

Jo Kirton, delivery & engagement manager at the Council for British Archaeology, reports on the world of young and aspiring archaeologists

Placement opportunities in archaeology

At the CBA (Council for British Archaeology) we regularly provide opportunities for students and early-career heritage professionals to join us on placements. Some approach us for the opportunity, others we reach out to via various routes.

We often take on work-experience students still in school or college, and work with universities to offer placements and to collaborate on research projects. Other opportunities come through national programmes, such as the government's Kickstarter Scheme, which provides funding to create new jobs for 16- to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment. More still come via collaborative or external projects, such as Shout Out Loud, which provided funded three-month placements.

During these placements we try to create activities and involve participants in projects that will help them develop in the areas that will most benefit their future



Sam Hiorns

career plans and enhance their CV. We also hope to provide them with a realistic insight into the world of work, specifically within a national heritage organisation.

Due to the pandemic many of the placements over the last few years have been remote or hybrid in nature, presenting new opportunities and challenges for both the CBA and our

placements. This hasn't stopped their creativity though, as many were able to use pre-existing digital skill sets, as much of our delivery pivoted to online outputs. For example, Sam Hiorns joined us in summer 2021 as a Shout Out Loud paid placement. He worked with us for three months as our in-house videographer, creating content for the Festival of Archaeology and setting up the CBA's TikTok channel (see video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=l722JNJL_iQ&list=PLojz2K7enTbThodP2U3ItIZULr2c4FC8f&index=7).

Opportunities

Every academic year the CBA hosts several cultural heritage management students from the University of York who work closely with our Youth Engagement and Casework teams. Our latest placement was Teresa Yeung, who has recently moved to the UK from Hong Kong. She has written for us about her recent experience working with the CBA, below.

Teresa Yeung

I am doing an MA in cultural heritage management at the University of York. The work placement provided by the CBA is highly beneficial to me. As a youth engagement content creator, I participated in various education related projects, such as the creation of learning resources for the Festival of Archaeology. This practical experience is critical for an international student like me who is pursuing a new career path in Britain, to gain a solid understanding of working in the heritage sector. The tasks I undertook allowed me to demonstrate my capability. The warm and inclusive work environment at the CBA also made me feel confident of working in heritage-related fields.

I am grateful for the opportunity to apply what I learned in my master's programme. For example, I learned about the issue of decolonisation in some of my lectures. I was so surprised the public has a limited participation in this important issue. Thus, with the full support from my supervisor and



teammates, I created several activities for the Festival of Archaeology to encourage young people to learn more and even participate in the debate on decolonisation. Besides, I had a lot of fun doing interesting tasks like mixing

yellow food colouring and salt to make "urine" to create a step-by-step guide for children to do salt extraction experiments at home. CBA's placement is not only for career development; it can also be enjoyable!



We have also participated in the Kickstarter Scheme over the past 12 months, working with Beth (find out how she got on here: www.yac-uk.org/news/work-placement-beth-council-for-british-archaeology) and Celyn, who is currently in post organising our Early Careers conference for this year's Festival of Archaeology, and supporting the facilitation of our new youth governance project. Celyn tells us more about her experience below.

Right: Beth, Kickstarter with YAC crafts



Left: Lachlan creating his own Georgian make-up activity during work experience

SAM HORNES, CBA (7)

Celyn Gale

Over the past few months I have been at the CBA as a website and young people assistant through their Kickstart Scheme. I have found everything exciting, and all the staff have been so helpful and welcoming.

An ongoing part of my role is to create my own activities for the YAC website, including Victorian-themed Christmas activities, as well as creating resources for the upcoming Festival of Archaeology – look out for a Lego-themed resource pack! I have also been updating the old activities on the YAC website (go try them out!) as well as the content in the youth section of the CBA website.

I've been updating the Home Front Legacy project – the app may be no more, but the resources certainly aren't! The designs are now updated and now live in a new section of the YAC website. I've really enjoyed giving new life to old content. I'm also working on organising the Early Careers Conference which will be a part of the Festival of Archaeology this year.

Also during my time at the CBA I've been able to attend events such as the



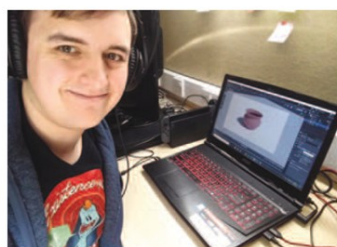
Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities & Climate Change conference in Liverpool, and in May I went to Creswell Crags to take part in the YAC Leaders' Training Day, exploring the Ice Age in Britain. I spent an exciting day in the CBA archive digging through the boxes – a highlight for me were the stacks of old YAC group newsletters that are now decades old!

My time at the CBA has been a great experience and I've learnt a lot since I started here, I'm excited to take these skills with me after I leave.



Above: Susanne on work experience in the CBA offices

We firmly believe that providing these types of opportunities is key to supporting young people on their journey into the profession. By providing paid opportunities we are also creating a more equitable path for the benefit of the individual, the CBA and the future of the sector.



Details of paid placement opportunities are advertised on the CBA website when available, at www.archaeologyuk.org/about-us/job-vacancies.html. If you are interested in undertaking work experience as part of school, college or HE courses please email info@archaeologyuk.org ■

Left: Alex on a cultural heritage management placement, creating online digital activities during lockdown; he used Blender to create step-by-step activities for YAC