**The National Archives**

**Working with the High Court of Admiralty’s records**

As the archive of Crown and State government, The National Archives (TNA) holds a vast range of records on life in the British Isles and beyond over the past 1000 years. TNA is pleased to invite students on a placement for six to twelve weeks, full or part time, depending on student requirements.

We currently have a placement opportunity in the Collections Expertise and Engagement department, working with the diverse and largely unexplored records of the High Court of Admiralty. The placement will focus on letters, papers and legal records relating to early modern piracy, prize-taking, colonialism and overseas exchange, 1536–1783. The successful candidate has the option to work with a number of collections depending on their historical or linguistic interests, including, but is not limited to, early miscellanea (c.1536–c.1660) and the Prize Papers, which are documents seized from ships (c.1652-1815). The records are in English, but with a significant number in other European languages, particularly French, Spanish, Dutch, Swedish and Danish.

The post holder will conduct an initial survey of uncatalogued materials and work to enhance existing information about their contents, with the aim of improving access to these records. For the length of the placement, the candidate will be embedded in a small team of experienced specialists who work on the High Court of Admiralty’s records. The placement will also be tailored to the candidate’s interests and future career aims, with the potential to work on related projects with other departments at TNA, such as public engagement, education and digital content with the intention of broadening engagement with these records beyond established academic and research communities, in support of our role as archive sector lead.

**Start & end date of placement**: dates to be agreed with the student, please contact [research@nationalarchives.gov.uk](../research%40nationalarchives.gov.uk).

**Hours of work:**

To be agreed with the student. The placement will involve working with original documents onsite, but with the potential for some work to be conducted at home.

**Essential criteria:**

The placement will suit students with an interest in academic and public history, collaborative research, cultural heritage or the GLAM sector.

There are no minimum skills requirements, but a successful placement student will be able to demonstrate:

* A keen interest in the histories of early modern colonialism, seafaring, maritime law, linguistics, overseas migration and diasporas, international trade, and/or piracy.
* As this placement is focussed on original documents written in 16th, 17th and 18th century handwriting, it would be desirable for the placement student to have some experience of reading handwriting from these periods already. If not, the successful candidate will need to be willing and able to learn how to do so quickly, with support from the placement supervisor and team.
* Experience of archival research desirable.
* Competencies in French, Spanish, Dutch, Swedish and/or Danish also desirable.

**Expected project outcomes:**

The results of the student’s findings will primarily be used to:

* Enhance our online cataloguing for the specified collection.
* Utilise some of the records for publication, perhaps as blogs or educational resources, intended for public and academic engagement.
* Other expected outcomes will depend on the student’s interests and any resulting work that they undertake with other departments at TNA.

For further details, please contact: research@nationalarchives.gov.uk