

# Work experience in Arts & Heritage

If you want to work in the Arts & Heritage sector, gaining relevant work experience is essential. Work experience is a great way to test out if you enjoy working in the sector and find out about different roles. Also, if you decide to apply for a graduate job in the future, having relevant work experience is usually a requirement. Volunteering is the most common way to get work experience in Arts & Heritage, but some formal placements also exist (usually aimed at graduates). You can also gain experience through creating your own work, such as art work, getting involved in student societies and depending on your subject, via your degree studies.

Areas include:

- Archaeology
- Conservation Organisations (eg National Trust)
- Galleries
- Heritage advisory bodies (eg Historic England)
- Heritage Tourism (eg Jorvik Viking Centre)
- Museums

For more information about the kind of roles you could do, see our [information sheet](#) on Considering Arts & Heritage. Use [Discover Creative Careers](#), aimed at young people wanting to develop a career in this area, for sector news, jobs information and useful links.

## In university

- Careers and Placements offer a wide range of termly [volunteering opportunities](#) in museums and the arts for University of York Students. We advertise placements, projects and one-off opportunities termly
- Our [Student Internship Bureau \(SIB\)](#) offers paid local internships, during term time or in the vacations, in a variety of sectors. Keep an eye out for opportunities either directly focused on heritage/arts or others (such as marketing or research roles) which may give you relevant transferable skills
- **The Norman Rea Gallery** (above The Courtyard), is a university art space run by students, hosting exhibitions and promoting the work of both students and professional artists throughout term-time all year round. Members of the group act as director, vice director and curators, running everything from publicity to painting. The group welcomes new students from any department each academic year and is a great opportunity to gain valuable experience whilst studying
- **History of Art Society, Archaeology Society, History Society, Art Society**: join relevant [student societies](#) to meet students with similar interests, hear from industry professionals at speaker events, participate in debates, go on arts & heritage related visits and more!

## External organisations

- **York Museums Trust:** York St Mary's, York Castle Museum, York Art Gallery, Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens: offer a variety of on-going volunteering projects in both term time and vacations (click Support the Trust – Volunteering)
- **York Archaeological Trust:** runs, Archeritage, Northlight Heritage, Trent & Peak Archaeology and a heritage consultancy service. YAT is able to offer students [voluntary work experience](#) in: collection care; finds, curation, documentation.
- **The Jorvik Group** is the heritage tourism branch of YAT and runs JORVIK, DIG, Barley Hall, Richard the III and Henry VII Experience. They also offer on-going volunteering opportunities and placements at each of their heritage tourism sites. Opportunities include: marketing; events; education; front of house activities. Check out [Jorvik volunteers](#) and [Jorvik placements](#).
- **Fairfax House** is a Georgian town house in York displaying an extensive collection of English eighteenth-century furniture. It is a perfect time capsule of life in a Georgian town house. Volunteering opportunities at [Fairfax House](#) include: room host; administration; conservation; tour guide; events; marketing; costumed work (click Support Us - Volunteer)
- **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** seeks to provide a centre of international, national and regional importance for the production, exhibition and appreciation of modern and contemporary sculpture. To volunteer, contact [volunteers@yvsp.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@yvsp.org.uk)
- **Portable Antiquities Scheme** is run by the British Museum and National Museum Wales to encourage the [recording of archaeological objects](#) found by members of the public in England and Wales. They may have regional [volunteering opportunities](#), and you can make a speculative application for work experience with the regional Finds Liaison Officer, Rebecca Griffiths, based at York Museum Gardens [Rebecca.Griffiths@ymt.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Griffiths@ymt.org.uk)
- **National Trust** is a conservation charity which works to preserve and protect historic places and spaces. They offer volunteering work experience and internships, as well as a three year graduate scheme (an interest in environment as well as heritage is useful for this). See [National Trust volunteers](#) and [National Trust curatorship](#)
- **Association for Art History:** Consider joining to get access to fellowship and grant opportunities, training and other resources and read their [insights](#) including 'Art History and Me' feature to gain a deeper insight into different career roles within this sector (scroll down to find these articles).
- **V&A Museum:** offers work experience, volunteering and internships in different departments. See their [placements information](#)
- **British Archaeological Jobs and Resources** (BAJR). Search for jobs and volunteering opportunities in the UK and abroad

- **Past Horizons** promotes archaeology volunteering opportunities worldwide and has videos and articles about [archaeology projects](#)
- **Royal Collection Trust** (including all palaces, residences, art collections) offer volunteering roles, summer jobs, student placements and paid internships to graduates, including roles in art collection, library, marketing & HR. To view more vacancies visit [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk) (click on Working for us).
- **English Heritage** is an independent charity responsible for the national heritage collection. They offer a variety of volunteering opportunities. See their [volunteering opportunities](#)
- **Historic England** champions the nation's wider heritage, running the listing system, dealing with planning matters and giving grants. They offer volunteering within their own organisation and also advertise opportunities with other heritage organisations. See the [volunteering opportunities](#)
- **ICON** (Institute of Conservation) [ICON internships](#) help to bridge the gap between training and first job for new conservation graduates
- **ICCROM** (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage. [Internships in Rome or UAE](#) are offered to those interested in increasing their experience of current issues of heritage preservation at the international level
- Heritage Futures has a [Heritage Careers Guide](#) listing places to check for vacancies in the heritage sector
- **Heritage Lottery Fund** – useful for background research on projects in your area, to help identify possible work/volunteering opportunities
- **The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists** is the professional association for all archaeologists, useful for careers information, job search and other member benefits.
- **Museums Association** is the professional organisation for heritage workers. Offers training and conferences, good job search facility and careers information
- **The British Museum** was the first national public museum in the world and offers volunteering as well as a number of [fellowships](#) and [volunteering opportunities](#). They manage the **Museum Futures** training programme, a nationwide programme with museum partners across the UK, offering a full-time traineeship with bursary, working towards a Level 3 Diploma in Cultural Heritage. Graduates with less than six months' work experience in the sector may apply (January 2021 start).
- **The National Archives** collect and secure the future of the government record, from Shakespeare's will to tweets from Downing Street, to preserve it for generations to come, making

it as accessible and available as possible. They offer [work experience](#) and also bursaries for those wanting to train as archivists.

## Useful resources from Careers and Placements

- See our [information sheet](#) *Considering... Arts & Heritage*
- We have a number of York graduates working in the Arts & Heritage sector. To view their profiles and contact them directly to learn more about their experiences visit [York Profiles & Mentors](#).
- We advertise lots of term time opportunities in the York area – term time work, internships, volunteering opportunities and vacation jobs via [Handshake](#).

Note: some internships offered in this sector may be unpaid. Before starting an internship, you should be clear about the length of the internship, pay and conditions, what you will be expected to do, and what you will gain from the experience.

**Please note:** The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. Careers and Placements cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

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[york.ac.uk/careers](https://york.ac.uk/careers)

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