

Science Policy at the British Library

Reference: 2021-HE-POL

Supervisor (name & role)	Maja Maricevic, Head of Higher Education and Science
Department & Site	Higher Education and Science, London (St Pancras)
Start date/Timeframe	Anytime from May 2021 onwards, but to be completed by March 2022 (exact start date to be agreed 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 5 days on site at the Library.
Suitability for remote working	The placement is to be predominantly conducted remotely. The presence on site is required for any meetings or events that might be organised as a part of this placement.

Context for placement

The British Library plans to publish its new Science Strategy in November 2020. One of the areas that the Strategy will highlight is the need to strengthen the British Library presence and voice in relation to a range of science policy issues. This placement will directly contribute to this work and help to shape it as the Library looks to plan its future activity relating to science policy, broaden partnerships required to deliver it and seek relevant funding.

Some of the areas likely to be explored include:

- Equality and diversity in science;
- Public understanding and engagement with science;
- Changes in the science publication environment;
- Open science;
- Data-driven changes in society and economy.

Expected tasks and outcomes

The student will be expected to complete the following tasks:

- Desk research into relevant literature
- Structured interviews with key stakeholders

The placement will result in the following outputs:

- A report on the existing and any emerging areas of science policy that the Library will be in good position to address, including considering how the Library can add value to these areas of policy.
- Two policy related events – either remotely or onsite depending on circumstances – planned and organised collaboration with the Library and any other relevant partners.
- Blogs for the British Library website as arising from the activities above.

It is expected that the activities above will be concurrent. For example, the planning and preparation of the event will happen in parallel with the report completion, or different blogs topics might arise at different points during placement.

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:

- The student will have an opportunity to work in the area of science policy and directly experience this type of role, which will be useful both for students continuing on their research career path, or as a way to explore science policy as a possible future career.
- The student will meet a range of organisations and individuals, which will strengthen their future network of contacts and broaden their knowledge of science landscape outside of their own discipline. They will expand their knowledge and have better understanding of policy underpinnings for the UK science. They will also broaden their practical skill sets, including understanding of policy-making processes, policy communications, policy evidence and influencing.
- The student will acquire experience of working in a large knowledge-based organisation in a policy role, and an understanding of how policy can make a difference to individual organisations, change societal outcomes and advance science.

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:

- Awareness of the UK science policy landscape, and an interest to expand own knowledge in this area.
- Flexible working attitude, with an ability to adjust and change plans to adapt to the fast changing circumstances.
- Ability to use of a range of remote communication tools and an interest to experiment with and use new technologies.
- Event organisation experience.
- Ability to write jargon-free text to convey complex ideas to non-specialists.
- Interest in and passion for enabling greater diversity and equality in science and society.

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>