



Registered charity number 1172792

Art History Link-Up

Secretary Trustee Application pack

November 2021

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Art History Link-Up

Art History Link-Up provides free accredited Art History courses for sixth form state supported students in museums and galleries until March 2020, and since then online. After taking our courses, most students choose to pursue the subject at university and/or a career in the arts, keeping the subject and sector alive, diverse and vibrant. At present AHLU alumni are studying art history at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and the Courtauld Institute of Art and entering careers in the sector.

We feel that increasing opportunities to learn about art history is crucial: fewer than eight state schools in the country currently offer History of Art A level. Our programmes offer benefits to a diverse range of students who might not currently have these opportunities: access to the arts, cross-curricular connections, and enhanced skills and career development. Art History Link-Up works with other cultural organisations to link young people to the art and architecture in public collections: our aim is to promote the benefits and enjoyment of Art History to as wide an audience as possible. Learning to look and understand our rich visual culture is more important now than ever before – and that this opportunity to learn about art and benefit from it should be available to every young person.

Art History Link-Up was established during the 2016/17 academic year. Our first scheme ‘Art History for Everyone’ offers students a taught Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – equivalent to up to half an A level in UCAS points – alongside two modules of the new A Level Art History course with the opportunity to take a second year of the course and sit the A level exams.

Currently, ‘Art History for Everyone’ is delivered entirely online as a result of the pandemic. Until March 2020, two courses were hosted at The Wallace Collection and at the National Gallery in dedicated teaching space on term-time Saturdays. It is hoped that when public health and gallery conditions allow, we will be able to offer hybrid courses with some students based in the galleries and other students following the same courses online. There is significant demand for places and the majority of students come from ‘widening participation’ backgrounds. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have worked successfully and rapidly to deliver lessons in online formats, to ensure our students continue to have access to the programme even in a time of disruption.

We don’t want to stop there. We have an ambitious set of plans to increase our outreach, in a number of different formats, to make sure that we keep inspiring the next generation. AHLU has been awarded funding to pilot an Introduction to Art History course for school students aged between 13-15, building upon our innovative work with sixth form state supported students from diverse backgrounds, online and in galleries. Our work is generously supported by a number of trusts and individuals - for a full list, please see our website. Our CEO, Rose Aidin, oversees the day-to-day running of the charity, with classes delivered by our team of teachers and teaching assistants, and support from a number of volunteer EPQ mentors.

Trustee Positions

Art History Link-Up is looking for a new Secretary Trustee to join the Board.

Our small Board currently comprises nine dedicated individuals, between them holding broad experience across several sectors and disciplines. After a very successful year, and plans for improvement and expansion, we are looking to supplement the Board with a further talented appointment.

As a member of the Board of Trustees you will have responsibility for:

- Providing strategic oversight and leadership, ensuring that Art History Link-Up pursues its stated objectives.
- Ensuring effective and efficient administration of the charity, including approving the budget, defining goals and targets, evaluating performance, and taking appropriate action to manage risk.
- Taking a limited but hands-on role to support the delivery of certain elements of the charity's work (e.g. marketing, accounting, recruitment).
- Ensure resources are used effectively to ensure the overall financial sustainability of the charity in future years.
- Contributing to and safeguarding the reputation and values of the charity and our partners, being an excellent advocate for Art History Link-Up and the young people we work with.
- Supporting our freelancers and volunteers to help them contribute positively and professionally to the development of the charity and its programme.
- Ensuring that Art History Link-Up operates in accordance with the principles of good governance, complying with its Articles of Association, its safeguarding and recruitment policies, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.

Person Specification

Successful candidates will be strong team players with a range of professional skills and personal qualities. You should share our determination to make the study and enjoyment of art history accessible to as many young people as possible.

We are seeking to boost particular skills on the Board and are particularly keen to appoint a candidate with the below skills:

Secretary

- An individual with a legal background, or with sound knowledge of the area, who can take the lead on compliance issues relating to constitutional, legal, regulatory and statutory requirements.
- Full hand-over material is supplied by our former Secretary, Daniel Whitelock, whose three year term has come to an end. The Secretary will be supported by the Chair, Treasurer, CEO and AHLU team.

In addition, all trustees of Art History Link-Up are expected to demonstrate:

- A proven interest in and enthusiasm for art history and visual culture, with good knowledge of the arts, cultural or heritage sectors.
- Being up to the challenge of a start-up environment, combining an entrepreneurial approach with down-to-earth pragmatism.
- Excellent judgment and the ability to contribute to Board discussion and strategy and policy development.
- An ability to think strategically, appropriately contribute their skills and experience, and follow-through on commitments.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively and supportively as part of a small team.
- A willingness to take part in fundraising activity and to share our story with national networks, existing/potential supporters, partners and influencers.
- A commitment to diversity and equality and improving access to educational opportunities for people from a range of different backgrounds.

Previous experience as a charitable trustee is desirable but not essential.

Application

To apply, please provide:

- i. a CV of no more than two sides of A4; this should provide details of your educational background, employment history, directorships and trusteeships, membership of professional bodies and details of any publications or awards; and
- ii. a supporting covering letter of not more than two sides of A4, setting out how you meet the criteria – please make sure you refer to the trustee responsibilities and person specification above.

Applications should be sent to AHLU Chair, Rob Faulkner, chair@arthistorylinkup.org as soon as possible, and in any event no later than 16th January 2022. If for any reason you are not able to meet this deadline, we will however continue to consider applications received after this time.

To talk to further to someone about trustee roles, please contact Rob Faulkner, chair@arthistorylinkup.org to arrange a phone call. Successful applicants will be invited to an interview with a member(s) of the Board at a mutually convenient time.

Additional Information

Time commitment

Trustees are expected to attend c.8 Board meetings a year in central London (currently held online or hybrid during the C-19 pandemic). Additional time will be required to study papers and to be available for providing advice and/or approvals by email in between meetings.

Remuneration

Trustee roles are unpaid. A term of three years will be offered in accordance with our governing document. Expenses are not usually paid, unless agreed in advance.

Recruitment policy

This is available to download from our website at www.arthistorylinkup.org.

Equal opportunities

It is the policy of Art History Link-Up to provide equal opportunities for all qualified individuals regardless of race, colour, religion, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, gender medical condition or disability in accordance with the Equality Guidance Act 2010.

Charitable status

The charity Art History Link-Up (charity registration number 1172792) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O.), registered address The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, West Sussex RH20 2EL. For more information visit www.arthistorylinkup.org.

We look forward to receiving your application.

