
The Culture and Arts Schools Experts Fellowship

The Cultural Education Challenge was launched by Arts Council England in the midst of change in both the education and cultural sectors. Schools continue to experience huge challenges in their ability to provide arts and cultural opportunities within the curriculum, whilst cultural organisations struggle to maintain or develop members of staff who can dedicate themselves to schools work at this crucial time.

In response, the **Culture and Arts Schools Experts (CASE)** programme is an investment from Curious Minds, designed to protect, nurture and develop a team of credible schools experts from within the North West's cultural sector who can strengthen the ability of cultural organisations to work in partnership with schools and will take that passion and expertise with them as they develop as future leaders of learning departments, artistic directors or managers of venues.

What is the Culture and Arts Schools Experts Fellowship?

Launched in 2016, the Culture and Arts Schools Experts (CASE) Fellowship is an annual, year-long development opportunity that will create a talent pool of credible schools specialists employed in the North West's National Portfolio Organisations, in arts organisations, museums/heritage settings and libraries.

Who is it aimed at?

Each year, we will award fellowships to a small cohort of carefully selected individuals drawn from existing education or learning roles across the North West's cultural sector.

- Applicants will be early to mid- career and demonstrate a passion for cultural education.
 - Applicants may have some experience or knowledge of working with schools but will be eager to go deeper and to hone their knowledge and experience in such a way that they become known and credible schools specialists, able to influence and advise their own organisations and the wider cultural sector.
 - Applicants will be employees on the payroll within cultural organisations. To ensure fellowship learning benefits organisations, this programme is not suitable for freelancers or self-employed persons.
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Content of the programme:

Fellows will access 15 days of inspirational learning and self-study across the year curated and delivered by Curious Minds with contributions from regional and national experts.

Contributors to the learning programme may include:

Local and National Leaders of Education LLEs and NLEs	Cultural education leaders from regionally significant venues and organisations	SLiCE[®] fellows and alumni
The Cultural Learning Alliance	Creativity, Culture and Education	Schools experts and personal coaches

Timeline

Fellow's learning will take place through residential and workshops. For the 2019-20 cohort, this includes:

- 3 day residential in November 2019
- 2 day residential in March 2020
- 3 days to include individual coaching and group workshops across the academic year 19-20
- 5 day school placement in the Spring/Summer term 2020
- 2 days of self-study exploring policies and practice throughout the programme

Learning outcomes

Specialist knowledge

The programme will focus on developing knowledge along with advocating and influencing skills such as:

- Presentation to strategic leads and wider audiences
 - Understanding the cultural education landscape
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- National policy and practice of schools and education
- Understanding how schools are funded, managed and governed
- Curriculum requirements

Fellows will also:

Be offered time with a coach or mentor to support their individual reflection and learning	Explore governance	Network with existing SLICE® teachers and CASE alumni to share practice
Take part in a short school placement	Be given the chance to practice their advocacy skills. For example, blog writing and presenting at events	Create a personal development plan

On completion of the programme, fellows will be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of key cultural education and education policies and research.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the current education landscape including relevant challenges and opportunities for schools.
- Draw on first-hand experience of the day to day reality of teachers and school decision makers.
- Speak persuasively about the benefits of cultural education to their peers, to schools and to senior leaders from both culture and education.
- Understand and advocate for the benefits of Artsmark and Arts Award. Demonstrate an awareness of their professional development and create a personal development plan.

How will the fellows benefit the wider sector?

Participants will be given a number of opportunities to practice their advocacy skills throughout the CASE fellowship.

Following the programme, there will be further opportunities for alumni professional development and involvement in a peer-led CASE sharing network.

Where appropriate, alumni may also undertake deployment by Curious Minds as cultural education advocates and schools specialists. This may include speaking at events, offering

advice or support to other organisations, supporting schools with Artsmark or their peers with Arts Award.

Logistics and application process

Value

The value of each fellowship is in the region of £8000 in training, accommodation and resources and this cost will be covered in full by Curious Minds for the successful applicants.

Curious Minds will negotiate cover with your employer to ensure that your programmes are sufficiently staffed whilst you are on the fellowship.

Support from your current organisation

Your current employer must be willing to:

- Write you a recommendation
- Attend the interview with you
- Release you on the required dates
- Allow you time and support to reflect on the process throughout
- Create an opportunity for you to present your learning back to your organisation
- Give feedback to Curious Minds about the impact of the fellowship on their organization
- Be supportive of ongoing alumni CPD and deployment opportunities following 'graduation'.

Application process and timescales:

Deadline for applications: Monday 16th September

Interviews will take place 1st and 2nd of October

1st Residential: 5th to 7th November 2019

If you or your line manager would like to discuss any aspect of this programme, please contact Emma Bush: Head of Programmes on 01772 827 001. You can also email hanna.lambert@curiousminds.org.uk with any questions.

Sign-up to the Curious Minds e-bulletin at <https://curiousminds.org.uk/subscribe/> for the latest CASE news and to keep up-to-date on other events and opportunities in cultural education across the North West.