coach is passionate about design thinking, education, coaching, collaboration, social impact, and learning through scoping new challenge spaces.

Design Coach Responsibilities:

- Mentor, guide, and build meaningful relationships with teams of DFAers on a weekly basis through workshops, teaming activities, 1:1 sessions, and Slack communications
- Help student teams expand their knowledge of real-world applications of design and contextualize DFA's human-centered design practices to further their projects
- Support DFA students by setting up research interviews, developing learning activities and resources, and completing administrative work needed for successful projects
- Facilitate feedback sessions between DFA teams, DFA National, and project partners and stakeholders

- Lead professional development opportunities for students to reflect and iterate upon their work

As a Design Coach, You Will:

- Influence student growth and education through mentorship and guidance
- Build relationships and collaborate with the DFA National team and project partner
- Represent a nationally recognized network as a leader of design education and thought leadership
- Access the DFA Network of students, alumni, professionals, and educators
- Co-create workshop materials
- Emulate DFA values of teaching design, building community, and making impact

Skills and Experience:

- 1-3 years experience in using design thinking processes or community design frameworks (this can be academic coursework or relevant project experience as well)
- 1-3 years of experience of teaching, tutoring, or mentoring young adults (ages 17-24)
- Firm commitment to team success and building strong relationships with students, colleagues, stakeholders, and partners
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills, as well as exceptional organizational and planning skills
- Self-starter, able to work both independently and as part of a team
- BA or equivalent work and/or DFA/design experience.

Cherry on Top:

- You have previous DFA experience
- You've worked with nonprofits and/or networks
- You have prior experience with Zoom, Slack, MURAL, Adobe Suite, Google Suite, or something we haven't heard of yet but you know and love!
- You have interest or experience in finance or related fields.
- You love food! Sharing recipes and snacks helps us learn about one another and find new favorites!

How You Work:

- You're personable and creative, center empathy and collaboration, and value asking questions.
- You're motivated by the desire to develop thoughtful educational experiences and create positive social impact.

- You're a team player from the beginning to the end, actively participating in planning, working sessions, and execution.
- You're excited to give and receive feedback.
- You actively contribute to a culture of innovation, excellence, and accountability.

This is a remote role. If the Design Coach happens to be located near a team member, and as COVID safety rules permit, there may be opportunities to get together in person.

Design for America is part of Watson Foundation and is an equal opportunity employer. Our policies and procedures are designed to promote and maintain equal opportunities for all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

How to Apply:

- Send a cover letter and resume to jobs@designforamerica.com with the subject: **DFA Design Coach Application**.
- Applications for this position will be accepted until **11:59pm CT on Friday, January 14, 2022**. All applicants will be notified that their materials were received by the DFA National team no more than two (2) business days after they are submitted.
- If an applicant is selected for an interview, they will be notified via email. An applicant can expect one interview before decisions are made. Applicants will also be emailed if they are not selected for an interview.
- Links to a portfolio or other related materials such as written work, samples, or presentations are welcome.

About DFA

Design for America began in 2009. The founding team ambitiously called it that for two reasons: one, they wanted to design solutions that tackle social challenges with national relevance, and two, they wanted to do so by having teams across the country work in their local communities.

In 2018, DFA received the National Design Award from Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, honoring “excellence, innovation, and enhancement on the quality of daily life.”

In 2020, DFA joined with the Watson Foundation. The Watson vision—to develop humane and effective leaders—aligns with the founding principles of Design for America that aim to create a design corps that leads change for good.

Today, Design for America (DFA) welcomes over 1,000 active students per year in 30 campus studios around the country, where they learn human-centered design and tackle social impact challenges with community partners. The DFA Network reaches over 10,000 people, including 4,000+ alumni and hundreds of partners, mentors, and fans.

About DFA National

The DFA National team is a rowdy bunch of innovative and dedicated design thinkers distributed across the US. We are a mighty team of strategists, designers, educators, artists, and facilitators. Like the DFA Network, our team thrives because we are interdisciplinary and multigenerational. We highly encourage anyone who believes in the power of design for good to apply. We welcome new voices and perspectives and look forward to hearing from you!

How we work

- We are a mission-driven, collaborative team that moves at the speed of trust.
- We prototype, explore, and learn together.
- We foster each other's personal and professional development.