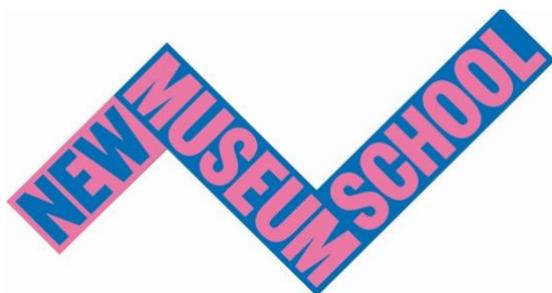




Advanced Programme Prospectus 2021-2023



SUTTON



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Introduction

Culture&'s New Museum School provides a pipeline of fresh, diverse talent to the arts and heritage sector. Over the past 7 years, New Museum School has provided accessible and flexible training to 134 young people from diverse backgrounds with around 74% finding full-time employment in the sector within six months of graduating.

Whilst we are proud of this achievement, we realise that this is only the start of our commitment. Having supported these young professionals to gain entry level access to employment we followed them up to see how their careers were progressing. A survey conducted with them tells of their encounter with a 'glass ceiling' and the barriers that impede their career progression, experiences that reflect the findings of broader surveys into diversity in the museum workforce (Arts Council England 2019). When asked how New Museum School could continue to support their careers they asked for flexible professional development opportunities and specifically support in accessing postgraduate qualifications.

Partnering with the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester and with a group of cultural organisations committed to inclusive transformation, Culture& has now developed a new model - The New Museum School Advanced Programme - to take forward this work in response to the needs of our New Museum School alumni. The New Museum School Advanced Programme is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Marstine Family Foundation, the University of Leicester and 15 cultural partners (see full list below) and will enable us to propel UK-based people from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in the sector and particularly those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and many of them New Museum School alumni, forward in their career development. We will launch this new training offer in September 2021, working closely with sector organisations and our academic partner, the University of Leicester.

We have secured two years' funding to support the New Museum School Advanced Programme which will enable us to make positive change in the career development of diverse arts and heritage leaders of the future. Our overall strategic aim is to enable the arts and heritage sector to support a more diverse range of arts professionals in achieving sustainable career progression and attaining leadership roles.

The New Museum School Advanced Programme will:

- nurture the brightest, most promising diverse talent for the arts and heritage workforce by supporting them to further develop their creative and critical skills and experience;
- allow professionals to continue full time employment within the arts and heritage sector whilst studying by providing access to distance, flexible and modular postgraduate qualifications;
- ensure an accessible recruitment process for learners with wide ranging backgrounds;
- expand the expert knowledge of diverse arts and heritage professionals across a range of disciplines from museum studies, arts management and curatorial studies and across key aspects of professional practice by providing easy access to short courses and summer schools;
- support participants to advance their careers;

- build a self-sustaining peer network by brokering one-to-one mentoring and networking opportunities that are matched to individuals' interests and career aspirations;
- increase professional accreditation for New Museum School alumni through opening routes to Associateship of the Museums Association;
- diversify the arts and heritage workforce;
- make real step changes in how heritage is interpreted and expand audiences by ensuring the perspectives of diverse professionals inform programmes that appeal to a wider cross section of our communities;
- change and improve the UK's arts and heritage organisations in terms of workforce recruitment and retention of staff from diverse backgrounds.



Who we are

Culture& is an independent arts and education charity based in London. Formerly known as Cultural Co-operation, we have been working for nearly 30 years, in partnership with arts and heritage institutions and artists to develop programmes that promote diversity in the workforce and with audiences. We aim to open up the arts and heritage workforce through our workforce training and aligned public programmes.

University of Leicester's School of Museum Studies is amongst the best in the world and has a strong international reputation for equipping practitioners with the skills, experience and knowledge to shape dynamic, socially relevant and inclusive museums. The School of Museum Studies offers:

- learning and development for culture professionals that engages with leading research and innovative thinking and practice in the sector;
- accessible modular pathways to achieve internationally recognised postgraduate qualifications;
- a long-standing and evidenced commitment to inclusion and a diverse student cohort both of which Culture& can augment through this partnership;
- a team that is committed to accessible and inclusive learning, supporting students with diverse learning needs and active in shaping curricula and resources that draw on a rich mix of practitioners and research-based perspectives;
- a team of experienced and connected academics already engaged in collaborative projects with existing Culture& partners;
- a deep and mutual understanding of the need for greater diversity in the UK museum workforce.

New Museum School Advanced Programme Cultural Partners

A dynamic group of cultural partners partnered on the New Museum School Advanced Programme during its first year. They include:

- **Bethlem Museum of the Mind**
- **Birmingham Museums**
- **English Heritage**
- **Guy's and St Thomas' Charity**
- **Historic Environment Scotland**
- **London Metropolitan Archives**
- **Manchester Museum (University of Manchester)**
- **Museum of Design and Architecture (MoDA), Middlesex University**
- **Norfolk Museums Service**
- **Pitt Rivers Museum (University of Oxford)**
- **The Foundling Museum**
- **The National Trust**
- **Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums**
- **University of Cambridge Museums**
- **Wellcome Collection**

New Museum School Advanced Programme - What's involved?

As part of the NMS Advanced Programme, you will combine postgraduate study with tailored mentoring and networking opportunities. At the core of the Advanced Programme sits the Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Museum Studies and the Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries, distance learning programmes that enable you to join a cohort of students and study around your work and family commitments. Demanding 19 hours a week of study time, you will work with a team of dedicated Tutors through a series of modules – see course descriptions and structure below – have the opportunity to attend the annual summer school and to work with one of our Advanced Programme cultural partners on your Project in Practice. In addition to support from Tutors in the School of Museum Studies, you will receive tailored mentoring and take part in an annual sharing of learning around inclusive transformation with our University and cultural partners.

Course descriptions

The Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Museum Studies and the Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries will provide you with the practical and theoretical experience needed to become a creative and effective museum and gallery professional and to further advance your career in the sector. The course is delivered in a variety of ways, including online lectures, seminars and tutorials, and discussion activities. The programme is designed to fit around your existing commitments, and is sympathetically structured to allow you to break up the work into manageable chunks and focus on one assignment at a time.

By taking a distance learning course, you have the flexibility to fit studying around your existing work and family commitments. The distance learning course offers the same subject coverage and leads to the same qualification as our campus-based course. You will be taught by experts in the field, who have been involved in expanding the academic discipline of museum studies over many years and will be supported by a team of highly skilled Associate Tutors, all of whom are highly experienced museum and heritage professionals.



Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Museum Studies

The course will equip you with a thorough knowledge and critical understanding of current principles, practice, and contemporary debates in Museum Studies. Over the course you will explore areas such as:

- the social role of museums and art galleries
- activist practice in museums and galleries
- collections care and management
- exhibitions strategies

- museum design
- museum ethics and interpretation

To complete the **Postgraduate Diploma**, you will take five core modules, followed by three option modules, giving you the opportunity to delve into your particular interests and to develop your expertise in the field of your choice.

Core modules:

- The Museum and Change
- Designing for Creative Lives
- Objects and Collections: Care, Management and Curation
- Engaging Audiences
- Project in Practice

Choose **three option modules** (subject to availability) from:

- Lifelong Learning
- Museums and the Natural Environment
- Heritage
- Digital
- Museums and Contemporary Issues

If you are taking the **MA** or **MSc**, you will also complete a **Research Project** on the topic of your choice. For many, it is the most exciting part of the course, as a self-directed opportunity to contribute new ideas, new knowledge, or critique existing scholarship or practice at an advanced academic level. You might choose to write this up as a dissertation, but you could also consider writing a paper, a professional report, or perhaps even producing a film. If your Research project concerns a science collection or museum, or if the nature of your investigation is 'scientific', you can receive a Master of Science (MSc) degree instead of a Master of Arts (MA) degree.

Modules shown represent choices available to current students. The range of modules available and the content of any individual module may change in future years. For a full description of each Module, learning hours and outcomes, please visit <https://le.ac.uk/courses/museum-studies-ma-msc-dl/2020>.

Postgraduate Diploma/MA/MSc in Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries

In the 21st century, leading museums, galleries and heritage practice began to make use of socially engaged approaches. This course will examine the role of museums and practitioners in shaping society's understandings of contemporary issues, upholding values of inclusivity and accessibility, and ensuring that museums benefit their communities. Choosing to study Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries will give you access to leading research and practice on the impact that museums and galleries can have on advocating for social justice and human rights, and how they might better explore and address the contemporary issues that face our societies.

This course is based on research that has been undertaken over the last 15 years by the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) at Leicester, and draws on broader global shifts in practice. It will introduce you to cutting-edge examples of socially-driven professional practice and challenge you to think deeply about the role of culture in society and the characteristics of socially purposeful museums and galleries.

Over the course, you will engage critically and creatively with areas such as:

- partnership working
- participatory practices
- learning and education
- design and experience
- visitor studies and audience research
- leadership at all levels of an organisation
- how socially engaged practice can be embedded into the work of museums and galleries



You will gain a deeper understanding of the historical, current and emerging debates, theories, issues, techniques and practice in order to effectively develop and advocate for socially engaged practice in museums, galleries, and similar organisations. The course offers a platform to explore and experiment with ways of maximising the impact that museums and galleries can have on the wellbeing of communities, on civil debates around controversial topics, and on the building of fairer and more equal societies.

To complete the **Postgraduate Diploma**, you will take five core modules, followed by three option modules, giving you the opportunity to delve into your particular interests and to develop your expertise in the field of your choice.

Core modules

- Exploring Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries
- Ethical Practice
- Activist Practice
- Museums and Transformation
- Project in Practice

Choose **three option modules** (subject to availability) from:

- Objects and Collections: care, management, curation
- Lifelong Learning
- Museums and the Natural Environment
- Heritage
- Digital
- Cultural Management and Marketing

If you are taking the **MA** or **MSc**, you will also complete a **Research Project** on the topic of your choice. For many, it is the most exciting part of the course, as a self-directed opportunity to contribute new ideas, new knowledge, or critique existing scholarship or practice at an advanced academic level. You might choose to write this up as a dissertation, but you could also consider writing a paper, a professional report, or perhaps even producing a film. If your Research project concerns a science collection or museum, or if the nature of your investigation is 'scientific', you can receive a Master of Science (MSc) degree instead of a Master of Arts (MA) degree.

Modules shown represent choices available to current students. The range of modules available and the content of any individual module may change in future years. For a full description of each Module, learning hours and outcomes, please visit <https://le.ac.uk/courses/socially-engaged-practice-in-museums-and-galleries-ma-msc-dl/2021>.

A step by step guide to your application

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible to apply you must:

- Be domiciled in the UK
- Meet at least one of the criteria set out below

You are eligible to apply for the New Museum School Advanced Programme if you meet any of the following criteria:

- You are from a Black and minority ethnic group. For the purposes of this scholarship opportunity, this is defined as Arab; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; Chinese; Gypsy or Traveller; Irish Traveller; Mixed White and Asian; Mixed White and Black African; Mixed White and Black Caribbean; Other Asian background; Other Black background; Other Ethnic background; Other Mixed background; and Other White background.
- You have a disability **as** defined in the Equality Act 2010
- You have been in care as a looked-after child for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14

- You are a carer for an ill or disabled family member.
- You come from one of the most deprived areas of the country as defined by the government's IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) database. If your postcode IMD value is 16,250 or less, you meet this criteria. You can check your postcode using the [IMD search tool](#). Please note this map only covers England and the postcode we will use is that of your home address in your last year of school or college, or your current home postcode if you have been independent from your parents/guardians for at least 3 years.
- You come from an area where it is unusual for people to go to university. This is defined by the government's classification called Polar 3. To meet this criteria your home address in the last year of school or college, or your current home address if you have been independent from your parents/guardians for at least 3 years, must fall into quintile 1 or 2. Check your address area using the [Participation of Local Area Tool](#). Please note this information only covers the UK.
- You were in receipt of a Maintenance Grant as an undergraduate.

In recognition of the diverse employment needs of the culture sector, we recognise and credit a range of prior qualifications and experiences. Eligible applicants also need to be able to meet the following criteria:

- **Either** a first class or second class degree, which can be in any subject area.
- **Or** be able to demonstrate equivalent skills and aptitudes through the possession of a professional or vocational qualification and/or the accrual of relevant work experiences. Relevant experience can come from a wide spectrum of work or voluntary environments but clear evidence of this experience must be provided.

You should be able to demonstrate a commitment to, or strong interest in, museums, galleries, or other kinds of heritage or cultural organisation.

If you do not have a degree, you will be asked complete an assessment, such as an essay, so as to demonstrate your readiness for postgraduate study. Clear guidance will be provided on assessment criteria. You may also be required to attend an interview.

English Language Requirements

IELTS 6.5 or equivalent. If your first language is not English, you may need to provide evidence of your [English language ability](#).

How to apply?

The application process consists of 2 parts: 1. a process to identify nominees and 2. A formal application process.

Applications for nomination are invited by 28th April 2022. Please attach your CV and a 1000-word personal statement to info@cultureand.org that tells us:

- Why you want to be part of the New Museum School Advanced Programme
- Which course of study you are interested in – Museum Studies or Socially Engaged Practice in Museums and Galleries
- How taking this course will support your personal and/or professional development plans
- How your previous academic and/ or professional experience has given you the skills needed to study at postgraduate level.



Following this, 15 applicants will be nominated by Culture& for study at Leicester at which point the **nominees will be asked to complete a formal application which will include:**

- Your 1000-word personal statement
- Two references (at least one of your referees must be able to comment on your academic abilities – e.g. a tutor from a previous course)
- Copies of your degree/qualification certificates
- Copies of your degree/qualification transcripts – showing modules taken and marks received
- Evidence that you meet our English language entry requirements (if English isn't your first language)

Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of the formal application deadline.

Application timeline

Applications for nomination to be submitted to Culture& by 28th April 2022.

Successful nominees notified by mid-May.

Full applications to be submitted to University of Leicester by 28th June 2022 (Please note that all documentation must be submitted with the full application and so please do prepare this well in advance).

Formal offers will be made by mid-August 2022.

Course starts 26th September 2022

Your contract with Culture&

You will be contracted as a Student on the New Museum School Advanced Programme by Culture&. Samuel Pontin, Programme Manager, is the first point of contact for any queries relating to your studentship and his email is samuel.pontin@cultureand.org.

Keeping you safe

If you:

- Feel threatened by anyone you meet on the course
- Have a personal issue that means you can't participate in the course
- Feel you are in danger
- See someone being a danger to themselves or others

Please tell us!

Code of conduct

Turn up and attend all sessions, meetings and programmed activities on time. Authorise any absence in advance.

Evaluation

The New Museum School programme is being rigorously evaluated to ensure Culture& and the University of Leicester are able to take stock of what works, in order to adopt a learning mindset focused on continuously improving. The evaluation is being led by Professor Victoria Tischler at the University of Exeter and will be working with a research assistant to gather data on all programme deliverables and outcomes and will be periodically in touch with students, host organisations and the University of Leicester to gather monitoring data and feedback. Evaluation reports will be published at the conclusion of the programme in 2024.