

Global Challenge Internship Programme 2018-19

Internship description

Company name	Museums Victoria
Internship title	Summer Project Intern (The Invisible Farmer Project: Uncovering the Untold Stories of Australian Women in Agriculture)
Internship location	Melbourne, Australia
Company website	www.museumsvictoria.com.au

About the company

Museums Victoria Vision: People enriched by wondrous discovery and trusted knowledge. Society compelled to act for a thriving future.

Museums Victoria Mission:

- We create knowledge and experiences that help us make sense of the world.
- We exchange stories about culture, history and science that fearlessly discuss the big questions in life.
- We collect traces of time and place that allow us to connect the past, present and future.
- We make captivating physical; and virtual spaces that open minds and hearts

Museum Victoria is Australia’s largest public museum organisation. As the state museum for Victoria, we are responsible for looking after the State collection of more than 17 million objects, documents, photographs and specimens. The collection is an invaluable record of Victoria’s environmental and cultural history, and our amazing wealth of objects has been inspiring a sense of wonder and awe in visitors for generations. Our research, in the fields of science and humanities, uses these collections and expert staff to further what we know about the social and natural history of Victoria and beyond.

Museum Victoria’s origins date back to 1854, with the founding of the National Museum of Victoria and the establishment, in 1870, of the Industrial and Technological Museum of Victoria (later known as the Science Museum of Victoria). By proclamation of the Museums Act 1983 (Vic.), these two institutions were amalgamated to form what is known today as Museum Victoria, governed by the Museums Board of Victoria. In 1996, Museum Victoria took over custodianship of the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building.

We present long-term and temporary exhibitions at three venues: Melbourne Museum, Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum. These exhibitions are core to our cultural and scientific programs for the people of Victoria and visitors from interstate and overseas.

Museum Victoria has been part of the lives and experiences of Victorians for more than 150 years. Over that time, we have engaged audiences and connected people with new ideas about themselves and the world around them. The ways in which the community interacts with us have evolved significantly and they continue to change.

for more information about Museums Victoria, its corporate vision, venues, research, collections and associated activities see our website and the Museum Victoria collections website:

www.museumsvictoria.com.au

About the internship

The Invisible Farmer Project is the largest national study of women on the land in Australia. this three year project (2017-2020) is funded by the Australian Research Council and involved a nation-wide partnership between rural communities, academics, government and cultural organisations. Museums Victoria is playing a leading role in this project, and our curatorial and community engagement work is aimed at:

- Acknowledging the longstanding and ongoing legacy if Indigenous women, Australia's first farmers
- Creating new histories of rural Australia that challenge dominant masculine myths and legends
- Stimulating national discussions about contemporary issues facing Australia's past, present and future (i.e. food security, climate change, gender equality)
- Utilising digital tools to engage women in sharing stories and co-curating their histories
- Exploring the rich and diverse stories of rural women across generations, ages, cultural backgrounds and locations
- Developing significant public collections that enable far reaching outcomes in research, industry and public policy



*Eloise Vinen milking cows at Channel farm, Swan Hill, 1924,
Source: Museums Victoria*

The student project will assist in documenting the Invisible Farmer Project collection of photographs/oral histories and making it accessible to the wider community through the Museum's Collection Online portal, as well as the Invisible Farmer Project website blog and social media (www.invisiblefarmer.net.au, @invisfarmer). This will involve cataloguing, blog writing, social media outreach and liaising with the community to uncover stories. There is the possibility that the student will identify a topic that resonates with them and follow this story up with research, oral history (if desired/necessary) and the authoring of a 'Feature Story' on the project website blog.

The project undertaken will have set objectives to be completed during the placement. The student will also be exposed to identified cultural collections and other core museum programs, through activities such as attendance at relevant meetings, workshops or spending the day with staff across the Museum (including curators, collection managers, educators and public program staff, exhibition and online developers) in order to get a more comprehensive picture of what their work entails. This broadening experience will also enhance the student's understanding of the different issues currently facing the Museum's collections, research and interpretive methodologies.

The project will offer the student: access to Museum collections; research opportunities; catalogue database user training (Emu); online publishing opportunities including social media training, public engagement and oral history fieldwork, and the interaction with a range of Museums Victoria collections and curatorial staff.

The projects include a selection or combination of the following activities: Research; Collection Development and Acquisitions; Collection Documentation and Cataloguing; Exhibition Development; Online Development; Education and Public Programs Development.



Amy Paul of Ruby Hills Organics, 2016, Victoria, Photographer: Catherine Forge, Source: Museums Victoria

Person specification

Essential knowledge and skills

- Must be a current University of Birmingham undergraduate student
- Open to students from any degree background
- Interest in oral history and material culture
- Skills in writing for public audiences
- Able to confidently and sensitively engage with community

Desirable knowledge and skills

- Preferably undertaking a humanities discipline degree which demonstrates the student's research skills and an interest in history, art history, public history, museum studies or digital storytelling/social media.

Dates

- Start date: TBC (flexible in between July 2019 and September 2019)
- End date: TBC (flexible in between July 2019 and September 2019)
- Internship duration: 6 weeks
- Working hours: 7.6 hours per day, 5 days per week

Application deadline

Sunday 17th February 2019

How to apply

Apply online via the [Global Challenge application form](#)