

Policy and the Possible Role of the British Library in Climate and Sustainability Debates

Reference: 2021-PP-POL

Supervisor (name & role)	Blerina Hashani (Public Policy Officer)
Department & Site	Public Policy, London (St Pancras)
Start date/Timeframe	Preferably from May 2021, with some flexibility (to be discussed with the supervisor)
Duration	3 months (or part-time equivalent) For a part-time placement, the student would be required to spend a minimum of 1 – 2 days a week on the project.
Suitability for remote working	The placement can be undertaken remotely, although occasional travel to the British Library may be beneficial. To be discussed with the supervisor.

Context for placement

The Public Policy team is responsible for engaging with politicians and policymakers to maintain and enhance the reputation of the British Library, advocating on behalf of the organisation across multiple policy areas including culture and heritage, business, research, public libraries and cultural diplomacy. We support the goals of the Library's [Living Knowledge](#) strategy, which runs from 2015-2023, by communicating effectively with political and other stakeholders in local and national government and Parliament.

This October, the Library published its refresh strategy [Living Knowledge For Everyone](#), a sister document of our current strategic vision *Living Knowledge*. The key aim was to reflect and respond to the extraordinary events of 2020 and outline what role our organisation, as the national library for the UK, can play in recovery and renewal of the nation.

Living Knowledge For Everyone also begins to signal a role for the British Library in society's response to the urgent challenge of climate change. This placement is an opportunity to work with the Public Policy team to inform the Library's longer term approach and is offered at an important juncture in the UK's role in climate politics, as it prepares to host the global COP26 summit in autumn 2021.

Expected tasks and outcomes

Tasks:

- Identifying a relevant body of literature, including organisational policy documents, government publications and relevant scholarly articles and books;
- Identifying examples of best practice across the museums and libraries sector, both nationally and internationally;
- Undertaking a set of 5 or more informal interviews with networks across the sector working on climate change and environmental sustainability, to gather insight into how different organisations are approaching the challenge;
- Establishing a list of key stakeholders working on similar issues.

Outcomes:

- A literature review covering the relevant available research;
- Approximately 3 case studies looking closely into the different approaches organisations in the sector have taken to tackling climate change and identifying instances of best practice;
- 2-3 blog posts to be published on the Library's [Living Knowledge blog](#);
- Presentation of findings to staff at an Open House style event.

Additional activities and outputs can be discussed and developed with the supervisor and wider Public Policy team.

Training and development opportunities

All placement students are welcome to access the Library's offer of workshops, talks and training. For further details please refer to the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#).

In addition, this placement project will offer the following:

- An opportunity to gain valuable experience of translating research into policy positioning, and to learn at first hand in a supportive environment from British Library staff involved in various aspects of policy development.
- The chance to develop and enhance key transferable skills in stakeholder relations, networking, influencing and writing for different audiences.
- An insight into how the British Library and other cultural institutions manage their reputation and engage with stakeholders, in particular with Government.

Required knowledge and skills

Please ensure that you are aware of the general expectations for all applicants, as detailed in the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#).

For this specific project, the following additional criteria apply:

- Strong research and analytical skills, and a keen interest in developing influencing, policy and networking skills.
- An understanding of the climate change debate and the COP26 summit (desirable);
- An understanding of the GLAM sector (desirable).

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any disciplinary background and are keen to hear from anyone who might offer new perspectives on our work. Relevant specialisms could include an interest in climate science, sociology, environmental or cultural sector studies.

Application deadline: 5pm on Friday **18 December 2020**

Further information on eligibility, conditions and how to apply is available on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/news/2020/october/phd-placement-adverts-2020>