

Learning on Site: Museums and Heritage in Local and Global Contexts

Prospectus and Overview

This prospective 10-day Summer School will be based in, and led by, the Department of Art History and World Art Studies at the University of East Anglia. It is anticipated that the programme will be delivered in the summer season (e.g. July) of 2027 in association with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, the Sainsbury Centre, the Sainsbury Research Unit, and wider colleagues and experts.

The focus of the Summer School will be on how different forms of culture and heritage become accessible and meaningful. It will address a range of collections and exhibitions, and related forms of communication and learning. It will be of interest to Humanities students and aspiring museum professionals from all parts of the world. It will cover key museum practices, such as acquisition, interpretation, and display. It will provide students with great opportunities to develop both hands-on experience and a nuanced understanding of how and why museum professionals respond to contemporary challenges and issues.

Each day of learning and engagement will comprise both morning and afternoon sessions, and these will take place across a diversity of sites and contexts. The module can be delivered as a 10 UCU credit option, following the students' successful completion of our coursework tasks. Our draft schedule would incorporate these kinds of learning sessions:

Week 1

Day 1 - Morning: Introduction to Learning on Site
Day 1 - Afternoon: Different Approaches to Site-based Experience
Day 2 - Morning: Museum Histories
Day 2 - Afternoon: The Sainsbury Centre
Day 3 - Morning: Museum Thinking
Day 3 - Afternoon: Exhibition Design
Day 4 - Morning: Thinking and Making Cultural Heritage (Local)
Day 4 - Afternoon: Thinking and Making Cultural Heritage (Global)
Day 5 - Morning: Museum Professions and Practices
Day 5 - Afternoon: Coursework Updates

Week 2

Day 6 - Morning: Museum Communication
Day 6 - Afternoon: Museum Collaboration
Day 7 - Morning: Site Visit to Norwich Castle Museum
Day 7 - Afternoon: Archaeology in Museums
Day 8 - Morning: Site Visit to Local Heritage Site
Day 8 - Afternoon: Landscapes and Landscape Histories
Day 9 - Morning: Site Visit to Cambridge or City or Norwich Heritage Walk
Day 9 - Afternoon: Coursework Discussions
Day 10 - Morning: Museum Skills and Professional Development
Day 10 - Afternoon: Conclusion and Coursework Completion



Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia, UK

The Sainsbury Centre was designed by the world-famous Sir Norman Foster in the mid-1970s. It houses the Sainsbury Collection, alongside the Department of Art History and World Art Studies and the Sainsbury Research Unit. The main photograph (above) highlights the outdoor Sculpture Park, and it views the Centre from its northeastern corner. Additional photographs explore the play of light and shade within and around the Centre.

