The Harold Wright Scholarship and the Sarah and William Holmes Scholarship

Background and guidelines

Two scholarships are offered each year – the Harold Wright Scholarship and the Sarah & William Holmes Scholarship – to allow holders to carry out an intensive study of prints at the British Museum, London, for a period of up to twelve months and may be awarded jointly.

Although the objects of each scholarship are identical, the first is named in honour of the late Harold Wright, who was an authority on prints with a world-wide reputation. In addition to academic honours and other marks of recognition, his advice was sought by almost every major art gallery with a department of prints. His association with Australia and New Zealand derives from his honorary services to the Felton Bequest and his life-long friendship with Sir Lionel Lindsay, as well as private collectors in both countries.

The second scholarship is named in honour of the parent so of Mrs Wright.

Because Harold Wright acquired his unrivalled mastery of the field at the time more favourable to private studies than the present, it is not intended that the scholarship should be linked to a specific project, specialized research or even a publication. Mrs Wright felt that application for such purposed were adequately provided for by other awards. She had in mind a completely free year, in which the holder would be able to work as widely in one of the greatest collections of print in the world as her husband did for many years. In later life he made many distinguished contributions to specialized knowledge in print scholarship, but what distinguished his work was the width of the original background on which it was based.

These Scholarships are very rare and privileged. Previous recipients of the scholarship are now in museums and galleries throughout Australia and continue to work in preserving art history in Australia.

The Scholarships are to go towards board and lodging and other necessary living expenses in London for a minimum of 4 months or maximum of six months. Provision for travel to and from London is NOT included.

The British Museum normally hosts only one scholarship holder at a time. Although scholarship is normally shared between two winners if income in a particular year is low only one winner is awarded the prize. If however one recipient is chosen for both scholarships in one year, the successful applicant can take up the scholarship for a period of up to twelve months.

The Scholarships are available to graduates of Australian or New Zealand Universities, or to other persons deemed by the Selection Committee to be of sufficient scholarly standard.

It is expected that the successful candidate would be a person with a background involving a serious study of prints and that the study at the British Museum would be useful for the furtherance of his/her career.

The original trust deed for this scholarship states the donors’ wishes and intentions where that:

'the scholarship shall not be awarded to any person who shall at the time of the award be employed by any commercial art gallery or other art gallery run for profit nor to any person who shall at the time of the award be engaged in art dealing on his own account or in partnership but may be award to any person employed by any public or private art gallery which is not run with a view to profit.'

Applications

Candidates are asked to consider if they would like to go for the first part of the year from January to June or the second part of the year from July to December. Candidates are asked to state in their application which period of the following year they would prefer to go.

All efforts will be made by the selection panel to ensure the student is allocated the time that the student prefers, however this is sometimes not possible and students may be asked to compromise their dates and length of stay in London.

Applicants can only apply online and will be requested to upload documents to support their online application. Please ensure you have all this information available to upload before you start your application:

1. Statement and any information that supports your application
2. Estimate of travel and living expenses (Budget)
3. Some evidence of other financial resources available apart from scholarship funds
4. A curriculum Vitae (including present position) [no more than 2 pages]
5. Academic transcripts (Including previous studies in the art of the print)
6. Certified copy of Australian or NZ Citizenship (Passport, Birth Certificate, Citizenship Certificate)
7. Two (2) academic references
8. Any other information to support application that may assist the committee in making its decision

Please note: Work(s) submitted will not be returned.

**Successful Applicants**

Submission of Documents by Successful Candidate/s

The successful candidate must provide the Faculty of Arts with the following documents before payment of award:

- Confirmations of Travel Insurance after dates have been agreed to. (this only applies to successful University of Melbourne students)

The successful applicants on receiving notification of their award will be:

- Contacted to finalise the dates of their stay in London
- Informed of their contact at the British Museum
- Given recommended accommodation in London for applicants undertaking this scholarship
- The winning applicants however will need to organise their own visa arrangements.

Applications must be submitted by closing date.