

International
Training
Programme

*Building a
global network*

Foreword

From its founding in 1753, the British Museum has been committed to being a museum of the world, for the world. With visitors steadily increasing to almost 7 million every year, finding new ways for international citizens to engage with the collection is of vital importance.

To support the caretakers of this global future – be they curators, conservators, managers or educators – we make use of our rich resources and expertise. With the commitment of our staff and our partners across the UK, the International Training Programme is a highlight of the British Museum's year. Taking advantage of the British Museum as an environment where conversations and debates between colleagues from different cultures are encouraged and nurtured, the programme seeks to create a global network of inspired and informed museum and heritage professionals.

Throughout the programme, friendships are formed, ideas exchanged and collaborations conceived. Preconceptions are dispelled and connections revealed. The British Museum thus truly becomes a museum of the world.

Hartwig Fischer
Director, British Museum



‘The Museum learns as much from the ITP fellows as they do from their time in the UK. The alumni represent a global network with shared experiences and lasting friendships. The ITP’s impact is significant, and will grow with the passing of the years.’

*Sir Richard Lambert
Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum*



Schist stone figure of
Ganesha. From Orissa (Odisha),
India, 13th century AD.

Introduction

The International Training Programme works to develop a sustainable global network of inspired museum and heritage professionals, through sharing knowledge, skills and experiences.





Creating global connections

The International Training Programme (ITP) confirms the British Museum's commitment to working across London, the UK and abroad.

In London, the Museum's staff and collection are made available to provide a platform for demonstrating best museum practice.

Across the UK, partner museums allow fellows to experience regional organisations with strong community programmes for local audiences, and often with stronger relevance to the fellows' own museums and audiences.

Around the world, the Museum aims to provide a forum for museum professionals from diverse institutions and backgrounds to exchange ideas and share skills which will help shape the museums of the future.



*‘We can share knowledge
and experiences. Most
importantly face-to-face
interaction makes further
cooperation easier’*

Jing Sun, China, ITP 2008



Gold stater coin of Alexander the Great, obverse: helmeted head of Athena. Minted in Babylon, c. 325–323 BC.

Fellows

By building a global network of colleagues across geographical and cultural boundaries, the International Training Programme provides a place for mutual learning, discussion and collaboration.





Supporting future leaders

The ITP welcomes a wide range of roles, from curators and conservators to managers and educators. Fellows are either in the early and middle stages of their careers, or in positions of influence and able to use their training to develop colleagues back home. All are passionate about international collaboration.

Fellows come primarily from institutions in countries without developed offerings in museum training. These countries are usually in demonstrable need of additional support in building their museum sectors.

Through the ITP, the British Museum is committed to building a global network of colleagues crossing geographical and cultural boundaries. Working with ITP fellows provides a forum to disseminate best practice and to exchange knowledge and skills, thus helping to shape the museums of the future.



Clay elephant figure.
Lesotho, 19th century.

‘I would have never been able to meet all these curators from other countries and know about their work in their museums if it wasn’t for the ITP. Thank you for that.’

*Moamen Saad Mohamed,
Egypt, ITP 2008*



Snuff-box made of a gourd and glass beads. Xhosa, southern Africa, 20th century.

The summer programme

The annual summer programme is at the core of the International Training Programme. Here, fellows are introduced to a global network of colleagues and exposed to a variety of museum practices.





A unique opportunity

The ITP features a mix of general and tailored sessions. These are delivered through presentations, tours, workshops and hands-on sessions, all of which contribute to an intensive training experience.

Programme partners

The chance to visit other museums and hear from professionals across the sector is crucial during the programme. This gives fellows a wide view of approaches to cultural heritage.

At the British Museum

Group sessions exploring all aspects of museum work sit alongside a range of practical and theoretical workshops. Additionally, departmental sessions are tailored to fellows' role profiles. These include:

- Collections Assistant training
- Collections management, storage and documentation
- Conservation and Scientific Research
- Exhibitions and permanent galleries
- Income generation, fundraising and retail
- Learning, volunteers and audiences
- Libraries and archives
- Museum management, leadership and staff engagement
- Photography
- Security and front of house
- UK and international loans





Partnerships

During the summer programme, placements at UK partner museums further disseminate UK museum practices. These placements offer fellows the chance to see multi-site and university museums with different experiences of governance and funding and with strong local collections and community links.

The placements, in smaller groups, allow voices to be heard and ideas to flourish. Partners deliver programmes which are responsive and bespoke to support fellows' current projects and future plans, providing additional opportunities for collaboration and skills sharing.

Working in partnership also enables smaller museums to increase their own international engagement. It helps them to make new connections, gain fresh perspectives into museum and heritage practices, and support current and future international projects.

UK partnership institutions

Since 2006, the British Museum has worked in partnership with:

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Birmingham Museums Trust
Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives
Glasgow Museums
Manchester Art Gallery
Manchester Museum
National Museums Northern Ireland
Norfolk Museums Service
Nottingham University Museum
The Collection: Art and Archaeology, Lincoln
Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums
Whitworth Art Gallery



*‘It was a great training
programme and experience...
We truly enjoyed this learning
opportunity which is definitely
helpful in building good
relations between the UK
and Indian museums.’*

Riza Abbas, India, ITP 2008



Polychrome painted and
gilded pottery dish. Made in Iznik,
Ottoman Empire (now in modern
Turkey), 1625–1650.

Ongoing dialogue

Further engagement projects are essential to the core objectives of the ITP. Finding ways to give our fellows the widest possible opportunities for further training and development is fundamental.





Further engagement

Post-fellowship opportunities are essential to the ITP's core objectives. They provide further training and research opportunities, and open up potential collaborations.

By extending the reach and life of the ITP beyond the six weeks of the summer programme, post-fellowship opportunities allow us to support our fellows' career progression and address challenges in their institutions.

Legacy projects inspire a lifelong commitment to our network from ITP partners and fellows, supported by the British Museum.

Post-fellowship opportunities include:

- further training courses
- supported development
- collaborative awards
- research opportunities
- resources and digital engagement

Porcelain bowl with a poem written by the Qianlong emperor. Made in Jingdezhen, China, Qing dynasty, c. 1821–1851.





Global dialogue and networking

The ITP clearly demonstrates the commitment of the British Museum to build a global network of colleagues crossing geographical and cultural boundaries.

Post-fellowship collaborations have included:

- Fieldwork
- Research
- Publications
- Exhibitions
- Conferences

Digital resources and social media

Much of the success of the ITP relies upon keeping in touch with fellows and colleagues on a global scale. Good communication enhances the growth of our global network, ensures fellows are continually supported, and helps us share information with potential candidates and partners

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*‘Not only do we have
the opportunity to share
experiences about the
collections and responsibilities
in our museum, we also
strengthen our relations
for future cooperation.’*

*Antonio Ntimanga, Mozambique,
Dresden Research Fellow 2014, ITP 2009*



Fragment of a marble
statuette, possibly of
Poseidon. From Rhodes,
Hellenistic, 300–100 BC.

Support

Supporting the International Training Programme means being a part of a global initiative and will help secure its future. The British Museum welcomes all levels of support.





Making a difference

The ITP is entirely dependent on external funding. All placement costs are fully covered so involvement is not limited by financial restrictions of fellows or their institutions.

The ITP will continue to build on its successes but will only thrive with continued support. Supporting the ITP means being a part of a global initiative and will help secure its future. The Museum welcomes all levels of support.

Sponsors

The programme would not be possible without the generous support of many institutions and individuals.

A full list of those who have sponsored the ITP since its inception in 2006 is available at britishmuseum.org and in each year's report.

For more information on sponsors or how to support the programme, email development@britishmuseum.org

For more information on the International Training Programme, visit britishmuseum.org/itp or email itp@britishmuseum.org



