Internship Details

Title: Celebrating Black History in Cambridge

Length of Internship: 5 days per week for 8 weeks.

Reports to: Keeper of European Sculpture & Applied Arts

The internship will be administered through the University of Cambridge’s Temporary Employment Service and will be based at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Project background

The University of Cambridge’s Museums and collections (UCM) have made a long-term commitment to research into the complex histories of our collections and to building and strengthening relationships with our diverse partners and audiences. We are working to expand our understanding of our collections in relation to colonialism, the legacies of enslavement, and racial inequality.

Our ambition is that, through this rigorous and transparent investigation into our pasts, we will make our collections inclusive and relevant for the future.

Working collaboratively across the multiple collections of arts and sciences and underpinned by research, the 2022/23 programme will include interdisciplinary displays and exhibitions, and associated programming and learning initiatives.

Purpose of the internship

UCM is acutely aware that the histories of our collections and the University do not exist in isolation from our local communities we are keen to investigate this further and shed new light on these interconnections. Drawing on existing research, the Intern will collate stories and historical content that celebrate Black history and the Black presence in Cambridge from the late 18th century onwards.

The result will be an inspiring and engaging, free, publicly available resource (or resources) highlighting diverse locations within the city that celebrate often long-forgotten stories about the Black history in Cambridge and key protagonists. This may take the form of a guided walking tour, self-led tour literature and/or an interactive virtual map with downloadable digital content, which will appeal to all ages.
While the internship will be based at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, with regular in-person meetings with the Keeper of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts at the Fitzwilliam Museum (Tuesdays or Wednesdays), the intern may undertake most of their work remotely within the UK. The intern will work closely with local community groups, and the Communities Coordinator, building on pre-existing relationships, to develop content and share outcomes.

**About the Fitzwilliam Museum**

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam’s collections explore world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world-class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of applied arts, ceramics, coins, and Asian arts.

Welcoming over 470,000 visitors a year, the Fitzwilliam presents a wide-ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

**About the University of Cambridge Museums**

University of Cambridge Museums is a consortium of the eight University Museums, which works in partnership with the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and other Cambridge University collections. They include: Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle’s Yard, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Museum of Zoology, Museum of Classical Archaeology, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences and The Polar Museum.

The University's collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing the country's highest concentration of internationally important collections, all within walking distance of the City Centre.

**Training, support and learning outcomes**

Training for the project will be delivered by the Keeper of European Sculpture & Applied Arts at the Fitzwilliam Museum with other members of the Black Atlantic Exhibition Project Management Team and Fitzwilliam staff as appropriate.

**The Person**

- Recent graduate or postgraduate, ideally in the Arts & Humanities
• An interest in Black history, local history and culture, and museum collections
• Enthusiastic and self-motivated
• Excellent spoken and written communication skills
• Excellent organisational skills with an ability to work to deadlines, prioritise own workload and adapt to changing situations
• Experience of processing information and presenting it in a clear understandable format
• Enjoys working flexibly as part of a team but can take responsibility and initiative when required to do so
• Commitment to developing effective and equal working relationships with local community groups, and to co-curate appropriate content
• A mutually supportive and collaborative team working style, combining a “can do” attitude with or without input from colleagues

Benefits

Salary: £9.50 per hour

Holiday: Pro-rata entitlement based on 28 days holiday per annum including Bank Holidays

Additional Information

The University of Cambridge is committed in its pursuit of academic excellence to equality of opportunity and to a proactive and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity. We believe that diversity strengthens and enriches us; and we are committed to helping to make the arts and cultural sector a more diverse and equal place. To this end we are actively seeking to diversify our staff and would particularly welcome applications from women and those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background, and people with disabilities. If you wish to self-identify, please do so in your personal statement.

The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK. Once an offer of employment has been accepted, the successful candidate will be required to undergo a basic disclosure (criminal records) check and a Security check.

This internship is conditional upon the satisfactory outcome of a Security check via the Disclosure and Barring Service. Whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University of Cambridge. The assignment-holder will start the assignment as soon as the above checks have been carried out.
Deadline for applications: 9th January 2023, 9am.
Candidate discussions: 18th January 2023

Nothing herein shall constitute a contract of employment between the University and the intern.

To apply

Please submit a CV and cover letter, outlining your suitability for the internship to the Opening Doors Project Coordinator.
opendoor@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Equal Opportunities

The University welcomes diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity.

The University has a responsibility to ensure that all workers are eligible to live and work in the UK