

**International Training Programme  
Museums Association Conference and Exhibition, Edinburgh**



**Conference, exhibition and networking  
31 October - 8 November 2020**

## Background

The British Museum's International Training Programme (ITP) has, since 2006, sought to provide opportunities for shared learning, discussion and collaboration between museum and heritage professionals from across the globe. To date, our growing global network totals 299 fellows from 48 countries and offering opportunities for professional and personal development is a key aspect of the ITP.

## The programme

In 2020 we would like to invite **5 ITP Fellows** to join us between **31 October - 8 November 2020** at the Museums Association (MA) conference and exhibition, Edinburgh. The conference will take place on **5-7 November 2020** at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

This year's MA conference will focus on *Power to the People – Democratising our Museums*. Sessions and workshops will examine museums' roles and power to change the way people think about the world and their place in it. This will include panel discussions, workshops, and provocations thinking about how power can be used ethically and responsibly. The MA state that for us to make a positive difference we need to empower our communities and those who work with museums to have a meaningful impact. The conference aims to share ideas on how to use the power we wield more effectively and fairly, bringing together voices from inside and outside museums and asking challenging questions

The conference will ask the following questions:

- How can museums use collections, buildings and programmes to improve wellbeing, inspire debate and create better places for people to live and work?
- How can museums share power and become more democratic institutions?
- How can museums be structured and led in ways that make radical change possible?
- Who is excluded from our museums and why?
- How can we become truly inclusive spaces that represent all our communities?

Edinburgh 2020 will address subjects such as the following;

- Devolving our institutional authority
- Using our collections dynamically
- Engaging with climate and social activism
- Rethinking how we deliver learning, participation and engagement.

At this year's conference, there *may* be an opportunity for the attending ITP fellows to speak on a session panel on the theme of *Power to the People – Democratising our Museums*. We therefore ask that ITP fellows consider whether they would be happy to contribute a short case study (maximum 10 minutes) and participate in an audience Q&A with a smaller audience (20-50 people) if given this opportunity.

*You may state in your application if you are not comfortable giving a presentation: this will not count against the success of your application.*

The session would cover the following:

- Case studies: How is your museum (or the museum sector in your country) attempting to make a positive difference in order to empower our communities and those who work with museums, to have a meaningful impact?
- Case studies could cover devolving our institutional authority, using our collections dynamically, engaging with climate and social activism, rethinking how we deliver learning, participation and engagement.

- Q&A: What is your vision for a democratic future for museums, society and our world? Do you see potential for international collaboration to support this vision, and if so, how?

There will also be the opportunity to spend time at museums, galleries and heritage sites in and around Edinburgh.

There will be a maximum of **5 places** for this opportunity to enable productive discussions, networking and potential collaborations with places awarded through an open and competitive application process.



### **Our brief**

Within the ITP network, the event will reaffirm existing relationships made during the summer programme and externally, it hopes to increase the potential of the programme. It will offer further opportunities to exchange knowledge, skills and experiences as well as helping selected ITP fellows and their institutions to continue to develop new skills and experiences. It will also create networking opportunities with the hope of stimulating potential future collaborations.

### **The schedule**

The conference and exhibition will take place from **5-7 November 2020**. Visits to museums, galleries and sites in and around Edinburgh will take place on Monday 02 November to Wednesday

4 November 2020. Participants will fly into Edinburgh on Saturday 31 October and leave Sunday 8 November 2020.

**The British Museum will cover visas, flights, accommodation, subsistence, insurance and local UK travel.**

**Your application**

If you would like to apply, please complete the form attached and return it to [itp@britishmuseum.org](mailto:itp@britishmuseum.org) by **midday on Monday 06 April 2020**.

Please ensure you have the permission of your institution/employer to attend this programme. Also please note that, if required, you will be responsible for applying for a valid visa to visit the UK (including passport renewal if necessary).

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Cottle ([ACottle@britishmuseum.org](mailto:ACottle@britishmuseum.org)) or Claire Messenger ([CMessenger@britishmuseum.org](mailto:CMessenger@britishmuseum.org)): we will be happy to help, advise and provide more information!