British Library Doctoral Open Days (London, 6 Nov 26)

British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB, Nov 06, 2026
events.bl.uk/events/music-sound-vision-doctoral-day

Charlie Oubridge

Booking is now open for the British Library's 2026/27 programme of Doctoral Open Days. The series offers current and prospective research students and other researchers new to our collections an introduction to the practicalities of using the Library and help in navigating our physical and digital collections. Although the days are pitched at doctoral researchers, any researcher who would find this kind of introduction useful is welcome, including ECRs, creative practitioners, heritage professionals, educators and independent researchers.

The open day on Friday 6 November 2026, will spotlight music, sound and vision, and visual arts collections, with the opportunity to meet reference specialists, curators and our Research Development team to find out everything you need to know about our collections, how to best make use of them and the opportunities available to researchers.

Full programme and registration: https://events.bl.uk/events/music-sound-vision-doctoral-day.
Duration: 11.30 – 16.00
Price: £10

--

PROGRAMME

10.30 –11.30 Registration
Registration opens at 10.30. Please arrive before 11.30 for the start of the main programme.

Optional activities

- Once you have registered, you can take part in our optional activities. The day is free-flowing, so you are welcome to explore the Library or stay and chat with other attendees or members of our Research Development team.

- Pigott Lecture Theatre – Pre-recorded material will be shown, illustrating some of the additional resources available at the British Library.

- Chaucer Room – Drop-in session hosted by our Reference Services team, who are available to answer any questions you might have about accessing our collections and who to contact when you need support.

11.30 – 12.30 Introductory Talks, Pigott Lecture Theatre
Learn the basics about our collections and what they include. Curators will provide a whistle-stop tour of their collection area, covering the highlights, as well as less well-known sections. You can then ask any questions you have in the afternoon at our Meet the Curators session.
Welcome to the British Library
Introduction to Music Collections
Introduction to Sound and Vision Collections
Introduction to Visual Arts Collections

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch & Meet your Peers, Knowledge Centre Foyer
Enjoy lunch while getting to know your fellow research students.

13.30 – 15.00 Meet the Curators
Understand our collections and how to make use of them by meeting members of our curatorial teams. Each team will bring a selection of items from their collection area for you to see the range of materials the Library holds. This is your opportunity to ask any burning research questions!

15.00 – 16.00 Panel Discussion
Hear from PhD students and Library staff about their experiences researching with our collections.

--
If you have any questions about this event or would like to discuss accessibility or dietary requirements, please contact pgr@bl.uk.

Please note:
- on the day of the event, registration will open at 10.30, with optional activities running until 11.30. The main programme will begin at 11.30.
- lunch will be provided and is included in the ticket price. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements (allergies, intolerances and vegetarian/vegan), but please be aware we cannot accommodate preferences.
- you will not be able to bring your bag into some sessions due to collection security rules, please do not bring any valuables which cannot be left unattended.
- a quiet space will be provided for anyone who needs it.

Your support
The British Library is a charity. Your support helps us open up a world of knowledge and inspiration for everyone. Please consider adding a donation to your basket.

Please direct any questions to pgr@bl.uk.

Reference:
ANN: British Library Doctoral Open Days (London, 6 Nov 26). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 16, 2026 (accessed Nov 9, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/54653>.