

# British Library North: Leeds learning programme development

Reference: 2022-LE-BLN

<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Elvie Thompson, Lead Learning Producer, North Ria Bartlett, Lead Producer, Onsite Learning
<b>Team and department</b>	Learning Team – Leeds Presence Programme, Culture and Learning Department
<b>Start date/timeframe</b>	Earliest start: June 2022 Latest end date: March 2023
<b>Duration</b>	<b>3 months</b> (or part-time equivalent)
<b>Part time/Full time</b>	Full time or part time Minimum days/week if undertaken part time: 2
<b>Location and working arrangements</b>	Can be offered as fully remote placement Can be offered as a hybrid placement (remote with some visits to Leeds, Boston Spa and/or London, St Pancras)
<b>Context and nature of placement project</b>	
<p>The British Library has an ambition to be as vital, as visible—and, indeed, as loved—in the North of England as it is in London. Our Leeds learning programme is central to this. Starting in 2020, we have begun to develop programmes for a range of learners including school pupils, vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and families with children. This work builds on the Library's long-established London-based and national outreach learning programmes. It is also closely connected with the development of our cultural events and exhibition programme in Leeds, and our longer term plans to open a new British Library venue at the iconic Temple Works site in south Leeds.</p> <p>This varied placement will support the further development of the Leeds learning programme. This will include research and development towards projects for the 2023–24 academic year, with additional opportunities to support the delivery of online and/or in-person events as part of existing projects.</p> <p>The Leeds Lead Learning Producer, Elvie Thompson, will be the main supervisor and support for the student. The student will also work closely with a number of freelance learning specialists, members of staff from the London-based learning team, and colleagues from the wider Leeds culture and Temple Works programmes. There will also be opportunity to interact with staff at the Library's Boston Spa offices, particularly in the <i>Boston Spa Renewed</i> team working on the refurbishment of the site. The London-based Lead Producer for onsite learning (Ria Bartlett) will act as a second supervisor.</p> <p>The main supervisor will organise an induction that will enable the student to meet staff across these teams and areas, to further explore and understand the placement objectives and the resources available to complete these. Regular 1:1 meetings with the supervisor will be scheduled, and the student will be invited to take part in wider team and project meetings for their own learning, development and network building.</p>	

## Tasks and outcomes

The primary focus of this placement will be to support development of the Leeds schools learning programme for the 2023–24 academic year.

The student will be able to choose two of the following areas of focus, depending on their preferences and interests:

1. A schools programme for the Library's Boston Spa site, to run following the site's refurbishment.
2. A primary school literacy programme for the 2023–24 academic year.
3. GCSE English teacher training sessions and student events for the 2023–24 academic year.

**Applicants are encouraged to indicate in the 'Additional information' section of the application form which two areas they would be particularly interested in.**

The main tasks include:

- Desk-based research into school curricula and the Library's potential to support these.
- Consulting members of staff and learning specialists, as well as external stakeholders, for example teachers.
- Researching and reviewing children's books and school curriculum texts.
- Drafting, discussing, and finalising proposals on the two chosen areas of focus.
- presenting research insights and recommendations internally.

There will be additional optional opportunities to contribute to live project delivery, depending on the student's areas of interest, which may include:

- Supporting digital learning campaigns by communicating with teachers, updating records and assisting with marketing.
- Supporting live online or in-person events by communicating with attendees, preparing resources and assisting with event co-ordination.

Main expected outcomes:

- Written proposals on the student's two chosen areas of focus.
- Internal presentations summarising key insights and recommendations.

### Training and development opportunities

PhD placement students are welcome to access a wide range of workshops, talks and training available at the Library. Supervisors will offer advice on which opportunities may be of particular relevance. Depending on availability, these wider training opportunities may include, for example, the Digital Scholarship Training Programme, Cultural Property Training, Research Roundtables, Business & IP Centre workshops and staff talks.

In addition, this particular PhD placement will provide:

- Mentorship to enable familiarisation with the learning activity planning process.
- An understanding of school curricula.
- An understanding of schools' needs for cultural education, particularly in relation to literature.
- An understanding of good practice in cultural heritage learning.
- An understanding of children's literature and literature taught at GCSE, and creative ways to engage children, young people and teachers with these.
- Practical experience of working directly with learners.
- Development of consultation and interpersonal skills.
- Co-ordination, administration, team working and communication skills.

### Required knowledge and skills

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, internally and externally.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and online meeting tools.
- Ability to follow instructions and policies, in particular with regard to Health & Safety and the safe use of collections.
- Ability to work effectively with others while also completing tasks independently.
- Clear reasons for applying to a specific placement and good understanding of the project purpose.

In addition, this specific placement project requires the following:

- An interest in practice-based research, and in applying research skills to a cultural heritage learning environment.
- An open-minded and receptive approach.

Application deadline: **Friday 25 February 2022 (5 pm)**

Eligibility criteria, funding information and details of how to apply are available on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/research-collaboration/doctoral-research/british-library-phd-placement-scheme>