



The National Archives

Meet the CEO, Natalie Ceeney Video transcript

Welcome to the National Archives. I'm Natalie Ceeney, the Chief Executive here. If you are watching this you are probably thinking of applying for a job here. I want to give you some background on The National Archives, what we do and what it's like as a place to work.

We are The National Archives of England and Wales and we hold records dating back a thousand years, including the Domesday Book which is Britain's oldest public record.

But just as important as our records are we are much, much more than a collection of important documents. Our role actually starts with current information.

We look after government's information from cradle to grave. We are the owners of crown copyright; we publish all UK legislation and official publications. We oversee the whole government record keeping system, making sure that government manages its information effectively. We work with the public sector on some of the important challenges of managing information in a digital world. Such as, how do we ensure that a website published today is as readable in a thousand years as now? We're a regulator; we ensure that the wider public sector makes its information as accessible as it should. And we support and advise the wider archive sector, both public and private. And probably our best known role is that when government records are 30 years old and come to The National Archives, we do everything possible to bring them to life.

We do it through world class reading rooms here at Kew. We work with partners to digitise our content so that everyone can see it wherever they are. And last year we had 70 million electronic downloads of the records we hold. We provide education programs for schools, online exhibitions, and work with partners like the BBC on the program 'Who Do You Think You Are?' to make history exciting for everyone.

Anyone who uses the web or has children in school today, or has done their family history online, will know that we are in a world that's changing very fast. The National Archives is an incredibly innovative organisation which isn't just keeping up with these challenges, but is staying ahead.

We have one of the most active digitisation programs of any archives in the world. We have just refurbished all of our reading rooms here at Kew to respond to the changing needs of researchers. We are leading innovative projects to look at how we manage digital content even more effectively and

we are developing new models of sharing expertise online. We are not an organisation that stands still and with all of this going on we employ a really diverse group of people.

Working here at The National Archives today we have world class technical staff addressing the challenges of archiving the UK web. We have world class experts in military, medieval and 20th Century records, who are experts and academics in their own right. We have teachers running our education programs, expert conservators looking after our oldest paper records, book delivery staff delivering records to thousands of users who use us and press officers telling the world what we do. We employ people at all levels, from graduate to world class expert, and from all backgrounds. And it is that mix of expertise and skills which makes us great.

So what's this like as a place to work? Most of our 600 staff work here in Kew where we have a purpose-built building in fantastic grounds. We have a smaller policy office to in central London and a very small office in Norwich. Here at Kew we have excellent staff facilities: a gym, good catering and a staff bar; but more importantly, a friendly and open culture in which to work.

I'm rather biased as Chief Executive but I can honestly say that I have never worked in a more fun and welcoming environment. People that work here do enjoy working here and are genuinely passionate about what we do. I describe our culture as really forward-looking, creative and 'can do'. And it is no surprise that we have lots of people here that joined at 18 for a couple of months and never left.

So what skills do you need to come and work at The National Archives? The jobs here vary hugely. There are jobs that require a lot of technical expertise and experience and jobs which don't. The job descriptions on this recruitment web page should tell you what skills you need to have for the job you are applying for.

But as much as skills, we want to recruit people here who live the values we share. Here at The National Archives we put customers first. Whether you work in our public services or in a back office team looking at IT, HR or finance, we are here for the customer. We have an excellent reputation for customer service and we want every new joiner to care as much about delivering for our customers as we do. We also sit on and look after a key part of the nation's heritage. Whatever your job we want you to be a responsible guardian of the records and of all the resources we hold here

We have also got a commitment here to open communication. I really don't want us to employ people that come and work here and think that keeping knowledge to themselves gives them power. We share knowledge and information openly here and I do expect that commitment from all new joiners.

And finally, we have got a reputation for both being trusted to deliver and an organisation that works together. We are one organisation and whichever part you join, we want everyone to feel part of The National Archives.

The National Archives is a fantastic organisation and I love working here. We are doing exciting things and we have ambitious plans. And if you would like to be part of this please do apply for a job here and I look forward to meeting you when you join.