

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## SAWA 2024

Online and on site in Sharjah/UAE and Berlin/Germany

**Are you in the early stages of your museum career and looking for challenging insights into the field? Then this is your opportunity to work with fellow colleagues on developing new projects:**

*“Of all the international training courses I’ve attended, what makes SAWA unique is how its format facilitates open dialogue. Leaving SAWA, I feel I’ve learned so much about the museum culture of Sharjah, Berlin and the wider Middle East. But also about myself and the type of museum practitioner and person I want to be.”*

A participant of 2018

**SAWA** (سوا = Arabic for together) is a joint initiative of the Sharjah Museums Authority, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region together with the University of Applied Sciences Berlin (HTW) aimed at students of museum studies and emerging museum professionals in the early stage of their career from the MENA Region and Germany.

**SAWA** is devised as an introductory professional qualification program for those who want to learn about the diverse operational areas that museums cover. The program name was chosen to represent the structure of the Academic program, which by design consistently enforces mutual learning in all museum areas.

The **SAWA** program is taught by Arab-European teaching-teams, which devise each module of the curriculum in collaboration, taking into account the different local museological practices in the MENA Region and Europe.

**SAWA** views the Museum as an essential part of any society, as a living institution that has a responsibility to learn from its history in order to play an active part in shaping change for individuals, locally and globally.

**SAWA** aims to change not only museums but also foster societal change by addressing urgent issues such as social justice and climate change.

**SAWA** enables everyone involved to share knowledge, skills and best practice to support their individual professional development.

**SAWA** is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming experience for its participants. We value and promote diversity, inclusivity, fairness and openness and reject any form of discrimination, harassment, and racism. SAWA includes an introduction into Critical Diversity Literacy to demonstrate its ethical values.

SAWA participants work together towards expanding the SAWA glossary of museum terms. <https://www.sawamuseumstudies.com/glossary/>

# What we offer

**Leading-edge, multidisciplinary thinking and experimental practice** in museum and heritage studies, divided into 4 distinct phases:

## **kick-off online seminar**

Phase I: Workshop **in Berlin**

Phase II: **online seminars** and project work

Phase III: Workshop **in Sharjah**

Phase IV: **online Seminars and presentations**

**Wrap up - farewell meeting**

For more detailed information and dates see program schedule

- **Innovative** formats of learning and **practical skills**.
- **Theoretical and practical seminars at renowned museums** in Berlin and Sharjah.
- **\*Networking opportunities\*** amongst fellows and with international experts, who are linked to museums on the Arabian Peninsula and in Europe by their lives, research, or work.
- **A joint certificate** issued by the Berlin State Museums, HTW Berlin and Sharjah Museums Authority.
- Access to the growing **alumni network** of SAWA.

**Cost coverage\* for the onsite phases** in Sharjah and Berlin

- International and national transport
- Accommodation with Breakfast and Lunch
- Entrance fees (Phase I and III)

**\* Please note:** Any other costs, such as transport costs between the place of residence and the departure/arrival airport, airport to hotel in Berlin and travel costs for visa application in the country of residence, as well as insurance have to be covered privately.

# What we expect

- **Professional competencies and experiences**  
Experience of at least a year in a museum, heritage, or art sector.
- **Professional Qualification**  
BA in a museum / heritage / art related field.
- **Personal Skills**
  - Flexibility
  - Creativity
  - Innovativeness
  - Open-mindedness
  - Ability to question established structures
  - Desire to hold a leading position and to act as a multiplier

- **Language skills**  
Adequate language proficiency in English (written and spoken) is essential in order to participate actively in the programme.
- **Commitment to the programme**  
A prerequisite for the selection of a candidate is her/his/their binding commitment to participate in all phases of **SAWA**. The quality of the programme depends on fellow's participation in all events and continuous work on topics across all modules and intense exchange, both among themselves and with the speakers and lecturers. Employers must provide a letter of consent and approved leave for training purposes.

## Application Procedure

The application must include the following documents:

- The completed application form
- A short CV (max 2 pages)
- A letter of recommendation

The application (in English) should emphasise the candidate's motivation as well as the personal and professional benefit sought from participation.

**Please submit your application on the latest by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 via**  
[SAWA-Program@HTW-Berlin.de](mailto:SAWA-Program@HTW-Berlin.de)  
[AAIMulla@sma.gov.ae](mailto:AAIMulla@sma.gov.ae)

The PDF document should be named 'Last name\_First name\_country' (e.g. Doe\_Jane\_Germany).

**Please note: Completeness of the application will affect the applicant's chances for participation.**

After the review by the selection committee, the invited participants will be notified in February 2024

**For further questions, please contact:**

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