

Displaying the Past: Museum Studies

This module is fully online and is self-directed, meaning you will read through the weekly materials in your own time, there is no weekly class. There is, however, one introductory tutorial, plus two student-led tutorials in weeks 4 and 9 to discuss the group tasks, and then in weeks 5 and 10 there will be two discussions with museum professionals from across the Highlands and Islands. This is a fascinating insight into how museums work and will give you valuable experience should you wish to pursue a career within the heritage industry or are simply interested in how museums operate. It will introduce you to museum practices in the UK and further afield. We look at careers, accessioning, accreditation, cataloguing and so much more. There are weekly tasks including some field trips, an essay and you will produce your very own online museum exhibition which will be made publicly available. You can find previous works via the ins.uhi.ac.uk website.

Learning outcomes

Students will

- Evaluate the relevance and legal implications of an artefact in the museum collection.
- Apply current ethical guidelines in reaching informed decisions on the collection and use of an artefact.
- Research, plan and implement the suitable storage or appropriate label and graphic display to accompany an artefact.
- Develop a strategy to promote access to the artefact for the disabled, visually impaired and those with learning difficulties.
- Research museum and heritage centres with regard to their collection policy, displays etc.

Weekly summary

- *Week one:* what is a museum, why are museums relevant, accreditation and ecomuseums.
- *Week two:* museum management, who does what in a museum, museum managers and health and safety
- *Week three:* accreditation, benefits, and the paperwork involved
- *Week four:* documentation, its importance, relevance, the procedures and policies involved
- *Week five:* discussion week with museum professionals
- *Week six:* interpretation – engage, reflect, inspire, and oral history
- *Week seven:* archaeology, from dig to display, case study, treasure trove
- *Week eight:* readability, ekarv, fog, didactics & semiotics
- *Week nine:* research, guidance, exhibition planning, and outreach
- *Week ten:* discussion week with museum professionals
- *Week eleven:* collecting, costs and disposal, ethics, what should be collected
- *Week twelve:* rural and folklife, the future

Assessments

- You will create a portfolio of work made up of weekly tasks and visits to museums, write a 2,000 word essay, and will create your own online virtual exhibition of an object you own. You will also work together as a class on the collaborative exhibition front image.

Queries

If you have any questions regarding this course then please email Lynn Campbell: lynn.campbell@uhi.ac.uk.

Apply

Apply via our website by [clicking here](#).