

All too often the only viable career option for a history student appears to be a teacher. This perception is largely because people simply don't experience other possible career opportunities. When I entered ARTS 4800, I had only a vague idea of what exactly was possible in my field. Through the practicum, I not only learned how my degree can help me practically in the archival field, I also learned some of the hard skills that are specific to the job and which I would never have learned in the classroom. Having that opportunity and learning those skills has not only shaped my decisions about my post graduate future, but it also led to me earning a paid work position at my host organization after my practicum was completed."

**Natasha McConnell** | History Major

I'd recommend all Faculty of Arts students take the ARTS 4800 practicum course before graduation. Not only did this class gear me with the skills and knowledge necessary to see success post-graduation, like building an eye-catching resume and cover letter, but allowed me to gain real work experience in my field of study, elevating my resume. This behind-the-scenes look at a potential future employer was an invaluable learning experience as I now know what to expect in the working field but also what is expected of me. Arts 4800 is the perfect final stepping stone to wrap up and complete your credentials at KPU."

**Claudia Culley** | Journalism Major

As an English student, being a part of ARTS 4800 pushed me out of the theoretical and into the practical. In my practicum placement with an Indigenous organization, I engaged with Indigenous methodologies and embodied research-creation in ways that expanded my understanding of what academia can and should be. Throughout my practicum, I was able to channel the analytical and communication skills I've learned in my degree into producing meaningful research as part of a diverse team. I was supported every step of the way by both my peers and supervisors, all of which helped make this one of the most impactful experiences of my undergraduate career."

**Carolina Mesquita Rocha** | English Major

For more information  
or to apply, visit  
[kpu.ca/arts-4800-practicum](https://kpu.ca/arts-4800-practicum)



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PRACTICUM COURSE

# Arts 4800



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KPU's Arts Practicum introduces students to various workplaces in their communities and to degree-relevant entry-level work through a placement with a host organization. The Practicum is for senior students with a declared Major or Minor in Asian Studies, English, Geography, History, Journalism, Philosophy, or Policy Studies.



## Examples of Placements

### Archives

Practicum students helped create a community archive's seasonal newspaper. They also accessioned and digitized items for historical archival collections.

### Education

A work-placement student developed a "Crash Course on Sustainability" for a post-secondary organization—an accessible resource that will remain relevant for years.

Practicum students worked with a specialized learning hub that advocates for ecological, place-based education in post-secondary settings. The placement emphasized a variety of employable skills, from web design and event coordination to photography and article writing.

Other students collaborated with a host organization to envision and design an interactive and accessible virtual walking tour of False Creek. They also explored technology options for adapting their ideas to in-person or guided tour experiences for the public.

### Government Offices

Students developed a pamphlet identifying useful resources for constituents within the Surrey-Newton riding and assisted with the analysis of a recent provincial budget.

Another practicum student worked with municipal government officials to create a map of local neighbourhoods incorporating information gathered at public events and through various government and community associations.

A final placement saw students research private community gardens, focusing on different programs and policies across Metro Vancouver. One key element involved urban food systems, exploring opportunities for temporary growing spaces and pop-up community gardens.

### Heritage Sites

An ARTS 4800 student curated social media posts and outreach materials for a National Historic Site and assisted with planning and delivering public events. A second placement saw students develop elementary school resources focused on Indigenous fishing technologies.

At another site, a student updated interpretation guides for employees to use in interactive tours, supporting broader connections within the community by refocusing tour narratives onto a range of underexplored, challenging, or unexpected histories.

### Law Organizations

An ARTS 4800 student worked with a local law firm, advocating for the land rights of Indigenous communities. The student researcher evaluated the integrity of documents belonging to accused parties, locating errors or inconsistencies, and strengthening the cases of the firm.

### Local Journalism

In addition to attending in-house workshops and assisting professional reporters in the field, practicum students pitched, reported, and wrote stories of their own for several local and national news organizations.

### Museums

Practicum students were involved in the museum's educational programs, including planning an adult program centred around 1920s Prohibition Era history in Vancouver—part of the museum's summertime exhibition.

Students also worked on educational programming. They conducted a broader assessment of the museum's children's programs and interviewed visitors, critically analyzing not only how the museum portrays history, but also how the public engages with it.

### NGOs

Practicum students created an informational report outlining potential improvements to local tree protection bylaws, showing how private land tree cover is crucial for creating sustainable communities.

Other students researched climate adaptation case studies in British Columbia, distilling data into a report paying special attention to Indigenous communities, marginalized and disenfranchised voices, and low-income neighbourhoods.

Elsewhere, students assisted with planning a reception, fundraising gala, and a renowned civic governance forum for a local NGO. This placement emphasized real-world skills: managing communications and social media, soliciting donations from local businesses and event attendees, and planning themes and speakers.