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Internships at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka

As a museum in the making, the MMCA Sri Lanka is preparing the ground for a new generation of museum professionals to work at and be involved in delivering exhibition and education programmes, within the context of a modern and contemporary art museum. One of the initiatives through which they are addressing this challenge, is their internship programme.

At present, the museum offers two types of internships: the University Internship Programme and the Young Professionals Internship Programme. In both cases, interns are given positions that involve working closely with one or more museum staff, and give the interns a taste of working life in a fast-paced museum setting.

To accompany the University Internship programme, the MMCA Sri Lanka staff are also involved in teaching students enrolled in degree or diploma programmes in Sri Lanka. The dual focus of the university-led programme enables students to gain practical experience in understanding how their studies apply to a professional museum setting. In today's job market, a qualification is not enough. For many employers, work experience on the job is becoming more and more important. To-date, ten undergraduates from the Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna have interned to work on projects related to art history, education research, and translation.

For those interested in specific areas of work in a professional museum setting, the museum offers internships under a programme called Young Professional Internships. Since February 2022, the MMCA Sri Lanka has worked with twelve Young Professional Interns in the areas of exhibitions research,

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exhibition production, graphic design, digital projects, public programmes, education research, and education data analysis.

Speaking about the MMCA Sri Lanka’s internship programmes, Chief Curator Sharmini Pereira recalls, “Doing internships at museums was something I was eager to do but, which I did not think I would qualify for. We make a point of offering as many internships as possible at the MMCA Sri Lanka to encourage people to apply. As we continue to improve our internships, I am hopeful that these opportunities will cultivate career paths for young professionals who, like me, never considered a career working in the art industry.”

Inquiries about internships at the MMCA Sri Lanka should be directed to both education@mmca-srilanka.org and jobs@mmca-srilanka.org.