

WORDSWORTH TRUST

INTERNSHIP WINTER, SPRING-SUMMER, FALL 2026



The Wordsworth Trust, one of the preeminent literary heritage sites and archives in the UK, offers 14-week unpaid internships to four BYU undergraduates per year (one in winter, one in fall, and two in spring/summer). Situated in the heart of the English Lake District in the picturesque village of Grasmere, the Trust's campus includes Dove Cottage (the house where William and Dorothy Wordsworth wrote many of their most legendary works), the Jerwood Centre (a research library with a world-class collection of manuscripts, rare books, and landscape art pertaining to the Wordsworths and British Romanticism), and a museum, gift shop, and café. Interns work primarily as curatorial trainees in the Jerwood Centre, but they also participate in outreach projects and serve as docents at Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum. Outside of working hours, students socialize with their fellow trainees (most of whom are recent college graduates from the UK), attend the Latter-day Saint branch in nearby Kendal, explore the region's world-famous landscapes, and complete coursework for their BYU classes. Former interns consistently rank this experience among the highlights of their undergraduate years, as students come away 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, non-profit management, or museums or heritage institutions. 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 last 14 weeks and roughly align with BYU's academic calendar. Winter interns typically go from mid-January through late April, Spring/Summer interns from early May through mid-August, and Fall interns from late August or early September through early December.

HOUSING

As part of the program cost, students are given a private bedroom in a home directly across from Dove Cottage that they share with fellow trainees. This 19th-century building 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 with Dr. Mason or other faculty members. Students may not take any additional courses while on this program (including BYU Online courses) without approval by the program director and ISP.

COST

\$3,100–3,600 for 2026

This includes Latter-day Saint undergraduate tuition (increased cost for graduate and non-LDS students), course credits, housing and utilities in Grasmere, processing fees for a UK visa, international health insurance, and other administrative expenses. It does not include airfare, travel within the UK, meals, and other personal expenses. Before factoring in scholarships, experiential education funding, and other financial aid, the typical overall cost for this program is \$6,000–7,000, or slightly more than spending a semester in Provo.

TRAVEL

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

PREPARATION

Accepted students with majors in the College of Humanities should take the online one-credit course HCOLL 396R (Internship Preparation) prior to their program. Interns must meet all UK- and program-specific COVID and health requirements before traveling. International study programs are physically, emotionally, and mentally taxing, and you must be in good health to participate. These programs often take place in international locations that do not have the same level of safety and services in terms of transportation, living conditions, residential accommodations, food, public behavior, and policing that you may be used to on campus. If you have further questions or concerns on this, please see <https://kenedy.byu.edu/isp-travel-policy>

FUNDING SOURCES

Potential applicants should not be deterred 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 cost, and English majors and others from the College of Humanities can receive experiential education stipends of between \$1,500 and \$2,500, depending on financial need (see english.byu.edu/apply-internship-funding/). Student employees at the Harold B. Lee Library may also qualify for a \$2,000 library scholarship. 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 and nine months 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 are invited to move forward with an application will then work with Dr. Mason to prepare a letter of application and a professional CV for submission to the Trust. After receiving students' application, an employee from the Trust will arrange a Zoom interview. Then, should an offer be extended, candidates should complete the online ISP application and pay the non-refundable \$35 processing fee.

FACULTY

Interns are supervised locally by Melissa Mitchell (lead curator at the Wordsworth Trust) and remotely by Dr. Nick Mason (Professor of English at BYU). 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.