

Visualising a future for Midland Road and Euston Road

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Supervisor	Miki Lentin, Head of Corporate Affairs
Department, Location	Corporate Affairs, St Pancras
Start date/timeframe	We would ideally like the placement to be undertaken sometime in the period April 2018 to September 2018.
Duration	3 months (or part-time equivalent – see below) <i>A full-time placement would be preferable for this project. However, if necessary, it would be possible for the placement to be conducted on a part-time basis – in which case the student would be required to spend a minimum of 3 days/week on site at the Library</i>
Remote-working	If required, the placement could be undertaken working from home for certain days of the week – this is flexible and could be discussed and agreed prior to the start of the placement.

Context for placement
<p>This placement project is part of the broader St Pancras Transformed Programme that aims to create a building at St Pancras in London that is a major new centre for commerce, knowledge and research, positioned in the heart of the Knowledge Quarter.</p> <p>With this programme and vision in mind, the curtilage of the Library does not fulfil the needs and requirements of the organisation or its visitors. It can appear uninviting, busy and hard to navigate, especially if you have a disability, are young or old. Furthermore, Euston Road itself is an air quality and traffic hazard that provides an uninviting and difficult entry-way into the Knowledge Quarter. The Euston Road is one of the most polluted roads in London and therefore the country and impacts the health and well-being of many of those residents who live next to it, i.e. in Somers Town.</p> <p>As we develop the St Pancras Transformed Programme, there is a unique opportunity for the Library to think seriously about the future vision of not only its own curtilage around its St Pancras building, but also the Euston Road. This is imperative, so that we can not only provide a better vision to local planners, funders and politicians about what the future of the area will look like, but also help envisage what a visitor experience to the Library will be like by 2023 and in 10 to 15 years' time.</p> <p>To support this aim, this research placement provides an opportunity for a PhD student who is interested in developing visionary thinking on both of these issues. Furthermore, the Knowledge Quarter (KQ) recently led a report auditing the area's public realm and is currently strongly involved in debating and discussing local public realm improvements that need to be made. Therefore, the KQ team, specifically through their public realm and policy sub-groups, would also be very interested in the outputs of this placement.</p> <p>We are keen to support a research placement project combining thoughtful design and innovative thinking to depict what a future Euston Road environment could look like and how that might blend into a new envisioned curtilage for the Library. This project would be particularly suitable to a PhD student with an urban planning or architecture background.</p>
Expected tasks and outcomes
<p>What we hope to achieve with this research placement project is a report or thought-led presentation that will demonstrate the potential for the future development of the Euston Road and the curtilage around the building. This should bring together some of the visionary thinking that has already been developed but also bring to life some new thinking on how the area could work better for transport users, pedestrians, cyclists and also be better for the environment.</p> <p>Ideally the student would bring their urban design and architectural skills, as well as their research and analytical skills to this project. The production of the report or presentation would entail:</p>

- An audit and analysis of the thinking and master-plans of the Euston Road that have already been developed by TfL, Camden Council, architects and others
- Research into future architectural, technological and social trends regarding urban streetscapes and physical design and how other cities are approaching these complicated issues of reducing traffic congestion with new technologies, modern urban design and long-term change in vehicle use and how they will influence the development of future plans.

The placement student would undertake this via desk research and attendance at conferences and events (which would be funded by the British Library). It would also be possible for the student to develop and run a workshop with thinkers and stakeholders in this area, if this was of interest and deemed appropriate for the project.

The principal output of the placement would therefore be a report or presentation encapsulating the student's research and presenting their own visionary thinking on the future of Euston Road and the curtilage of the BL, using innovative design concepts and ideas.

This presentation/ report will be communicated to stakeholders internally, specifically to the St Pancras Transformed Project Board but also to the Chief Executive and to local stakeholders and Knowledge Quarter neighbours. It will be up to the student to determine, in discussion with the BL supervisor, how best to present their ideas, but it could for example be via an architectural plan, drawings or a spoken presentation.

During the placement, there would be opportunities for the student to communicate their on-going activity using social media and [blogs](#). A final project report/ presentation could also be given to BL staff at one of the Library's regular 'Open House' staff meetings.

Training and experience expected to be gained by student through the placement

The placement would be supervised by the Head of Corporate Affairs (Miki Lentin), Head of Policy (Rob Field) as well as by a team member from the St Pancras Transformed Team. Progress will be monitored via a weekly catch-up (with catch ups every other day during the initial two weeks of the placement). Training needs and requirements will be discussed at the outset of the placement.

We will provide a full induction that will include meetings with relevant colleagues internally (with a focus on St Pancras Transformed) and a visit to the Library's Boston Spa site (in Yorkshire), as well as tours of the Library building at St Pancras and the local area using our Knowledge Quarter partnership. The placement student will also be able to job shadow various members of the Corporate Affairs team, including the Head of Corporate Affairs, as well as other team members and, subject to discussion, the St Pancras Transformed team.

Through the placement the student will be exposed to working within two interesting and active parts of the organisation. This is also an opportunity to experience at first-hand what it is like to work in a large and busy public organisation and to apply transferable research skills and knowledge of urban planning or architecture to support a major organisational work programme. This brings the chance to develop and enhance key transferable skills in engagement and influencing and in building and making a case using research findings. The project will develop and enhance analytical, research and auditing skills as well as promoting good communication, writing and stakeholder engagement skills.

The student will be encouraged to attend various internal training programmes and sessions as well as external events to help develop their thinking. Examples would include Knowledge Quarter events and think-tank events (i.e. Centre for London, New London Architecture etc.).

Required knowledge and skills

This project would be suitable to a PhD student researching in areas such as urban design, transport planning and regeneration and the future of city planning. Architectural and CAD skills would be advantageous, but we are mostly concerned to hear from applicants who are actively involved in research and analysis of this field.

Applicants should be IT literate and fluent English speakers. They should be open to new ways of working and innovative thinking and would ideally (though this is not essential) have had some previous experience of working in a large organisation.

This is a training and development opportunity open to current PhD students only. It is not intended to lead to a permanent post at the Library. Please note that the Library is unable to provide a stipend for PhD research placements. Applicants must obtain the support of their PhD supervisor and Graduate Tutor (or someone in an equivalent senior academic management role) in advance and, as part of their process, consult their HEI to ascertain what funding is available to support them.