



Call for Participation “Open perspectives”

Collections in Motion– Touring Exhibitions in Museum Practice in the UK and Germany

Date: 1–6 November 2026

Locations: London, Liverpool and Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Application deadline: 28 September 2026, 18:00 CEST

Working language: English

Partners: National Portrait Gallery

This research trip brings together museum professionals from Germany and the United Kingdom to explore how museums are redefining access to collections through touring exhibitions, collaborative display formats, and models of collection sharing.

The UK museum sector is widely recognised for its established touring exhibition infrastructure, including international lending networks, public funding frameworks, and long-term partnerships between institutions of different scales. Touring is often embedded as a core institutional function, supporting audience development, regional access, and international collaboration. It is increasingly complemented by approaches such as open storage, distributed collections, and hybrid exhibition formats, all of which extend access beyond traditional exhibition spaces.

Taking place in London, Liverpool, and Edinburgh, the programme offers insights into how museums develop, circulate, and adapt exhibitions across diverse institutional contexts. It also examines how touring activities are integrated into

broader strategies for institutional sustainability, including income-generating activities such as loans, partnerships, and touring exhibition fees.

Key questions:

- How are touring exhibitions designed, adapted, and delivered across different institutional and national contexts?
- What institutional models, funding structures, and partnership approaches enable the sustainable circulation of exhibitions and collections across different scales and contexts?
- How can touring exhibitions contribute to long-term institutional resilience while expanding public access and audience engagement?

What we offer:

- Accommodation and travel expenses from your nearest major airport
- A curated programme of institutional visits, workshops, and professional exchanges
- Insights into touring exhibition models, collection sharing, and financial strategies in the UK
- Exchange with UK and German museum professionals
- Opportunities for long-term collaboration and partnership development

Who can apply:

- You are currently employed at a museum or exhibition venue based in Germany in a leadership or decision-making role, and
- Your work relates to international or touring exhibitions, institutional strategy and development

Selection criteria:

- Professional experience relevant to the themes explored during the trip
- Motivation and potential to foster long-term collaboration between institutions, based on existing ideas relating to the themes outlined above
- Demonstrated interest in international cultural exchange

How to apply:

Apply via our online application platform:

<https://apply.museumsagentur.de/>

The application comprises:

- Information about the institution represented
- A statement of motivation and objectives
- A current CV

Programme information:

This research trip is part of the museum agency's "Open perspectives" programme. One of the programme's goals is to foster international cooperation by organising research trips to regions with dynamic museum landscapes, and by facilitating initial in-person meetings among international museum professionals.

Contact

For questions about the call for participation, please contact:

Kathleen Clancy & Susann Pfarr

International Programmes

+49 30 213089 617

programmes@museumsagentur.de