

Heritage Blacksmith Bursary

STUDENT PROSPECTUS 2011:12

The **Heritage Blacksmith Bursary** is a training course run by the National Heritage Ironwork Group as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Skills for the Future Programme. This course aims to broaden the skills and experience of blacksmiths involved in historic ironwork repairs. It is a one year full time commitment made up of a series of practical skill based training delivered in workshops separated by five one week college blocks culminating in the achievement of the **NHIG Award for Blacksmithing Conservation**. NHIG will deliver this qualification in conjunction with Herefordshire College of Technology and a series of specialist conservation and metalworking workshops around the UK.

It has long been recognised that our Heritage Ironwork has suffered from a lack of readily available trained and skilled practitioners in conservation practice and although there are several high quality firms specialising in restoration ironwork the size of our ironwork heritage is so vast it means that inappropriate and damaging processes and treatments are being applied countrywide to often unique and irreplaceable artefacts almost on a daily basis.

This course has been put in place to act as a flagship provider for bringing together the craft of the Blacksmith with the science of the Conservator to provide the beginnings of a skilled and experienced cohort of practitioners able to not only work on sensitive ironwork artefacts but also work effectively with and to advise fellow professionals in the field.

In order to facilitate this ambition the training has been set up with work placements taking place in a series of venues over the year of the bursary to ensure full coverage and as broad as possible experience of the various areas under investigation. This has been linked to five college attendance blocks during the year covering essential underpinning knowledge and specialist Blacksmithing and Metalworking techniques

The **bursary** totalling **£15,000** paid in a series of monthly instalments over the period of the training ensures that the learner will be able to manage financially while undertaking this important training and cope with the necessary moves to different work venues as they progress through their course of study.

As such, a professional and focussed approach is essential to ensure successful completion.

Assessment will be largely based in the workplace with the bursary recipient being responsible for building a portfolio of evidence with the college tutors supporting this by providing workbooks and work place assessment requirements prior to the start of each block.

The **Hereford College of Technology** block timetable of attendances is divided between practical skills based subjects and the delivery of essential underpinning knowledge. The below list is not exhaustive but provides a feel for the college syllabus content;

- Course introduction:** The course structure, roles and responsibilities.
- Tooling:** Use, production and maintenance.
- Forging:** Processes and repoussé.
- Joining:** Processes and assembly
- Fixing:** Methods and on site evaluation and surveying.
- Dismantling/transport/storage:** Methods and processes, labelling and recording.
- Clean, prepare and protect:** Methods and processes, corrosion and maintenance.
- Professional Practice:** Research, recording, reporting, working relationships and regulations.
- History of Ironwork:** Style, makers and heritage representative organisations.
- Conservation Principles and practice:** Philosophy and ethics, approach and procedure.
- Environmental Issues:** Working on heritage sites, protection of work and environment.
- Design and Drawing:** Artistic, technical, historical and recording.
- Materials:** Consumables, metals, historical and modern.
- Health & Safety:** Legal requirements, safe working, roles and responsibilities.
- Working to Specification:** Identifying and assessing requirements, approach and procedure.

The **programme** will be hard work involving intensive training and a lot of travel. However, with specialist Blacksmith workshops and Heritage organisations including museums offering work placements, along with the opportunity for real site based experience this promises to be an exciting and challenging opportunity for the successful candidates.

KEY FACTS:

Heritage Blacksmith Bursary 2011:12 Timetable:

W/C	2011																								2012																																				
	MAY			JUN			JULY			AUG			SEP			OCT			NOV			DEC			JAN			FEB			MAR			APRIL			MAY			JUN			JULY																		
	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9
DESCRIPTION	21st & 22nd NHIG Course Induction (Herefordshire)			Hereford College of Technology			workshop placement			Hereford College of Technology			workshop placement			Summer Holiday			Hereford College of Technology			Workshop placement			Hereford College of Technology			Workshop placement			Christmas Holiday			Workshop placement			Hereford College of Technology			Workshop placement			Easter Holiday			Workshop placement			Course Completion			Awards Ceremony									

Application Deadline: 28th January 2011

Application Form: Download from bursaries page of www.nhig.org.uk

Duration: One year full time

Awards: NHIG Award for Blacksmithing Conservation

Number of places available: 8 per academic year

Entry requirements: Applicants must be able to demonstrate competence in forging and welding

Minimum age: 19 years

Selection; following a written application candidates will be shortlisted for interview

College Campus: Herefordshire college of Technology, Centre for Rural Crafts

Eligibility: This course is open to all those entitled to live and carry out work based training in the UK. Non EU residents will need the correct visa (one which allows them to carry out paid work based training as opposed to just a student one) to be eligible for consideration. It is however specifically designed to develop heritage skills within the UK and all applicants will be assessed on the answers to given under section 2 (future plans) of the application form.

Typical Employment: Blacksmithing Conservation, Metalwork Conservation, Restoration and Reproduction Ironwork.

FUNDED BY:



THIS PROGRAMME IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY:



For all queries and any help required with application please contact the NHIG Secretary: Bethan Griffiths E: info@nhig.org.uk T: 01483 20 20 27 W: www.nhig.org.uk