

Summer Work Opportunity for UBC History Students!

UBC History Department /Public History Internship Program/The Paper Trail Project
(commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Chinese Immigration Act)

Are you a UBC History student? Are you looking for summer employment? Are you hoping to gain skills and experience related to your studies? The Department of History's Public History Internship Program, in collaboration with the Paper Trail Project, invites your application for an exciting paid summer internship as a *research assistant*.

Public History Internship Program

The UBC History department's Public History Internship is part of a five-year program supporting students gaining experiences and skills related to public history. Funded by an anonymous donor, it provides students with opportunities to apply their academic studies outside the university by participating in work that engages public-facing institutions with historical research.

About the project

2023 will mark a major milestone in Canadian history: 100 years since the passing of the 1923 Chinese Immigration Act in Canada (more commonly known as the Chinese Exclusion Act). This unique piece of immigration law launched the darkest and most despairing period in Chinese Canadian history. It also was the only time in Canadian history that one group was barred from entry based solely on their country of origin. See more here: <https://1923-chinese-exclusion.ca/>

"The Paper Trail to the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act" is a national, 100th-anniversary exhibition that will open July 1, 2023 in Vancouver's Chinatown. The exhibition includes three galleries of displays and stories about the Chinese Exclusion Act period and the significant impact it had on the Chinese Canadian community. In the same building, and supplementing the exhibition, will be a "resource centre" that will assist visitors in discovering their own family's paper trail. Two new sources of historical records will be made available at the centre, as well as access to other archival databases of information and materials. Finally, over the summer and fall, numerous in-person and online programming events will be held. As well, materials to support educational objectives and directed to school tours will be developed for use in the fall and winter.

Goals:

1. To educate new generations on this largely forgotten draconian law: the reasons for the Act; the community's reaction; and the impact it had upon the community during the almost quarter century it remained the law.
2. To provide a rare opportunity for the community to pay tribute to those early Chinese Canadians who lived through this dark period, not knowing if or when it would end.

3. To help find and preserve the remaining personal documentation of this period (e.g, individual C.I. Certificates).
4. To encourage Chinese Canadians to value their own family history and instruct them on how to undertake research and how to document their stories for future generations to discover.

About the position

The intern will join the Paper Trail research and public exhibition team and be engaged in a variety of activities, related to the Exhibit, the Resource Centre, Programming Support, and Educational Outreach, which may include:

- Docent functions such as directing visitors, responding to visitor inquiries onsite, etc.
- Conduct regularly scheduled tours of The Paper Trail exhibition.
 - Provide additional background detail not available in the didactic panels.
 - Point out interesting stories and people whose C.I. certificates are on display.
- Encourage participation in “visitor engagement” opportunities available in the exhibition, the resource centre and through programming events and workshops.
- Provide hands-on guidance to visitors on “how” to search the various collections (LAC, UBC, RBCM, etc)
- Assist families in troubleshooting searches
- Assist visitors in interpreting information found on their records
- Support the development, marketing and coordination of in-person and online programming events (presentations, workshops, screenings, etc.)
- Research and prepare marketing materials
- Undertake duties (particularly social media posts) to broaden awareness and enrolment in events
- Assist with the development and preparation of educational materials for use in school tours of the exhibition.
- Research and writing
- Design and layout of materials

The intern will work approximately 20 hours/week from May through August. Pay rate is \$19.15/hour to a maximum of \$7000.

Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must be undergraduate students at UBC studying History. Priority will be given to History majors or honours students, but students who have taken multiple History courses without a declared major are also eligible.

Application process

Send a cover letter that explains your interest in the position, the strengths you’d bring to it, and your History course work, along with a resumé to Tamara Myers at Tamara.Myers@ubc.ca. Include the names and contact information of at least two references (including one academic reference like a current or former instructor). Please ensure that your name is included in the file name, and ensure that the subject line of your email refers to the PH internship position.

Applications should be received by **20 March 2023**.