



Ref: IIP2103

**Clare Hampson Fund – Imperial War Museum
Internship in Photographic Media**

12-month Internship starting June 2021

Location: Imperial War Museum, Duxford Airfield site

Educational Stipend: £17,000

Funded by the Clare Hampson fund, the Icon internship will focus on photographic media from the museum's extensive archive collections. It offers experience of working in a multidisciplinary department in a large institution and will cover preventive and interventive conservation.

Overview of the host

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) is one of the world's leading authorities on conflict and its impact on people's lives. We collect objects and archives that give an insight into people's experiences of war, preserve them for future generations and bring them to today's audiences in the most powerful way possible. We manage a family of five museums; IWM London at Lambeth Road, Churchill War Rooms, HMS Belfast, Duxford Airfield and IWM North in Manchester.

Opportunities

The intern will work on items from the museum's archive collections in order to improve their longevity, stability and accessibility. IWM holds a wide range of photographic and audio-visual media including; paper prints, film reels, vhs videos, nitrate and acetate negatives, colour prints, transparencies, glass plate negatives and albums. They will develop skills in the cleaning and repair of film and photographs, a basic understanding of the technical processes involved in digitising analogue materials and in the quality assurance of the integrity of digital versions as part of the museum's Digital Futures programme. There will also be the opportunity to work with conservation colleagues and on items for exhibition and to support our volunteer programme.

Photographic collections across the archive, museum and library sectors are rapidly deteriorating and many organisations are prioritising their resources to address this high risk material before it becomes unusable. In this context, the knowledge in identification, assessment and treatment which the intern will acquire will both, benefit their future employability and develop much needed skills in an under-represented specialism.

Across the year, with the support of their supervisor, the intern will be given the opportunity to identify and evaluate the condition of a huge range of photographic archives (from albums, magic lanterns to negatives and prints), film reels (standard and sub-standard gauges), video tape formats, records and magnetic tapes. They will spend time working in the conservation studio and experience both practical conservation and preventive techniques. The experience will allow the intern to develop their knowledge and understanding and practical skills in the following areas:

- Methods of identification
- Assessment of items to determine causes of deterioration.



- Assess items using a range of specialist analytical and recording equipment.
- Treatment options to ensure the improved condition, longevity and accessibility of collection items within the context of a minimal intervention approach.
- Assessment of multiple items or collections to evaluate and report on their condition
- Develop specialist skills in cleaning and minor repair of photographic media
- Work on videotapes and digital files identified for disposal
- Contribute to the technical analysis of digital preservation metadata and records
- Keep accurate written records in the museum catalogue system of any treatments undertaken
- COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations and how to follow the recommendations for the safe handling and use of chemicals, materials and equipment, H&S controls and to participate in/co-operate with the risk assessment process.

In addition the intern will be given the opportunity to:

- Design and develop, under the supervision of the Preservation Manager, a project called 'Media Archaeology' which aims to condition-check and preserve the oldest and most unique carriers in our collection, e.g. WW1 panorama prints, glass plates and prints
- Work with the Museum Preservation team to clean exhibits, carry out pest management, collection moves for specific projects, handling training, dealing with hazards in the collections, working with volunteers and emergency response training, as time allows
- To liaise with supervisor, colleagues and other conservation professionals on work programmes
- To take responsibility for own continuous professional development. The intern will keep abreast of current conservation and preservation issues and professional ethical developments.
- To participate in Collection Management professional and public programmes to represent the work of the studio or department.
- Supervise volunteer projects

Applicant Requirements

- Have graduated in the last 2 years with a qualification in paper or photographic conservation.
- Be able to demonstrate relevant conservation and preservation knowledge, including diagnostic, remedial and research skills.
- Be able to demonstrate the benefits of the internship to their professional development
- Good written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate options, to write reports and to produce clear documentation
- Good time management skills in order to prioritise workloads and meet deadlines
- An understanding of, and ability to apply the professional code of ethics
- Able to work in a team with other professional staff within a communal studio space, within the needs of physical distancing and other requirements to ensure safety of staff and public due to Covid-19 restrictions
- The right to work in the UK
- Good computer skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Be able to work at IWM Duxford Airfield which has limited public transport options

Please apply using the application form on the Icon website only.

Closing date: 11th May 2021 (Deadline extended)

Interviews will be held at Duxford (dependant on restrictions) on 19th / 20th May 2021.