

Professional Development Training Offers for International Cultural Sector Professionals

Reference: 2021-INT-CDP

Supervisor (name & role)	Shezza Rashwan (International Engagement Manager)
Department & Site	International Office, London (St Pancras)
Start date/Timeframe	May 2021 (preferred), but could 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 3 days/week working on site at the Library or remotely.
Suitability for remote working	The placement can be undertaken remotely, but occasional travel to the British Library would be required. To be discussed with the supervisor.

Context for placement

The International Office at the British Library is responsible for coordinating, supporting and communicating international engagement activities undertaken by a wide range of teams across the organisation. It acts as a central point, collecting and share the many international contacts and encounters, and linking these up in efficient ways to facilitate new partnerships or communication with key stakeholders. We support the goals of the Library's [Living Knowledge](#) vision, by enabling, supporting and communicating effectively how we work with partners around the world to enhance knowledge and mutual understanding.

The Library undertakes a wide range of training activity and skills exchange experiences, offered to external audiences, across numerous Library departments. In November 2019, the International Office launched the inaugural '[International Library Leaders Programme](#)', with plans now underway to deliver a second programme in early 2021. In this context, we are keen to understand the extent to which external-facing professional development courses are being undertaken in the cultural sector globally.

Expected tasks and outcome

The aim of this placement is to produce a survey and comparative analysis of the professional development training offer in the cultural sector, in the UK and globally.

Tasks will include:

- Identifying key institutions and major centres of activity in this area, both in the UK and globally.
- Horizon scanning research on professional training and development offers in the Library, Archives, and Museum sectors, in the UK and internationally.
- A survey of these activities to illustrate the international training landscape in the cultural sector.
- Case studies of 2 to 3 notable training programmes, through further research and interviews.
- Considering the impact of cultural/societal/technological/governmental policies on the delivery of training programmes in various geographic regions.
- Considering possible opportunities/barriers and current trends, particularly against the backdrop of the British Library's services and collections.
- A talk or similar activity to share the research results with British Library staff and other relevant stakeholders.

Outputs:

- The principal output will be a written report, which will be made available to British Library staff.

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 apply research and analytical skills developed through the PhD to a specific strategic context. The student will gain practical experience of report writing and communicating research to different audiences/stakeholders.
- Support from the supervisor to create a research and project plan. The format and structure of the outputs and their audience will be identified, and the student will be given support with scoping the project and developing a methodology.
- An opportunity to meet with Library professionals who conduct training and skills exchange with international partners all over the world.
- The chance to develop and enhance key transferable skills in stakeholder relations, networking, and writing for different audiences.
- An opportunity to gain a first-hand 'behind-the-scenes' insight into international engagement activities at a major research library and cultural organisation.

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.
- Keen to develop business management reporting and comparative analytical skills.
- Applications are welcome from any disciplinary background, and we are keen to hear from anyone who might offer new perspectives on our work. Relevant specialisms could include the social sciences, arts and culture, education, or learning and development.

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>