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**Programme Development**

Role: Assistant Internship

Contract: 3 months (may be extended)

Hourly Pay: £20.00 per hour

On-site and remote working

To apply: email [hr@royal-needlework.org.uk](mailto:hr@royal-needlework.org.uk) with your curriculum vitae and a one page covering letter explaining how you will undertake this role

**Programme Development Assistant Internship**

The RSN is unique; no other single organisation covers the breadth of education and practice to promote the art and technique of hand embroidery or has our connections, collection, archive and heritage.

Based at Hampton Court Palace, we have 150years of remarkable history and contribution to the world of embroidery; our Studio specialises in creating beautiful bespoke commissions as well as restoring historical textiles and bringing heirlooms back to life; our Education Team run a degree programme, a professional embroidery and tutor course and we have global reach through our online courses which are also delivered in person at locations across the UK and internationally.

The RSN Stitch Bank has been set up to digitally conserve a record of every stitch worldwide.  From commissions for the British royal family and contemporary works for top, international designers, to pieces by our own talented tutors, students and first-time stitchers inspired to enter the constantly developing world of embroidery the RSN uses its unique position to innovate and enrich lives by providing the widest access to its knowledge and skills.

***What If?* New project development, objectives and goals?**

We are developing a new programme, called *What If?* to extend and consolidate the RSN’s existing role within a broad societal cultural context. We will do this by mobilising an ambitious international partnership programme with organisations and individuals, aiming to promote the cultural exchange of stitch-based knowledge within the context of *What If?*

Our priority is to work in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, in particular those working with under-represented audiences. We intend to develop a ground-breaking creative programme, challenging perceptions about hand-stitching.

Historic embroidery designs have always referenced the natural world and, taking this as our starting point, we have selected the theme of nature as our over-arching narrative. We will be elaborating a clear, unique and distinct vision, focussing on exploring a rich, relevant and important visual interpretation of key, current, critical environmental issues.

**The role**

This is a new fixed-term position, which will fulfil an important role in the early development stages of the RSN’s new and dynamic *What If?* programme. The key focus of this position will be to contribute to the initial creative planning process by researching opportunities and partnerships which will help shape the programme’s future direction. This will include identifying and recommending possible stakeholders across a wide range of sectors, in the UK and internationally. These will include heritage, culture, fine and applied arts, design, media, creative practitioners, fashion, sustainability, non-profit, corporate and funders.

**Essential requirements:**

* Demonstrable strong interest and understanding of the creative arts.
* Ability to think laterally as well as linearly by challenging assumptions.
* Excellent research skills and ability to identify opportunities.
* Ability to work proactively and independently to achieve positive measurable outcomes.
* Evidence of ability to work as a team member.
* Excellent communications skills.
* Understanding of values, principles and potential of collaborative relationships.
* Commitment to extending the scope and scale of RSN’s purpose to diverse audiences.

**Person specification**

The role will offer a unique opportunity for a graduate interested in gaining experience and expertise within the arts, culture and heritage sector.

**Working pattern**

This is a full-time position for a period of three months. There is an opportunity for working on a hybrid basis, but you will also be expected to work at Hampton Court Palace for 1-2 days per week and attend meetings as required.