

NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Museums, Heritage and Exhibitions Summer School

Credit points: 5 (2.5 ECTS)

Duration: 5 days

This course is intended for people who are new to museums, heritage and exhibitions. To benefit from the course should have the required English language skills.

Overview and aims

The world of museums, heritage and the arts is changing rapidly. There is a growing need for multi-skilled professionals who have an international experience of heritage and education work. This course therefore offers the unique opportunity to broaden your vision and develop a network of friends and practitioners from around the world. The course is ideal for delegates of all ages and experiences who are interested in social and cultural history and how it is represented today.

Course content:

In Nottingham and the surrounding region there are many nationally important museums and galleries, as well as castles and countryside estates that celebrate the city's place in British history. From Victorian workhouses to modern art exchanges, during this week you will get to engage first hand with the local museum and gallery sector, and see how buildings old and new are attracting local, national and international visitors. You will examine local and regional history and contemporary cultures, and develop projects and proposals that respond to new ways of curating to audiences today.

On your doorstep will be Nottingham Castle, The Galleries of Justice, Hardwick Hall and Wollaton Hall. Organised visits will enable you to explore these important buildings and their collections, and you will learn about the museum sector and its funding, and how the interpretation of material culture can affect the artefact on display. You will also learn from professionals about how marketing is exploiting the history of the region.

Lively study activities will support the visits to help you identify key themes as you immerse yourself in British culture and history. You will complete the week by creating a proposal, either individually or in groups, for an exhibition that celebrates the history and heritage of the region.

Indicative reading

BLACK, Graham, 2012. *Transforming Museums in the 21st Century*. London: Routledge

Harrison, R., 2013 *Heritage. Critical Approaches*. London, Routledge

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- develop an understanding of heritage, of the key audiences for heritage sites and of the needs and requirements of users;
- demonstrate an awareness of the nature, meaning and importance of material culture in understanding and representing contemporary society; and
- identify where to find information and how to interpret it.

Teaching and learning

This course will be taught via practical workshops and field visits.

Total contact hours: 25

In addition to the contact hours you should expect to spend approximately five hours before and during the course on preparation and directed reading, field work and action learning.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. You will produce an exhibition proposal. The proposal will be created either individually or in groups for an exhibition that celebrates the history and heritage of the region.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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