

Barbican/Iniva Curatorial Traineeship

Job Description

April/May 2021 – April/May 2022

5 days (35 hours) per week, 12 month paid placement

Salary: £19,747 per annum, for a 12 month contract based on London Living Wage, £10.85 per hour

This Traineeship is offered jointly by Barbican Art Gallery and Iniva (Institute of International Visual Art). The successful applicant will undertake a programme of work and training at both organisations. As part of the Traineeship there will also be a training and development allowance to pay towards attendance at conferences, networking and other development opportunities, and there may be the opportunity to do a further short placement in a third arts organisation. The trainee will also be part of the Future Collective network of curatorial trainees and have the opportunity to meet with curators, artists and peers in other organisations, as well as to organise events.

Black, Asian and ethnic minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply for this placement. We are committed to increasing diversity of staff within the Barbican Centre and within the Arts Sector as a whole and it is recognised that Black, Asian and ethnic minority groups are currently under-represented within Barbican Art Gallery. We welcome applications from everyone who meets the requirements of the Person Specification.

A previous trainee wrote about the role:

“People like me, who do not have a linear path into the arts often work on several projects at the same time as their paid work or study, and it’s exhausting to have to ‘catch up’ to people who have masters in Curating or History of Art. This Traineeship offers combined paid work, practice-based learning and skill development.”

Barbican Art Gallery

The Trainee will be based 4 days per week in the Art Gallery offices at the Barbican, with some remote working if necessary. Barbican Visual Arts present a highly distinctive programme of twentieth and twenty-first century art, photography, design and architecture; each of these strands informed by our iconic building and increasingly drawing on the wealth of possibilities afforded by working in close dialogue with each of the other art forms – theatre, music, cinema – presented at Barbican. Our mission, working across the Art Gallery, the Curve and off-site is guided by the overarching vision of Barbican Centre to be an exemplar of ‘world class arts and learning’. The aim of the Traineeship is to provide an overview and thorough understanding of the process of developing and presenting temporary

exhibitions and commissions, and the event programmes that accompany them. A curatorial mentor will be assigned to support the Trainee's learning.

Tasks may include:

- Subject and exhibits research on a particular exhibition
- Analysing exhibits / collection information and data, and related data entry
- Contacting lenders, artists and their galleries, specialists and other advisors
- Updating Gallery records, archiving and administration
- Support on installations and de-installations
- Assisting at Private Views and public programme events

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts)

Working at Iniva one day a week there will be opportunities to encounter curators, artists, academics and researchers working in areas related to Iniva's artistic programme and the Stuart Hall Library. Established in 1994, Iniva is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation. With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for its work, Iniva collaborates with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. The special collection in the Library focuses upon contemporary art from Africa, Asia, Latin America and European artists from diverse cultural backgrounds and holds over 10,000 volumes of exhibition catalogues, artist monographs and critical theory as well as over 200 periodicals and 200 zines. Through its public programme, Iniva engages a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

The Trainee will gain specific experience of public programming through working on the Stuart Hall Library Research Network monthly events, and also working directly with artists and curators who participate on the residency programme in the Library. The Trainee will benefit from being part of a small multidisciplinary team and have regular contact with senior management to support their learning and development.

Tasks may include:

- Researching and liaising with speakers, supporting technical and logistical requirements for each event as required
- Providing support to resident artists, researchers and/or curators on outputs of various residencies
- Providing practical support in the organisation of the programme including, for example, curatorial forums and master-classes which will take place in the library.
- Undertaking initial research on fundraising bids with the Development Manager

Person Specification

- A positive and flexible approach to work
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to build relationships with a range of people at different levels of the organisations
- Excellent attention to detail

- Able to work as part of a team as well as on your own
- Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel, Access
- Able to prioritise and manage time effectively
- A willingness to learn and get involved in a variety of tasks
- A genuine interest in visual arts, and particularly the programmes of both organisations
- Previous office experience preferred but not essential

Qualifications

- Undergraduate degree in Art, Art History or related subjects (e.g. Film Studies), or demonstrable equivalent qualification/experience

Benefits

This position will be entitled to free and discounted tickets in the Barbican, and will also be able to benefit from a reciprocal free entry programme to most galleries and museums in London once they have reopened. You will also have access to all standard benefits received by staff at the Barbican such as pension scheme, travel card loan etc. You will be entitled to 20 days of paid annual leave and standard bank holidays for the duration of your contract.