

V&A Department of Theatre and Performance

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V&A DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE: EXHIBITIONS INTERNSHIP

*Interested in the history/contemporary practice of the performing arts?
Considering a career in the museum/gallery/cultural/performance sectors?*

The V&A Department of Theatre and Performance contains the UK's national collection of performing arts. The collections are vast, covering all areas of performance – from theatre, opera and ballet, to music hall and musical theatre, circus, puppetry, and rock and pop.

Departmental activity is divided into curatorial work (based at Blythe House, Olympia) and an outward-facing side of the department, focussing on exhibitions, publications and web-content (based at V&A South Kensington). Exhibitions-based work includes the development and maintenance of the permanent galleries at the V&A and a broad programme of special exhibitions, both at the V&A and on tour. Other departmental activity includes public tours, publications, and projects such as the National Video Archive of Performance – which now contains recordings of over 250 theatre productions.

1. Internships

The exhibitions-side of the department offers two intakes of interns per year. Each placement has an intake of 6 interns, and runs for 6 months (September – March; March – September, annually). This allows interns to work together, and means that greater training and support can be given.

Interns provide key support to the work of the department; this includes assisting with exhibition development and research, web-content and publications; there is also the opportunity to learn about strategic issues such as recording theatre on film, the evolution of 'Theatreland' in the West End, the economic contribution of the performing arts, etc. Work is varied and rewarding, and allows interns to contribute to real projects in one of the UK's flagship cultural institutions.

Unfortunately no financial assistance is available for interns. However, with jobs in the cultural sector at a premium, and many graduate students unable to secure job interviews

without demonstrable work experience, the experience offered through this internship is invaluable, and past interns have gone on to secure a variety of posts in the cultural sector.

Exhibitions internships offer the opportunity to:

- Gain insight into the working of the V&A - the National Museum of Art, Design and Performance.
- Be involved in high quality projects that can contribute to your work experience portfolio.
- Learn more about the evolution of the performing arts in the UK.
- Increase your understanding of the wide range of cultural resources in London, from national museums to West End and fringe theatre.

2. Summary details

Internship period: 4 April – 30 September 2011.

Commitment: Minimum six months, 4 days a week, 10.00-17.00.

Eligibility: Graduate students preferred, with demonstrable interest in the performing arts/cultural institutions; overseas students must have right to work in the UK.

Language: Proficient English is essential; additional languages are desirable.

Financial support: Unfortunately no financial support is available.

3. Applications

To apply for the Internship Programme, please submit:

- A cover letter explaining your specific interest (max. one side A4)
- A brief CV (max. 2 sides A4)
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a university faculty member with direct experience of your recent study)
- E-mail address and contact telephone number

Applications should be sent by email to Sophie Reynolds at s.reynolds@vam.ac.uk or by post to: Sophie Reynolds, Department of Theatre and Performance, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL.

The closing date for applications is 17.00 on Monday 8 February 2011; interviews will be held during the week of 1 – 5 March 2011.

The internship will commence on 4 April 2011, and run until 30 September 2011.

Please note that this internship is based in the exhibitions section of the department. If you are specifically interested in curatorial work, please contact tm enquiries@vam.ac.uk to enquire about placements in collections management operations.