

## Foundation Degree in Cultural Services for museums, libraries and archives



### Information for Employers

**Course title:** Foundation Degree in Cultural Services for museums, libraries and archives

**Provider:** Anglia Ruskin University

**Structure:** Three-year, part-time course based at the Cambridge campus of Anglia Ruskin University

**Available from:** September 2008

**Cost:** anticipated fees are Year 1 - £1020, Year 2 - £1205, Year 3 - £1020 probably tax-deductible.

#### Why has the Foundation Degree in Cultural Services been developed?

This qualification has been developed in response to a need identified by senior staff in museums, libraries and archives in the region to:

- Attract a more diverse range of people to work in museums, libraries and archives through opening up new entry routes into the sector
- Provide vocational pathways to allow people to progress within the sector
- Develop a work-based qualification that meets the needs of employers.

**The museum, library and archive sector in the East of England now has access to the first UK wide Foundation Degree specifically to support museums, libraries and archives.** This is as a result of partnership activity led by MLA East of England with regional sector employers and Anglia Ruskin University in consultation with professional sector bodies.

#### What are the benefits for my organisation?

In order to deliver excellent and innovative services to the public the museum, library and archive sector needs a skilled and diverse workforce that reflects the communities it serves. Supporting the training and development of employees and volunteers can build the skills base of your organisation and lead to **improved staff recruitment, retention and motivation.**

The key benefit of Foundation Degree programmes is that they can be **delivered around existing work commitments**, enabling organisations to keep operating while workers get the skills they need to move themselves and their organisation forward. Because they are

largely work-based **students apply and share their learning within the organisation throughout the course.**

They are especially suitable for cultural sector employees working at assistant and associate professional levels, who do not hold a degree or full professional qualification, but who, if armed with higher level skills, have **potential to take on more demanding managerial or customer-facing roles.**

They provide an opportunity for employers to offer jobs at entry level to a wider pool of applicants and then to **support their development on the job.**

Learners on the Foundation Degree in Cultural Services will have the opportunity to:

- Develop as reflective practitioners and creative thinkers
- Acquire new transferable and specialist skills to support them in their current and future roles
- Learn by working alongside colleagues from museums, libraries and archives across the region
- Benefit from a range of learning opportunities including group seminars, work-based projects and individual support.

*For further information on the content and structure of the course see the **Fact file for Learners.***

### **How can my organisation get involved?**

You can get involved by:

- Spreading the word about this course within your organisation and discussing the fit with recruitment and development policies
- Supporting a learner from your organisation
- Taking part in future employer consultation
- Supporting specialist curriculum development
- Acting as a mentor and/or providing a work placement.

The course will only be successful in the longer term with continued employer engagement and support.

### **For further information please contact the following:**

MLA East of England:

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