**Techne Diversity Student Placement**

**Research project assisting the Black Beyond Data project partnership with Royal Museums Greenwich (National Maritime Museum)**

**Current Situation**

A substantial portion of Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG)’s collections reflect Britain’s colonial and imperial activity around the globe and many of its Collections Online records and interpretations in the galleries currently reproduce outdated colonial terminologies and perspectives that warrant re-interpretation and contextualisation that is relevant, non-discriminatory, and seeks to mitigate the harms experienced by descendant communities.

**The work to be done**

Over a period of up to six months, the student, in the role of research assistant, will undertake an analysis of the description of the cataloguing and interpretative text relating to the Michael Graham-Stewart Collection on historic enslavement, in relation to best practice on inclusive descriptive standards. This will include:

* The identification of instances where outdated language has been used
* Providing suggestions for best practice and ethical alternatives
* Suggesting? appropriate content warnings on our catalogue, where none exist
* Developing a guide to support researchers accessing this material

Their work will feed into RMG’s partnership project with [Black Beyond Data](https://www.wobd.blackbeyonddata.org/) (Johns Hopkins University) as part of their transatlantic consortium, the Center Black Data Re-imaginings whose aim is to facilitate community-led history projects and digital humanities platforms that speak to the histories of the people of the African Diaspora and their experiences in nuanced and multifaceted ways, uncovering and recovering fractured stories.  The work will also feed into the reinterpretation of the Atlantic Worlds gallery in the National Maritime Museum, that includes objects and archives from the Michael Graham-Stewart collection.

RMG’s pilot project focusses on the Michael Graham-Stewart Collection to test out new approaches to building responsible collections access. This will include collaborating with descendent communities on the co-curation of descriptive practices through a series of workshops during 2026. The student will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the framework of these workshops.

**Success factors**

* Strong organisational skills
* Ability to organise and analyse data
* A knowledge or willingness to learn about best practice in inclusive terminology for museums and archives

**Support**

The student will be embedded in the curatorial and engagement teams managed by RMG’s project lead Victoria Lane, Senior Curator, Art & Identity who be responsible for the student’s induction, development and agreement of milestones with the student; facilitation of access to the Michael Graham-Stewart Collection and arranging training and access to our collection management system (Mimsy). The research project can be undertaken in the office or as a hybrid online/in-person placement. The student will also shadow in any meetings relevant to the project and have the opportunity to become familiar with RMG’s wider work on Atlantic histories, interacting not only with the curatorial and collections teams, but also the engagement team. As the content of the Michael Graham-Stewart Collection is sensitive and can be triggering, we will ensure that the student has access to senior Curatorial and Engagement staff members for support, as well as from our People & Culture wellbeing lead. We will schedule regular meetings to ensure that the student has regular opportunities to discuss wellbeing issues.

Diversity Placement students will be able to work with host organisations to apply for additional funds through the training day applications should these be needed. Events and the management of the budget will be supported by the technē admin team and will be subject to the standard technē/AHRC regulations.

**Response information:**

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this opportunity. Please apply by responding to the questions below. You can share your ideas with us in a max 500-word statement or a 2 mins audio or video recording.

1. Why are you interested in this placement?

2. Which areas of the cultural sector are you most interested in working in and why?

3. What kinds of work towards Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are you interested in exploring?

Please also detail your year of study, institution and confirm that you have discussed this with your supervisor. Please email this to techne@rhul.ac.uk by 28th March 2025.

If you would like further information regarding this placement, please contact Sally Archer SArcher@rmg.co.uk for an informal conversation.