

Shared Island GLAM Programme Mentorship and Exchanges

■ Call for Expressions of Interest:
Job Shadowing

Window: 27 July – 13 September 2026



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Shared Island
Initiative



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



IRISH
MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION

■ The Shared Island GLAM Programme

The Shared Island GLAM Programme is a five-year all-island initiative led by the Heritage Council and delivered in partnership with the Irish Museums Association.

Funded through the Shared Island initiative, the programme aims to strengthen collaboration, visibility and public engagement across not-for-profit collection-focused galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) in Ireland and Northern Ireland, while supporting a deeper understanding of shared cultural heritage.

Through collaborative project funding, professional development and networking opportunities, mentorship and exchange programmes, and an annual GLAM Awards programme from 2027, the initiative will strengthen relationships across the GLAM sector, encourage knowledge-sharing and innovation, recognise excellence, and help build a stronger and more connected cultural heritage sector across the island.

The GLAM Programme forms part of the Heritage Council's wider programme of Shared Island initiatives, which also includes the Shared Island Heritage Networks Programme and an annual all-island conference for heritage professionals.

■ Call for Expressions of Interest

The Irish Museums Association, on behalf of the Heritage Council, is inviting expressions of interest from colleagues from eligible GLAM organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland to take part in an all-island job shadowing pilot initiative as part of the Shared Island GLAM Programme Mentorship and Exchanges strand, a five-year initiative supported through the Shared Island Fund.

The strand aims to support stronger all-island and cross-sector connections, encourage greater understanding of common issues and challenges, and help break down organisational, structural and geographical barriers across the GLAM sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The purpose of this pilot is to offer a small number of participants a stipend to support job shadowing within a host organisation in the neighbouring jurisdiction, observing practice, sharing knowledge and exploring approaches that can inform and strengthen their own work.

Learnings from the 2026 pilot will inform the design of a wider all-island mentoring and exchange programme from 2027.

About the opportunity

Participants will undertake a **one week job shadowing placement** (5 consecutive days) with a partner organisation. Participants based in Ireland will undertake a placement in Northern Ireland, and those based in Northern Ireland will undertake a placement in Ireland.

The placement is intended as a focused, practical exchange – an opportunity to engage with a specific area of work in relation to the themes of the [Shared Island Home Place – Explore, Connect, Share](#).

The emphasis is on peer learning and the exchange of experience, with a view to identifying approaches that can be adapted or tested within participants' own organisations.

Participants should complete their job shadowing placement before 30 November 2026.

Who can apply

We welcome applications from professionals working in an eligible organisation in the GLAM sector in Ireland or Northern Ireland who:

- Are interested in developing their practice through direct observation and exchange;
- Can identify a specific area of work or institutional process they wish to explore;
- Are open to sharing their own experience and learning with a host organisation.

Eligible organisations may include:

- **Galleries or art museums** with permanent or heritage collections.
- **Libraries** with special collections, local studies, rare book, photographic, manuscript, or other significant heritage collections.
- **Archives and record-holding bodies**, such as national, local authority, academic, or religious bodies; specialist repositories for subject-specific collections, digital cultural heritage, folklife, community archives, and oral histories.
- **Museums**, including national, regional, local, independent, and specialist museums, such as historic houses, that meet the Heritage Council or IMA definition of museums.

A small number of placement stipends will be offered as part of the 2026 pilot programme.

If you have questions about your eligibility for this programme or would like further information, please contact:

Susan Heffernan, IMA Programme Manager: Projects at projects@irishmuseums.org

What's included

- A structured job shadowing stipend of no more than €1,250 per placement (5 working days) to include accommodation costs booked directly by IMA, a travel allowance and per diem, which will be paid in arrears;
- Support in identifying and matching with a host organisation if required;
- Opportunity to build all-island and cross-sectoral professional relationships.

Participant commitment

Participants will be expected to:

- Agree a focused area of enquiry or work programme for the placement;
- Engage fully with the host organisation during the visit;
- Complete their placement before 30 November 2026;
- Submit a final stipend claim for payment before 2 December 2026;
- Reflect on learning and how it may be applied in their own context.

Participants will also be expected to provide feedback following their placement. This may take the form of a public presentation, case study, video diary or similar output. Feedback and other outputs shared may be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming GLAM Awards.

How to apply

To express your interest, please submit a short application outlining:

- Your name, job title, organisation and contact details;
- Short bio (50 words max.);
- The area of practice you would like to explore through job shadowing (250 words max.);
- A brief letter or email of support from your own organisation (1 A4 page max.);
- A brief letter or letter of support from your identified host organisation (1 A4 page max.).

Should you require assistance in connecting with a contact within your preferred host organisation, please contact Susan Heffernan, IMA Programme Manager: Projects at projects@irishmuseums.org.

Deadline: 13 September 2026.

Apply [HERE](#).

Online Information Sessions:

[12:00 – 12:45, Tuesday 11 August 2026](#)

[10:00 – 10:45, Thursday 20 August 2026](#)

Queries can be directed to:

Susan Heffernan, IMA Programme Manager: Projects at projects@irishmuseums.org