

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2021 **EXPERIENCE REPORT**

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The following report is a summary of my personal and professional experience as a member of the 2021 cohort that attended the ITP at The British Museum in London and the UK Partner Museums in Glasgow.

Through it, the intention is to describe and portrait the value of the experience, as well as the impacts it triggered in my personal and professional space, career, work and environment once settled back home.



BIG RISKS, BIG CHANGES

The impact that ITP experience meant to me was huge, considering that we were the first group of attendees to engage in the program after the covid 19 pandemic, which changed the game for the entire planet, pushing humanity to innovate for solutions to continue life and work.

As part of the ITP cohort, we participated in an online format sessions as one of the mentioned innovations, which in my opinion, was an interesting and very supportive way to introduce ourselves as museum professionals to our host institution, and also to know in advance about the experience, the country and the character of the ITP program.



This, added to the challenging travel conditions during the pandemic from my tiny *motu* (islet) in the south pacific ocean to a metropolis like London, made the experience of going out the island of Rapa Nui after 2 years of closed borders so much more exciting and intriguing.

That said, I took a long 13,626 kilometers journey to chase the opportunity of change and growth in every way possible through the ITP instance.

BROADENING THE VISION, SHARPENING THE INSIGHT

One of the hot points during my ITP development was to travel outside London to experience different museological perspectives through the UK Partner Museums. This was performed in the context of the city of Glasgow and in the company of two ITP colleagues, Haneen Saleh Mukho from Palestine and Osaru Obaseki from Nigeria.

This stage in the ITP development allowed me to learn a different model of museums administration and orientation according to Scotland's public policies, how the city council is involved in this model, and by it, the city's will can affect the museums practice in the real example.

Also, during this phase, as a team, we dedicated to developing the *Objects in Focus* task, to create an exhibition and display a previously selected object once back to London. This was specially challenging and at the same time rewarding because it pushed us to apply certain skills in the practice to face team building issues, language barriers and museological base skills.

Proudly, we sorted out all in the best way and presented our exhibition to the BM colleagues as the final activity of the ITP.



A GO AND BACK, FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND, FROM MUSEUM TO MUSEUM

After almost 15,000 kilometers of distance covered, 50 hours of traveling by plane, train, bus and car, stop overs in Chile, Spain, France, Scotland and London, and 4 months after leaving my home, I'm back at my desk at the Museum of Rapa Nui and next is what I can say about what I like to call, the "UK Experience"

The general term is that the ITP have definitely pumped up my confidence as a museum professional and also as a representative of my community, resulting as well in a growing ambition for generating and proposing plans and solutions to the never ending challenges of the daily museum activity in an extremely isolated location like Rapa Nui.

Through the ITP I've improved in many aspects that positively affect my work since I got back to my institution. I acknowledge advances in the language barrier, the tolerance while working in groups of different backgrounds, the team building skills, diplomacy in relations, and a broad rank of professional skills related to museums work in terms of conservation, exhibitions, curating, cataloging and research, among many others more.

Since i got back to work, I started prioritize to be more organized and from this approach I joined the collections team to collectively design a plan for reorganizing the area activity, based in the Re – Org methodology. This has been the lead action while I'm back from ITP and is fully applied as I write this report.

In this same line some of the proposed improvements faced some obstacles at the "decisions making" level, which are also being approached with the help of some professional relations skills developed during the ITP; pointing out in a diplomatic way, that there are some specific decisions in certain matters that slow the advance of the collections area as a whole, and this supported by written reports for the case.

So, as I write this report, many of the gained experience and skills on ITP are already finding a place amidst my work and institution, which by itself portrays the value of the instance, its vision and of the great team working behind it.

This makes me think in a "before and after" as a result of participating at the ITP and gives me so much more enthusiasm to keep applying the learning received into my current work and activity, and I feel deeply grateful of still having the space to connect and to project further collaborations with the British Museum and the ITP network.

I especially feel grateful to my sponsors, the Aall Foundation, which through their support all this was possible from the very beginning.

Maururu! Thanks!

