

Student placement brief – October 2018 – IHR library and Layers of London



Layers of London

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IHR INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

The University of London's Institute of Historical Research (IHR), in collaboration with the National Archives, Historic England, the British Library, Museum of London Archaeology, London Metropolitan Archives, Birkbeck University and other partners, is currently delivering a project called Layers of London. This will engage with hundreds of thousands of Londoners from across the city's 32 boroughs and provide them with the tools to explore and share their histories and identities through our state-of-the-art website (layersoflondon.org). The website enables Londoners contribute to developing a record of our great multicultural city, using layered historic maps to record hundreds of thousands of stories, recording fresh and neglected voices, perspectives, memories and histories.

We will be working with the IHR Wohl Library to explore and research its extensive collection of London directories. These primary sources are rich in details about everyday life in the past, and we plan to draw on these to enrich our historical map, contrasting two streets in the Borough of Lambeth.

We are looking for a student who will work to:

- Research and explore two contrasting high streets in Lambeth, highlighting the similarities and differences.
- Use the London directories to source historical information about businesses, owners and trades.
- Create two collections to showcase their work, creating records that will engage visitors to the site.
- Research complementary information about the selected streets, such as more recent photographs or maps.
- Where possible digitise parts of the collection to add to the Layers archive
- Take note to cite and reference external sources properly and be conscientious in following intellectual property and copyright law.
- Create blog and social media posts to raise awareness of their work

They may also want to:

- Create an educational resource pack based on this theme for use as a one-off lesson in classrooms for KS3 students.
- Add some pins to the website to tell the history of areas/buildings/trades/roads more generally and to put these histories in context.

Requirements for the role:

- We are looking for students with an interest in public engagement, online engagement, archives and museums, community engagement, social and local history and geography.
- Applicants must be confident in using Microsoft Word and writing for social media and blogs.

Desirable:

- Experience of creating educational resources.
- Knowledge of London and its history.

We are asking for a contribution of approximately 4-5 voluntary hours per week between 8 October and 10 December. We are flexible in terms of work schedule within this. You will send a brief fortnightly report on your work and we will schedule a series of meetings to ensure you have all the resources you need.

Training/support provided if necessary:

- We will provide training on how to use the website and add content, including an introduction to the project and project team
- We will provide support, guidance and models for educational resources.
- We will support your use of social media/blog posts on our platforms.

What we can offer you:

- We will pay all your expenses if you are travelling as part of the project.
- We will provide all necessary equipment for the duration of the placement.
- We will provide suitable working spaces in the IHR although many tasks you may prefer to do remotely and we are happy to be flexible with this role so that the placement works for you (this role will often be based at the IHR Wohl Library as resources cannot be removed from the library).
- We will offer you training to build your skills and contribute to your continuing professional development.
- We will offer support and guidance for your future career.
- References for future study/work on request.

If you are interested:

Please contact Amy Todd, the Public Engagement Manager for Layers of London, at amy.todd@sas.ac.uk.