***MERL (Museum of English Rural Life) Bursaries***

***Museums of Agriculture: Global Opportunities and International Networks***

*Bursary scheme offering support for an internship in an agricultural museum*

In July 2015 the International Association of Agricultural Museums and the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading received a grant from the Internationalisation Fund of the University of Reading to offer two bursaries during the academic year 2015-2016 to students keen to gain experience through an internship at an agricultural museum.

Bursary A is reserved for a student from the University of Reading to undertake an internship at an overseas museum affiliated with a higher education institution. Bursary B is reserved for a student from overseas wishing to undertake an internship at the University of Reading, as hosted by the Museum of English Rural Life.

Each proposed placement will:

* Provide up to £1,000 to each student to meet costs incurred in the course of their bursary
* Run in the academic year 2015-2016, most likely during Summer 2016
* Enable each recipient to work closely with museum professionals, attend meetings, and participate in/contribute towards activities taking place during the internship
* Be a minimum of 2 weeks in length

**Provisional Partners:**

* Estonian Agricultural Museum (Estonia) in collaboration with the University of Tartu
* Agrarmuseum Wandlitz (Germany) in collaboration with the Regional Institute for Folklore Studies of Berlin-Brandenburg, Humbolt University of Berlin
* *[Others TBC?]*

**Further Information:**

The **International Association of Agricultural Museums** gathers professionals from agricultural museums all over the world. It promotes scientific research and stimulates collaboration. Every three years it organises an international congress during which specific themes are presented and discussed. In the future it will focus its attention on developing countries. Agricultural museums must encourage development while at the same time remain critical of the deviations of intensive agriculture which destroy the environment and, above all, harm poorer populations. <http://agriculturalmuseums.org/>

**The Museum of English Rural Life** houses the most comprehensive national collection of objects, books and archives relating to the history of food, farming and the countryside. The collections have Designated status ensuring their importance is recognised nationally and internationally. As a University Museum and as the founder member of the Rural Museums Network, it has built up a reputation as the leading authority in its field and as a centre of excellence in teaching and learning.<http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/>

**Eligibility**

Bursary A is available to any student currently enrolled on a first degree course (BA, BSc or equivalent) through an established overseas University. This should be taken to include any qualifying University located outside the United Kingdom. They must have written confirmation from their Director of Studies or equivalent that they are free to participate in this programme. Preferential treatment may be given to students who can demonstrate written and spoken English skills and a commitment to

Bursary B is available to any student currently enrolled on a first degree course (BA, BSc or equivalent) at the University of Reading. They must have written confirmation from their Director of Studies or equivalent that they are free to participate in this programme. Assistance will be provided for the successful candidate to identify and secure an appropriate placement with one of the provisional partners in this programme.

To apply for the one of the placement bursaries please complete the following application form, save it as a pdf, and email it to [o.a.douglas@reading.ac.uk](mailto:o.a.douglas@reading.ac.uk) by the closing date given below. The subject line of the email should read ‘AIMA BURSARY APPLICATION’ followed by your name. You will also need to ask your Director of Studies or equivalent to supply a short reference (Max 300 words in length) to the same email address. This can be sent in the same email as your completed application form or can be supplied separately. However, it should be marked with the same subject line, inclusive of your name.

**Application Form**

Bursary applied for – A or B

Name of applicant

Date of birth

Address

Email address

Telephone number

Name and contact email for Director of Studies (or equivalent)

If applying for Bursary A, please name the higher education institution are you studying at

What subject are you studying and what type of degree are you working towards?

Why do you want to undertake placement in an agricultural museum? [Max 300 words]

What do you hope to gain from the internship? [Max 300 words]

How do you intend to share your experiences with others? [Max 300 words]

What skills and benefits do you think you can offer in an agricultural museum context?

*[Deadlines and closing date TBC]*