Student Film Commission Callout for The Manchester Museum

April 2022

The Manchester Museum and Drama and Film department are looking for three to four student filmmaking teams to produce short films for public exhibition in the new Chinese Culture Gallery at the Manchester Museum opening this Autumn.

Students will respond to a client brief from the Manchester Museum (see below) and be mentored by award winning broadcaster and [Public Historian Michael Wood](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/peoples-historian-becomes-manchester-professor/) and Rebecca Dobbs of [Maya Vision International](https://www.mayavisionint.com/) (with support from Sophie and Mao). Michael and Rebecca have decades of experience in documentary television production, including the landmark BBC/PBS Series’ *The Story of China* and *The Story of India*.

You will have access to departmental camera and sound kits and editing facilities and a budget of up to £300 per team to cover additional filmmaking expenses. This is open to all year groups but you must have some experience producing films to apply for this opportunity - either through a course you have studied or previous personal experience.

All students interested in publicly exhibiting their work in a landmark new gallery and developing their careers as filmmakers through professional mentoring and access to facilities are encouraged to apply for this opportunity. Each filmmaking team will have at least one student of Chinese heritage from inside or outside of the department and we are working with the Confucius Institute to ensure that we recruit students from the Chinese student community to be part of this project. If you wish to be considered as a group of 3 that does not include a member of Chinese heritage you can still apply and we will match you with an additional team member.

There are two ways of applying. You can express interest as an individual (and we will help to create your team) or as a group. If you wish to be considered for this opportunity as an individual or as a self-made group please carefully read the background information and museum brief below and email sophie.everest@manchester.ac.uk and maohui.deng@manchester.ac.uk with a short statement of interest (no more than 1 side of A4) by **Friday April 29th, 5pm** stating:

* Personal/ collective motivation for wanting to be considered for this opportunity
* Previous filmmaking experience
* A brief outline of your individual or collective key skills and specialisms (e.g., camera operation; interviewing; production management; editing…No need to possess all of these!)

**Manchester Museum - Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery**

***Project Background***

The Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery, the first permanent gallery devoted to Chinese Culture in Manchester Museum’s history, will be dedicated to promoting understanding between cultures and building a more sustainable world. Through the showcase of rarely seen collections, powerful personal narratives and international research and collaborations, this exciting new gallery will explore the rich heritage and dynamic links between Manchester and China, and offer a complex and diverse understanding of what Chinese culture is.

The gallery aims to be an active space for learning and knowledge-sharing through thematic storytelling, exploring the histories of migration, cultural identity, practises of caring and healing, and our interconnected future; engaging with a wide audience and inspiring a sense of empathy.

The aims of the gallery are to:

* Build empathy and understanding between UK and China
* Engage a wide audience with Chinese culture and heritage through storytelling, design, teaching and programming.
* Explore and celebrate the diverse experiences of Chinese diasporic communities in Manchester
* Create a space for engagement that can be programmed with partners, artists, creative practitioners and social groups, as part of the Chinese cultural offer in Manchester
* Develop partnerships and long term, sustainable relationships with Manchester’s Chinese communities and Chinese cultural institutions.
* Explore the contemporary, economic, political and environmental landscape of China through a rich programme of research and events, in a unique partnership with the University of Manchester’s Manchester-China Institute.

This gallery has been made possible thanks to generous support from the Lee Kai Hung Foundation to the University of Manchester.

***The Museum Commission***

As part of the vision to explore and celebrate the diverse experiences of Chinese diasporic communities in Manchester, the gallery will draw upon the personal experiences of Chinese communities across the city; uncovering complex and compelling stories of people who have lived/currently live here. The commission is an opportunity for the filmmakers to delve into these narratives and develop a short film or series of short films in collaboration with individuals from communities, as a way for them to share their breadth of stories and experiences. The commission will be included as part of the gallery’s content and displayed in the gallery and or through the gallery online content from its opening in late 2022.

We recognise that it’s important for the filmmakers to spend time to build relationships sensitively with individuals. The gallery project team will work closely with the filmmakers to support this process.