Position Title: Exhibition Research Assistant – International Year of Light exhibition

Supervisor: Dr Renee Beale, Curator, Chemistry Cultural Collection
           Helen Arnoldi, Cultural Collections Projects Coordinator

Position Goal: The goal of this project will be to research several objects and instruments within the Chemistry Cultural Collection in preparation for the upcoming School of Chemistry exhibition. The exhibition will celebrate the International Year of Light 2015, by exploring the significance of light as a tool and subject in Chemistry research throughout history. This research will increase our understanding of the objects in the School of Chemistry Collection and will be used across various exhibition interpretive materials.

Background: The School of Chemistry Collection comprises over 600 items used for chemistry teaching and research at the University of Melbourne from the 1850s to 1960s. It includes glassware, measuring and experimental apparatus, burners, chemical samples, balances, catalogues and lecture notes. Many items are of historical significance due to their association with key figures in the history of Australian science such as Frederick McCoy, Ernst Johannes Hartung, David Orme Masson and John MacAdam. A small selection of items is on display at any given time, while the majority of the collection, which is in storage, may be viewed by appointment or via the online catalogue. For more information on the School of Chemistry Collection go to http://museum.chemistry.unimelb.edu.au/

The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 is an international celebration led by the United Nations and showcases the importance of light-based technologies. It aims to raise global awareness about how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health.

Responsibilities: In consultation with the Curator, the student will carry out research and generate a brief report on objects/instruments relevant to the 2015 Chemistry exhibition. This research report will help form the content for related interpretive materials for the exhibition, and may include the writing of exhibition labels, extended text panels, contribution to the exhibition publication and content for the Chemistry Museum’s website.

Qualifications: The student/volunteer will need to have sound research skills and be competent in use of the library and its catalogues.

Good communication and writing skills are needed.
The student/volunteer will have the ability to work and follow research leads independently.

Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of museum objects is desirable as this position will require the close inspection of museum objects.

A basic understanding of or interest in Chemistry and/or scientific instruments would be ideal.

**Training and Supervision:**

On-the-job training specific to the requirements of the position will be given.

Occasional meetings with the Cultural Collections Coordinator to review how the project is progressing and discuss any ideas or problems encountered.

**Benefits:**

The opportunity to work closely with a University of Melbourne cultural collection which includes a diverse range of items.

Professional development through experience gained researching historical scientific items and the creation of intellectual content for the exhibition.

For more information on this position please contact:
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