

Ref: IIP2107

Title: Internship in Preventive Conservation Science

24 months Internship

Location: Ranger's House, London, SE10

Supervisor: Dr Naomi Luxford

Bursary: £17,500 / year

This Icon Internship is hosted and funded by English Heritage. English Heritage cares for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places. Through these, we bring the story of England to life for over 10 million visitors each year.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about-us/>

The Collections Conservation Team ensures our artefact collections, outdoor statues, artillery and wall paintings are conserved and cared for appropriately, and that research informs the management of risk to these collections combined with our expertise in preventive conservation, remedial treatment and conservation science. Conservation science research underpins the decisions we make to control light, humidity, insects, mould, pollution, temperature, vibration and cleaning methods, all of which cause objects to deteriorate. Where there is a lack of evidence for conservation methods we carry out our own research, often in collaboration with other institutions.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/conservation/science/>

The Internship

This internship will focus on preventive conservation science, providing experience of working and research alongside the conservation scientists at English Heritage. The intern will gain practical experience and knowledge of environmental monitoring and data analysis, calibration of sensors and active control of environmental conditions in rooms and display cases. The placement will also offer experience in materials testing, analysis of collections, and research into their deterioration.

Specific training and work based activities for this internship will be:

- Assist in managing different environmental monitoring systems, including selection, installation, calibration, downloading and data analysis, contributing to environmental management strategies for English Heritage properties.
- Understand how and when active environmental control systems are used within English Heritage and manage these to ensure optimal display and storage environments for collections.
- Using analytical and testing equipment to solve a variety of challenges posed to collections.

- Recognise the challenges posed by displaying collections in historic buildings and work to balance the requirements of collections, buildings, visitors and staff.
- Working alongside conservation scientists carrying out research into collections deterioration, informed by the National Audit of English Heritage collections.
- Experience of project teams delivering new exhibitions to display collections at sites across England.
- Participate in day-to-day activities of the conservation science team, including experience of work undertaken by the Collections Conservator and Collections Care Assistants in London to provide Preventive Conservation and Collections Care at our sites.

Applicant requirements

This internship is suitable to applicants with:

- Good first degree in chemistry, physics or archaeology. Conservation graduates will be considered but a strong science background is required.
- Strong, demonstrable IT skills, and ideally experience of working with data, are essential.
- Good problem solving skills and methodical approach to work.
- The ability to work effectively as part of a team and alone.
- Previous experience of materials analysis or research experiments would be desirable.
- Full UK driving licence is desirable.
- The right to work in the UK for the duration of the internship.
- Confident working at height on scaffolds and also working in confined spaces.
- Able to travel and stay overnight within England.

English Heritage strives to be an inclusive organisation and are always looking for people who reflect the diversity of the country today, to help us make it more relevant to the diversity of the people, communities and places we serve. We continually look for new ways to promote the past in a way that is inclusive to all and that celebrates the cultural diversity of England's heritage.

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

Closing date: 13th December 2021

Interviews will be held on: January 2022 (Date TBC)

Internship will commence: Late January / Early February 2022