The Wordworth Trust, one of the premiere literary heritage sites and archives in the UK, offers 14-week unpaid internships to four BYU undergraduates per year (one in Winter and Fall and two in Spring/Summer). Situated in the picturesque Lake District village of Grasmere, the Trust encompasses several properties, including Dove Cottage (the house where William and Dorothy Wordsworth wrote many of their most famous works), the Jerwood Centre (a research library with an unrivaled collection of manuscripts, rare books, and landscape art pertaining to the Wordsworths and British Romanticism), a newly renovated museum, and a gift shop and cafe. Interns rotate between working in the library's archives, completing assigned research and outreach projects, and serving as a docent at Dove Cottage and the Wordworth Museum. In their free time, students socialize with their housemates (generally recent college graduates from the UK with positions at the Trust), attend the LDS branch in Kendal, explore the region’s world-famous landscapes, and complete coursework for their BYU classes. Former participants consistently rank this experience among the highlights of their undergraduate years, as interns emerge with a deeper appreciation of British literature and culture, 12 hours of academic credit (6 of which can count toward the English major), and transferable skills for careers in museums, libraries and archives, secondary and higher education, and non-profit management.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Wordsworth Trust internships are reserved for currently enrolled students at BYU (Provo campus only) who are 18 or older and either majoring in English or employed part-time at the HBLL. Ideal applicants are typically preparing for careers in literary studies, librarianship, museums or heritage institutions, or non-profit management. Should no qualified English major or HBLL employee apply, other BYU students may be considered. Prior to this internship, English majors should complete ENGL 291 and ENGL 292 and, if possible, an upper-division course pertaining to British Romanticism (e.g., ENGL 384 or 387). Successful applicants will demonstrate strong communication and interpersonal skills, stable physical and mental health, the experience and maturity to flourish in a workplace where they might be the only American and Latter-day Saint, and the courtesy and dependability to maintain BYU’s strong relationship with the Trust.

**DATES**

Internships typically last 14 weeks and roughly align with BYU’s academic calendar. Fall interns usually go from late August through early December, Winter interns from mid-January through late April, and Spring–Summer interns from early May through mid-August.
HOUSING
As part of the program cost, students receive a private bedroom in a home across from Dove Cottage that they share with fellow trainees. This 19th-century residence has a communal bathroom, kitchen, and commons area, and internet and utilities are included.

COURSES
Interns receive 12 academic credits (which during Spring-Summer post as 6 hours per term) overseen by the program director (Dr. Nicholas Mason for 2024–27). English majors typically earn 9 credits of ENGL 399R – Academic Internship (3 of which fulfill the major’s English+ requirement) and 3 credits of ENGL 300R – British Literature in a Cultural Setting. In certain circumstances, students may be able to arrange alternative course options (e.g., ENGL 384R) with Dr. Mason. Students may not take any other courses on this program, including BYU Online courses, without approval by the program director and ISP.

COST
The equivalent of full-time BYU tuition for a semester (or $3,344 for LDS undergraduates during the 2024–25 academic year, higher for graduate and non-LDS students). This tuition payment is used to cover course credits, housing and utilities in Grasmere, processing fees for a UK visa, international health insurance, and other administrative expenses. It does not, however, cover airfare, travel within the UK, meals, and others personal expenses. Before factoring in scholarships and other financial aid, the typical overall cost for this program is $6,000–7,000, or slightly more than a typical semester in Provo.

TRAVEL
Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the UK and are required to book their flights through an agent at BYU Travel (280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu).

PREPARATION
Accepted students should take the 1-credit course HCOLL 396R (Internship Preparation) during the second block of the Fall or Winter semester prior to their program. Interns must meet all UK- and program-specific COVID and health requirements before traveling.

FUNDING SOURCES
Potential applicants should not be deferred by the cost, as there are numerous ways for resourceful students to make this experience highly affordable. BYU scholarships and federal financial aid may be applied toward the program’s cost, and English majors and others with a major in the College of Humanities qualify for experiential education stipends of between $1,500 and $2,500, depending on financial need (see https://english.byu.edu/apply-internship-funding/). Interns sponsored by the library receive a $2,000 HBLL scholarship and may qualify for additional funding from their department or college. Other potential funding sources include the Kennedy Center’s Global Opportunity Scholarships, mentored-learning grants from the College of Humanities, Honors thesis grants, and awards from the English Department’s Wordsworth Fund.

APPLICATION PROCESS
There are no set deadlines for this program, as positions are typically filled between six months and a year in advance as qualified and committed candidates come forward. Before beginning an application, interested students should arrange to meet with Dr. Nick Mason (nick.mason@byu.edu) to learn more about the program and discuss their potential fit. Those who choose to move forward with an application will work with Dr. Mason to prepare:
1. A professional CV (or résumé)
2. A list of references (two BYU professors [preferably in literature or related fields] and at least one former employer)
3. A letter of application addressed to the Wordsworth Trust
After receiving applications, employees from the Trust arrange online interviews with prospective interns. Candidates should only complete the official ISP application and pay the non-refundable $35 processing fee after being offered a position.

FACULTY
No BYU employee will be on-site in Grasmere. Interns are supervised locally by Melissa Mitchell (Associate Curator at the Wordsworth Trust) and remotely by Dr. Nick Mason (Professor of English at BYU and the program director for 2024–27). Additional faculty support is provided by Dr. Paul Westover (English) and Maggie Kopp and John Murphy of HBLL Special Collections (who help recruit and vet student employees from the library).

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS
International Study Programs (ISP) reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student’s BYU financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.