

SMITH COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (FALL 2023)
2023 Internship Project Description

(Send to Alex Capobianco [REDACTED])

Name of Smithsonian Staff Mentor(s):

Katherine Ott

Title of Smithsonian Staff Mentor(s):

curator

Phone Number(s):

[REDACTED]

Email Address(es):

[REDACTED]

Museum/Institute/Office:

National Museum of American History

Department/Division/Office (if applicable):

Division of the History of Medicine and Science

Project Title (must be ONSITE):

Documenting Health, Recovering the History of the Body

Project Description – *Please provide as much detail as possible. What will the intern learn? How will this internship benefit the intern and your unit? Please also include any relevant background information on the function of your unit, department, or office:*

The intern will work on topics and artifacts related to the history of medicine in one or more of the following areas, depending upon the student's career goals/background/inclination: history of disability, LGBTQ+ history, the history of sexual assault, trauma-informed public education in a museum setting, the health legacies of colonialism. The supervising curator will direct the student's research and material culture study, including such work as collections support in creating object entries and descriptions, gathering materials for posting on the web related to the selected topic, collaborative work with other museum staff. Research will involve work with primary materials from archival collections, special collections, accessioned objects and images and the subsequent interpretation of these materials using a material culture orientation. In addition to research, the intern will help with fact checking, answering public inquiries, attend a range of museum meetings, and generally participate in the life of a large and busy national museum and Washington, D.C.

The final product may take of the form of a collection group on the museum's website, a series of original object descriptions, or a backgrounder (white paper) on objects and issues related to the subject under examination, a more traditional research paper, or other format.

The only prerequisites are one course in American history and boundless curiosity about the world. Students majoring in STEM areas, history and humanities, and gender and women's studies are equally encouraged to apply.

Learning Objectives:

The intern will learn basic principles of material culture research, using a range of museum resources.

The intern will learn about the work of museums through participation in meetings, discussions with the supervising curator, and attendance at lectures and programs across the institution.