

# Graduate Testimonial

## What are you doing now after graduating?

I began working two part time roles. One as a Gallery Assistant at the National Galleries of Scotland and the other as a Museum & Monument Assistant for Edinburgh Council. In early 2023 I accepted the role of Archive and Library Assistant at the School of Scottish Studies Archives.



**Lily Mellon**

Previous Role: Oral Histories Intern  
Degree: Celtic and Scottish Studies

## What skills or experiences from your time in ISG were particularly valuable in helping you find your current position?

When it comes to job applications within this industry, you'll want to have some direct, hands-on experience to set you apart from other candidates. I was able to mould my internship experiences around the questions that you get in job interviews. There is no doubt that my internships with ISG were one of the main reasons that I am an Archive and Library assistant with the University today. I had experience working with audio-based material as well as material affected by copyright and GDPR, which were essential to a good interview for my current role. My internship with ISG was my first experience of working in the wider Heritage and Museums industry and it gave me confidence when applying for future roles that I now had a better chance of success.

## What advice would you give to current students who are considering applying for a position within ISG?

Just apply! Getting some experience working in the sector is really essential to any application within the Heritage and Museums Industry these days. It doesn't even matter if you get the role - you'll gain application experience, interview experience and you'll start to become a known face. Sometimes a position will go to someone else because the standards of application and competition can be so high. It's likely the interviewers will be happy to see an application from you again in the future especially if you've already been able to show how dedicated/interested you are.

### **What would you recommend current student workers do to ensure that they get the most of their experience?**

Jump into it. Be the one to offer assistance and ask questions. One of the major things that the ISG interns can forget is that the team don't just want you to turn up, quietly do the directly assigned work and wish people well when it's completed. You're a fresh pair of eyes on a topic and you're allowed to suggest developments or alternatives. Feel free to ask early on if you can be shown other ISG departments that you'd be interested in, because you now have the opportunity to meet them... and these additional things can take time to be arranged so don't wait until your last few days to bring it up. A friendly face interested in learning more is all you need to provide for a really successful time.

### **Why should students apply for roles in ISG?**

The work I completed was so useful to my future applications but it was also so fun. The material I worked with was interesting and thought provoking. I still come across locations in Edinburgh which were mentioned amongst the oral histories I transcribed and think I know you, and I know what you were called four decades ago too. There's no doubt that all the practical experience of the workplace (compared to more theory-based studying) will be incredibly useful as you start your career... so I 100% think you should apply to jobs in ISG, it's such a wonderful, friendly, competent team.