

Collections Projects Program 2023

University of Melbourne

International House Collection

Project Guide

Research and Interpretation project - History of Performing Arts at International House

The Project

This project involves using archival sources to undertake research into the history of the performing arts at International House. The House play, music nights, and other events date back to the beginnings of IH in the late 1950s and remain an important part in the artistic and community life of International House today. This project will improve our knowledge and appreciation of the role that performance has played and continues to play within International House.

Background

[International House](#) is a hall of residence owned by the University of Melbourne. Housing students from both Australia and overseas, IH was established in response to housing problems faced by international students in Melbourne in the late 1940s and early 1950s. IH's first residents (all male) arrived in 1957, with the official opening taking place the following year. The first female residents arrived in 1972, making International House the University of Melbourne's first residential college to admit women. In 2017 International House celebrated its sixtieth anniversary.

The [International House Collection](#) includes archives, photographs, artworks, furniture, objects and building fragments. Collection materials relate to themes and events such as the Colombo Plan, Asia-Australia relations, the experiences of international students and the history of the University of Melbourne. Materials in the IH Collection also relate to broader social themes including women's education, student housing and the 'internationalisation' of higher education. For more information about the history of International House, see <https://ihouse.unimelb.edu.au/about/history>.

Details

Working under the supervision of the Librarian and Archivist, you will draw on archival resources to complete in depth research into the history of the performing arts at International House. Specific project tasks may include identifying key dates, events and people associated with performances; assisting with cataloguing related photographs; and interviewing residents (current and former) about the performing arts at International House. If interested there will also be the opportunity to assist with other collection management duties as appropriate, contribute blog posts on research findings, and create content for other public channels.

This project would be particularly suited to students enrolled in a History, Theatre Studies, Music, or related area. Ideally you will have a strong interest in the performing arts in general, especially how they apply in a college environment. While a prior knowledge of International House would be well regarded, one of the main attributes we seek is curiosity about the subject area. A willingness to learn and follow correct procedures for handling archival materials is required, as the project will involve the handling and close inspection of collection items. Familiarity with resources for historical research would be highly regarded, but training and support will be provided.

Benefits

Opportunity to work closely with the University of Melbourne's cultural collections and professional development through experience gained in research and writing for a general audience. This project will improve our knowledge and understanding of the history of the performing arts at International House and assist in making that history more accessible to wider audiences, and to facilitate further interpretation. If applicable, the completion of this project may be able to be used to earn a digital credential for Community Engagement through the 'Melbourne Plus' Program.

Supervisor

Dr Caitlin Stone, Librarian and Archivist, International House

