# Developing a Tool Kit for Community Action Research at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

# Summary

As part of Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales’ new Research Strategy we have committed to work collaboratively with communities across Wales to increase the diversity of lived experiences that we can serve through our research programme. Community participation at all stages of our research will be one of the main tools for engaging and enhancing the representation of communities across our sites and areas of work. We recognise that this type of work requires us to change the way we approach the research that we do.

We want to implement community action research as an iterative process that will enable mutually beneficial development and learning. Working with staff across the museum and other identified organisations in the UK we want to assess best practice and how this can be practically implemented in a Amgueddfa Cymru context. This placement will explore questions such as:

* What community action research projects have been successful and why?
* What are the measures of best practice and/or success when conducting community action research?
* How can we best support research in communities?
* Is there a role that a university can or should play in this form of research?
* What are some of the limitations of current community action research practice?
* What needs to change in the relationships between museums and communities to achieve best practice?

We would like to offer a three-month placement (or part time equivalent) to a student in the social sciences or humanities to help develop a toolkit for staff at Amgueddfa Cymru and a set of recommendations for conducting meaningful community action research.

# The Organisation

Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales is committed to undertaking high quality research across the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We have identified research as a key enabler to better understand our collections, improve visitor experience and support our move towards net zero carbon operation. As the only Independent Research Organisation in Wales, we use the unique elements of our collections to deliver research that others cannot. The breadth of our expertise across all 8 of our sites allows us to conduct participatory research with communities that benefits everyone in Wales.

Our sites are located in a mixture of rural and urban areas across Wales and cover many aspects of Welsh history and culture. Our site in Cardiff is the main home to our art and natural sciences collections and is the focal point for our research activity.

The organisation has a policy of flexible working hours with many people still working from home where appropriate. We have a dedicated team who support all those undertaking work placements with us. We are committed to supporting people from diverse backgrounds and those with protected characteristics. We support workplace adjustments to ensure that all employees have an environment in which they can thrive.

# The Placement

The placement will be based across the Research Department and the Department of History and Archaeology. The candidate will be working closely with the Heads of these departments and external organisations to collate best practice and practical recommendations.

Through this placement the candidate will:

* Develop their understanding of community-based action research
* Gain experience of liaising with, and collating feedback from, multiple stakeholders
* Gain experience of developing a toolkit and code of best practice
* Develop their understanding of how their research methods can be applied to the heritage sector in the UK

# The project

The candidate will:

* Undertake an assessment of relevant community action research projects in the UK
* Collaborate and work with multiple sector-leading organisations that are developing community action research
* Analyse the measures of best practice and/or success when conducting community action research
* Work with the Research and History and Archaeology departments to identify how to overcome limitations in current practices and the power dynamics in our current relationships with community organisations.
* Lead in the creation of a toolkit of best practice

Anticipated outcomes:

1. A toolkit for community action research in Amgueddfa Cymru
2. Development of an infographic to share key findings from the toolkit through Amgueddfa Cymru’s social media accounts and/or blog
3. A presentation on the toolkit as part of Amguddfa Cymru’s research seminar series to disseminate placement findings both inside and outside of the museum

# Working Arrangements

The Placement will last for three months, during which time the student’s PhD project will be paused by their home institution. Your stipend will continue in this time. Over and above leave policies, time for existing PhD commitments can be arranged on discussion with line managers. E.g. research groups meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will conduct the majority of their work from home (in line with current practices for Amgueddfa Cymru staff) during their internship but, where possible, they will have opportunities to be on site, attend research events, and build their networks. Hot desking at National Museum Cardiff can be arranged as required. This approach is based on our current understanding of the Covid-19 situation and may be subject to change following Government guidelines.

The internship will last for a period of three months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame, this would be negotiated between the Amgueddfa Cymru and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours via email when submitting your application.

# Student Specification

The student must have:

* Excellent communication, verbal, and written skills.
* Experience of participatory research or working with community groups.
* Sound understanding of social science research methods appropriate for use with non-specialist audiences.
* An ability to communicate research methods and findings to non-specialist audiences.

# Anticipated Start Date

Start date will be discussed with the successful applicant and finalised dependent on their research and any other personal commitments. We expect all applicants, barring unforeseen circumstances, to be available to start their placement between the 1st November and the 3rd January.

# To apply

Please submit your [application form](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwalesdtp.ac.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F02%2FACNMW-placement-application-form-English.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) along with a separate CV (no more than 1 side of A4) to enquiries@walesdtp.ac.uk by Tuesday 11th October at 5pm.

If you would like any further information before you apply, please contact Dr Gemma Brown, research development officer at Amgueddfa Cymru: gemma.brown@museumwales.ac.uk