

ITP Report: Durakhshona Boboeva, Tajikistan

I am Durakhshona Boboeva from Tajikistan. I work as a researcher at the modern department of the Republican history and ethnographic museum named after Abuabdullo Rudaki. Our museum is located in the city of Penjikent, which is rich and famous for its archaeological sites.

I completed the International Training Program in 2022.

I want to start by saying that for me it was the first experience abroad and the first international programme in which I participated. I have always tried to improve my professional knowledge and skills and the ITP was a great opportunity for me to do just that. We had excellent conditions for learning. Through the International Training Programme, I gained new ideas and knowledge, and the experience has opened up excellent opportunities for me to achieve my goals to improve the work of the museum.



During a day trip to Cambridge

All fellows and mentors were excellent specialists. We worked and studied in groups where we exchanged experiences and learned from one another. All the lessons were interesting, necessary, and everything that I wanted to learn and study. This experience led firstly to the development of my professional qualities, and secondly, to the improvement of the implementation of high-quality work in our museum.

During the programme, it was very important for me to gain knowledge on the storage of museum objects. I saw how, in practice, different types of objects are stored correctly. In addition, the exhibitions of contemporary art were very interesting to me. Another important part of the programme were sessions on development and sponsors, the expansion of the museum audience, and the involvement of volunteers. Alongside this, it was important to me to hear about areas related directly to the exhibit, I learnt how to display the object as the primary focus.



With Ed Lawless for a session on the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre

In Manchester Art Gallery we saw how galleries are created in an original and modern way, and in the Manchester Museum, how dioramas are created. We talked with the manager of the museum, conservators and restorers. In Platt Hall we learnt how clothes are stored and albums for textiles are created.

These were the very classes that I most wanted to learn about. The ITP course exceeded expectations and improved my professional skills.



During a day trip to Cambridge

Now, after attending the International Training Programme, I feel much more confident. When I returned home, I organised seminars for my colleagues, and shared my knowledge and ideas. I have been using my skills and ideas to improve the work in my museum. I worked a lot on our funding and I have greatly improved the storage of exhibits. I started the process of cataloging the collections. We are re-inventorying the collection and funding. We have begun to create practical conditions for the careful movement of exhibits during traveling

exhibitions. We have also begun to create packing boxes on our own, with handy materials.

Of course, not all of my ideas came to fruition. The reason for this is a lack of funding and the lack of modern showcases. In the future, I would like to create a large diorama and also begin to use modern technologies in our museum. We do not have specialists in the department for the conservation and restoration of exhibits, however, many of our museum items are in need of restoration.



At the UK Partner placement in Manchester

I have many plans for the future, but funding is needed to solve these problems. A small amount of funding allocated by the Ministry of Culture is directed to the everyday needs of the museum.

To solve these problems, I am in the process of looking for sponsors, but there are practically no interested parties in our country.

At the moment I am looking for grants for internships or training courses in the restoration of museum objects.

I hope that the experience and knowledge I have gained will help to find ways to overcome and resolve existing problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the British Museum, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Museum and the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust and all my mentors for this chance and for the knowledge gained. The International Training Programme helped me improve my knowledge, travel abroad, expand my world-view, get acquainted with the history and culture of other countries and has become the beginning of the growth of my career.



At Stonehenge