

Call for ‘Strandliners’ – contributors for *Strandlines*

***Strandlines* and the Strandliners role:**

This is a unique opportunity to be a part of *Strandlines*, the life-writing and history project led by Professor Clare Brant. *Strandlines* is dedicated to exploring lives on the Strand—past, present, and creative. The purpose of *Strandlines* is to record life on the Strand, a street that so many of us spend a lot of time on, but so often we’re only hurrying through! *Strandlines* encourages people to pause and show some love to the Strand, its people, and its hidden-in-plain-sight places and histories.

Now is an exciting time for *Strandlines* as we’re seeking to build up our community and encourage more people who live and work on and visit the Strand to submit their own writing, videos, or art to record and archive the diverse community on our doorstep.

Strandliners will write or source exciting ‘Strands’ – text, photo, video, or audio, or a mix of these – for the *Strandlines* website and social media sites. This might involve: creative or diary-style/ postcard entries; digging up personal stories and institutional histories; interviewing/ photographing/ filming ‘Humans of the Strand’; delving into the KCL archives and special collections; and exploring any other ideas that you have related to the Strand!

As this is a voluntary role, your commitment will be up to you. We would suggest that you aim to create at least two pieces for the blog between between October 2020 – January 2021.

You’ll be reporting to Fran Allfrey, Assistant Editor of *Strandlines*.

Training and development:

Absolutely no experience in journalism or multi-media creative work is necessary. As this a voluntary role, we want to make sure you get the opportunity to develop skills that interest you, whether you’re thinking about a career in journalism, marketing, PR, communications, or academic research. If you want it, you will be offered training (via zoom/ teams) in oral history, ethnographic research, archival research, video shooting and editing 101, audio recording and editing basics. You’ll get editorial guidance and feedback on your work from conception to publication. We’ll also provide you with a reference for any future jobs if you need one.

More on what you could be doing

- Producing photo/ video/ audio / other multimedia content for *Strandlines*.
- Assisting the Assistant Editor to collect ‘Strand observations’ – encouraging people who live, work, or are visiting the Strand to share visual, textual, or social-media-based ‘diary-entries’ of their day on the Strand.
- Developing creative or non-fiction writing/ multimedia on a ‘strand’ (theme) of your choice, for instance, ‘the law’, ‘Black lives on the Strand’, ‘theatre land’, ‘studying on the Strand’, ‘art on the Strand’, ‘Queer lives on the Strand’, ‘protest’, ‘Multicultural Strand’, ‘Strand ecology’ or anything else you think of.
- Creating your own one-off multimedia ‘diary entry’ or ethnographic / auto-fictional piece about the Strand as a whole, or one particular place on the Strand
- Researching and creative content about an institution, organisation, or building on the Strand (for instance, one of the many embassies, theatres, creative spaces).
- Pitching and creating your own ideas for ‘Strands’ for the website and/ or social media channels.
- If you’ve already got experience and skills in creating engaging content – or you can put together a compelling proposal – you will have the opportunity to pitch a ‘take-over’ of *Strandlines*, sharing content on your chosen theme across the blog and social media channels for a week.

To apply

Take a look at the *Strandlines* site and social media to see what we’ve been up to recently. Send us **600 words in total** to Francesca.allfrey@kcl.ac.uk by **5pm by Monday 5 October**.

Interviews will take place that week on Teams/ Zoom.

- Explain your interest in the *Strandlines* project
- Briefly outline what skills and experience you already have and/ or which you’d like to develop
- Tell us an idea you have for encouraging other people to share their Strand story
- Tell us an idea for a ‘Strand’ (whether that’s responding to one of our ideas suggested above, or your own idea. Think multi-media: we’re especially interested in ideas that will work across social media and the website, and ideas that goes beyond text-only or text-based.