



Passport to your future

# Hajira's Story

## Hajira was a trainee at Fenton House

### My name is Hajira. I was working as a trainee as part of the Passport to Your Future Scheme.

"Where do you see yourself in five years' time" the interviewer asked. Within the past five years of my life I had gained a degree, relocated to the UK and once the recession hit, been made redundant. I was working in a local charity shop to keep myself occupied and earn some money.

So I couldn't believe my ears when I was told that I had been selected to be one of the ten care of collection trainees. During the course of a year I learnt so many invaluable skills.

#### What was involved

The passport to the future was all encompassing covering various aspects of house and collections management such as preservation of historic objects, engagement with visitors and volunteers, and vital core skills which I will take with me throughout my career.

I visited beautiful properties, met some amazing people, and formed some lifelong friendships.

*'The Care of Collections traineeship has made me eligible for various funding grants so that I may further develop my career and gain formal qualifications in the heritage sector.'*

#### Where I am now

Today I am a Conservation Assistant at Osterley Park and House where I have continued to further develop both practical and core skills. I have gone onto recruit and train conservation volunteers, passing on the skills I learnt, through my "passport to the future".

In the near future I am hoping to do my Masters in Paper/Book conservation at a London college. Showing a commitment to conservation through the Care of Collections traineeship has made me eligible for various funding grants so that I may further develop my career and gain formal qualifications in the heritage sector.

To say that the care of collections traineeship has been life changing is an understatement, it has allowed me to do a job I am passionate about and opened so many doors to a very bright future...

*'Oh and one last thing, "a qualified conservator" that's where I'd like to be in five years' time.'*



#### What I have learnt:

1. During the course of a year I learnt so many invaluable skills including house and collections management, preservation of historic objects, engagement with visitors and volunteers, and vital core skills which I will take with me throughout my career.
2. I have gone onto recruit and train conservation volunteers, passing on the skills I learnt, through my PTYF.
3. In the near future I am hoping to do my Masters in Paper/ Book conservation at a London college. The Care of Collections traineeship has made me eligible for various funding grants so that I may further develop my career and gain formal qualifications in the heritage sector.