

LEABHARLANN
Chester
Beatty
LIBRARY

Curatorial Intern

Position Title: Curatorial Intern
Duration: 4 months (part-time approx. 15 hours per week)
Reports to: Curator of Western Collections
Location: Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle, Dublin, D02 AD92
Date: May 2017

The Chester Beatty Library

The Chester Beatty Library contains a world famous collection of manuscripts, prints, miniature paintings, early printed books and *objets d'art* from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. The Collection is principally focused on the written word and its associated painted and printed images.

The Library is one of Ireland's national cultural institutions. It is a public charitable trust established under the will of the late Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968) and is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The Western treasures of the Library include some of the earliest sources on papyrus for the bible and a great library of Manichean texts; Armenian and European manuscripts from medieval, Renaissance and modern times; prints, early and fine books and bindings complete a remarkable conspectus of the arts of manuscript production and printing from many cultures and periods.

For more information on the CBL, its holdings and a full schedule of events and activities please visit www.cbl.ie.

Internship Summary

The Chester Beatty Library is pleased to launch its curatorial internship scheme, which is part-funded by the American Friends of the Arts in Ireland (AFAI). The objective of this new initiative is to offer practical museum training experience to a recent graduate or postgraduate interested in pursuing a career in the arts and museum sector. The Library has successfully run a conservation internship programme since 2006 and the benefits to the institution and interns have been immeasurable.

The internship offers the possibility of professional workplace experience within a prestigious institution and the intern will gain a broad understanding of how a museum functions. The programme will start by offering a short internship of 4 months working with Dr Jill Unkel, Curator of Western Collections. The exact focus of the project will be dependent on the successful applicant's academic background, professional skills and interests, however the

intern will be expected to assist with the on-going cataloguing of the Library's Western print collection for some part of the time.

Chester Beatty's European print collecting was extensive, from Dürer's late fifteenth-century woodcuts to twentieth-century *pochoir* fashion plates by George Barbier. It includes individual prints, series, sets and albums created through engraving, etching, aquatint, mezzotint and lithography with many well-known artists represented including Goya, Callot, Piranesi and Frye. Both biblical and mythical subjects are represented, as are book illustrations, fashion and costume design, architecture and antiquities, menageries and historical narratives. Together with the rare printed books, the print collection is representative of the scale of print production in Europe from its inception to the early twentieth century.

The intern will gain hands-on experience of handling objects as well as project management, digital media, and cataloguing skills. The internship is open to students who have completed at least three years of an Art History undergraduate degree, but preference will be given to candidates currently studying at or have recently graduated from an Irish Institution.

The internship is for a fixed period of 4 months and will be paid €10 per hour (subject to PRSI and PAYE). The intern will be required to work 15 hours per week (how this is broken down is negotiable). The start date is flexible and can be adjusted to fit the successful candidate's existing commitments; however, s/he would ideally start in or before September 2017.

The internship will be supervised by the Curator of Western Collections.

Applications can only be considered from candidates who are eligible to work in Ireland. For further information please visit:

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/migrant_workers/employment_permits/work_permits.html

Duties

- Contribute to ongoing documentation and research of the Western Collections
- Enter data into the collections management database (Adlib)
- Digitally photograph specific areas of the collections if necessary (for reference only)
- Performing other duties as agreed with the Curator

Requirements

- Minimum three years completed of an Art History undergraduate degree
- Good computer skills are necessary
- Understanding of basic database cataloguing and digital photography
- Excellent written and verbal skills, with a strong command of the English language

- Ability to organise resources, establish priorities, perform research and meet deadlines
- Strong work ethic and professional manner
- Strong interpersonal skills, proactive, positive and collaborative working style
- Ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative
- An interest in and commitment to the work of the Chester Beatty Library

Desirable

- Current or recent postgraduate with a BA in Art History
- Knowledge of and research interest in European print production
- Experience with Adlib or a comparable collection management system
- Experience of working in a museum, research library, academic or other relevant environment
- Basic Latin would be useful

Application Instructions

To apply, interested candidates should submit a cover letter (outlining your relevant experience, what you believe you can contribute and if you have a particular area of interest relevant to the collection), together with a complete curriculum vitae and the names and contact information (mail, e-mail and telephone numbers) of two referees (one academic), to: Dr Jill Unkel - Curator of Western Collections

Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle, Dublin, D02 AD92, Ireland
(email: junkel@cbl.ie; the subject line should read 'Curatorial Internship')

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm GMT on Friday 2 June 2017

Please be aware that you may be required to submit official transcripts/academic records at a later date. You may also be asked to submit a short writing sample (no more than 2500 words).

The search committee will inform the candidate before contacting referees.

The Chester Beatty Library is an equal opportunities employer.

Please note: All data received relating to the application will be held in line with the Library's record retention policy.