

# Museums and Collections Projects Program 2021

## University of Melbourne

### International House Collection

#### Project Guide

#### Research and interpretation – Blog posts/Website content

#### The Project

This project offers the opportunity to write a series of blog posts to be published on the International House Collection website. The site showcases images and stories from the International House Collection and promotes the collection and associated activities to wider internal and external audiences, including former IH residents around the world. Content created as part of the project may also be adapted for use on other IH social media.

#### Background

[International House](#) is a hall of residence owned by the University of Melbourne. Housing students from both Australia and overseas, IH was established in response to housing problems faced by international students in Melbourne in the late 1940s and early 1950s. IH's first residents (all male) arrived in 1957, with the official opening taking place the following year. The first female residents arrived in 1972, making International House the University of Melbourne's first residential college to admit women. In 2017 International House celebrated its sixtieth anniversary.

The [International House Collection](#) includes archives, photographs, artworks, furniture, objects and building fragments. Collection materials relate to themes and events such as the Colombo Plan, Asia-Australia relations, the experiences of international students and the history of the University of Melbourne. Materials in the IH Collection also relate to broader social themes including women's education, student housing and the 'internationalisation' of higher education. For more information about the history of International House, see <https://ihouse.unimelb.edu.au/about/history>.

#### Details

Working in consultation with the Librarian and Archivist, this project provides an opportunity to write a series of blog posts on stories and objects from the IH Collection. After editing and approvals, the text and images will be uploaded to the blog. The student will be encouraged to seek out topics in areas of interest, and curiosity and creativity will be encouraged.

This project would suit a student with an interest in International House and/or social history more broadly who is keen to gain experience in research, writing and social media. Progress towards a degree in History, Media and Communications or related areas would be highly regarded. Research skills and familiarity with historical resources would be beneficial, but training and support will be provided. The project requires solid written communication skills. A willingness to learn and follow correct procedures for handling archival materials is required, as the project involves handling and close inspection of collection items. Familiarity with resources for historical research would also be highly regarded, but training and support will be provided.

#### Benefits

- Opportunity to work at close hand with some of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections.
- Professional development and experience in research, writing and social media use.
- Satisfaction in working closely with the collections and assisting in the expansion of audiences for its rich collections. Nurturing new audiences will help enhance long-term understanding, management, access to and appreciation of the University's cultural collections.

#### Supervisor

Dr Caitlin Stone, Librarian and Archivist, International House

