The British Museum

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britishmuseum.org

International Training Programme

ITP Collaboration Grants 2026

Background

The British Museum's International Training Programme (ITP) has, since 2006, sought to provide opportunities for shared learning, discussion and collaboration between museums and heritage professionals from across the globe. To date, our growing global network totals 393 fellows from 65 countries and offering opportunities for professional and personal development are a key aspect of the ITP.

The opportunity
The ITP has previously offered financial assistance for fellows to attend and participate in conferences and to conduct research which can be demonstrated to help develop professional skills and networks in the museum and heritage sector. Since 2021 the ITP has awarded 51 grants to a wide range of research projects and conference places to fellows across the network.

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the ITP, and to celebrate this milestone year the ITP has chosen to theme the work we do and the projects that we support around **collaboration**. This focus reflects the ITP's commitment to supporting museums as dynamic spaces that connect people, stories and ideas across borders. This anniversary year will highlight how cultural heritage is interpreted – and reinterpreted – through collaboration and shared practice, whilst exploring how museums can foster meaningful intercultural dialogue in an increasingly interconnected world.

To celebrate this, instead of our usual conference and research grants, this year the ITP will be awarding **collaboration grants up to the value of £3000** to support members of the network to undertake a collaborative project. Working within the ITP network, these grants must be used towards a project with a collaborative element at either a local, national, or international level.

The aim of these grants is to sustain and grow connections across the network, fostering partnerships between fellows from different countries or institutions, and supporting collaborations involving UK partner and British Museum colleagues.

Your application
We welcome proposals for collaborative projects that demonstrate meaningful partnerships across the ITP network. Examples of the types of activity we are keen to support include (but are not limited to):

- Co-produced interpretation or digital projects, such as online exhibitions or shared resources, developed collaboratively across institutions or countries.
- Joint research and knowledge-sharing initiatives addressing a shared professional challenge, with practical outputs such as toolkits or guidance documents for the wider museum sector.
- Skills exchange or peer-learning projects, including workshops or collaborative training activities that support reciprocal learning between institutions.
- Collaborative co-creation projects with communities, exploring participatory practice, ethical engagement, and shared authority in different cultural or geographic contexts.
- Professional development or public programmes, such as webinars, seminar series, or short courses, designed and delivered collaboratively and accessible to the ITP network or wider museum sector.

All proposals should demonstrate:

- A clear collaborative approach involving at least two members of the ITP network.
- Relevance to the applicants' professional interests and development, as well as those of their institution(s).
- A defined outcome that can be documented and shared via the ITP website and blog, and that addresses current challenges in the international museum sector.

Who can apply?
Collaboration grants are open only to members of the ITP global network. This includes:

- All ITP fellows (2006 to present)
- UK partner museums and colleagues
- British Museum department representatives and colleagues

Fellows from any year can apply: any job in any discipline and from any country. Applicants who have received an ITP conference and research grant in previous calls (2021-2025) are also welcome to apply for this opportunity.

This opportunity will be granted to fellows who have a proven track record of good time management, and to those who are organised and understand the importance of regular communication and report writing to the ITP team and ITP funders. Experience of writing and research related interest and experience is also desirable.

Please note that any visas or travel arrangements needed for your project must be arranged by you. This is a grant to support successful applicants financially, and while we always provide support and advice, on this occasion we cannot offer to manage your logistical arrangements.

All proposals must be submitted with confirmation in writing from their institution(s), and any collaborating institutions.

Expectations
Successful projects will attend 3 online meetings with the ITP team – before, during and after – to align on timelines, deliverables, and to provide updates.

Each project must have a lead contact who will be responsible for communicating updates to the ITP team and for managing the transfer of funds. The role of lead contact must be taken by an ITP fellow.

Within 4 weeks of research completion, fellows will have emailed the ITP team with:

- A breakdown of expenditure and receipts for spent ITP funds (using an ITP template)
- Reimbursement for any unexpected leftover ITP funds.
- A report (using an ITP template) demonstrating your research outcomes, what you learned and how you benefitted from the experience, to be shared with the rest of the network on the ITP blog and website.
- Any resources to share with the network.
- *Optional: a short film capturing your experience, to be shared on the ITP blog and website.

All projects must be completed and reported back to the ITP team by Tuesday 1 December 2026. There is no flexibility with this deadline.

How to apply
Successful projects will be chosen through an application process. One application form is to be submitted per group and must be completed in collaboration with all group members.

Please complete the application form and return to itp@britishmuseum.org by midday GMT on Friday 27 February 2026.

An information drop-in session will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 17 January 2026 between 14:00 – 15:00 GMT. During this time the ITP team will be available to answer any questions about this year's grant process and discuss any potential ideas.

Joining link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86789901446?pwd=gnXvmJ7qodhP2sEkAvO0iRvaFzGbJm.1

For any questions, please contact Amelia Kedge, ITP Coordinator (Legacy Projects) directly at akedge@britishmuseum.org.