

Ref: IIP2106
Internship in Furniture Conservation

1-year Internship starting January 2022

Location: Bainbridge Conservation studios, London SE23 and Maison Dieu, Dover

Educational Stipend: £ 17,500

Supervisor: Tristram Bainbridge ACR

Bainbridge Conservation, in partnership with Icon and support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Dover District Council is offering a one-year furniture conservation internship. The intern will work in Bainbridge Conservation Studios, London and on site at Maison Dieu, Dover.

Background

The Maison Dieu in Dover town centre is a building of outstanding significance with an 800-year history. Built around 1203 it originally served as a hospital for pilgrims en route to the shrine of St Thomas Beckett in Canterbury. In the 19th century it was renovated and expanded to provide a courthouse, gaol, seat of government and concert hall. This was the only civic commission by the leading neo-gothic architect William Burges, and the only in-tact building in England that still contains his decorative scheme, furniture and fittings.

The Maison Dieu project, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is currently in the delivery phase of a programme of capital works to the building, interiors and furnishings. Bainbridge Conservation is conserving the collections, which includes a unique collection of furniture designed by Burgess and Edward Pullan. This work will run alongside a programme of public engagement in Dover's heritage through its conservation and training and use of volunteers and upskilling staff in the care of the collection. The work will be undertaken both in the London studio and in a 'pop-up' studio and store located inside the Maison Dieu. This will allow the public, from passers-by on open days to organised school groups to engage with the building, its collection and care.

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Heritage--Museums/Town-Hall/Maison-Dieu-Restoration-Project.aspx>

Bainbridge Conservation Ltd is practice run by two Icon-accredited conservators, Tristram and Abigail Bainbridge. Recognised as a leader in the field, the studio provides high-level conservation treatments to furniture, architectural wooden interiors, decorative arts, books and library materials with private and institutional clients including English Heritage, National Trust, Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey.

<https://www.bainbridgeconservation.co.uk>

Aims of Internship

The internship aims to provide an emerging conservator of furniture or wooden objects with a year's experience of working in a busy commercial furniture conservation studio, where much of the time will be spent on the Maison Dieu project. The intern will gain practical experience and knowledge in remedial conservation treatments to furniture and frames, some of which will be nationally significant and complex treatments. In addition the intern will be a key advocate for conservation, engaging

with audiences of all ages and backgrounds and help to develop ways to interest and excite as wide and diverse a group as possible.

Other projects and responsibilities will include:

- Working alongside furniture conservators treating furniture, frames, Asian lacquer and wooden objects.
- Participate in the day to day running of the conservation studio.
- Working on conservation treatments on-site in the pop-up studio and store at the Maison Dieu, Dover.
- Participate in the public engagement activities over the course of the year at the Maison Dieu. These will include working with the engagement officer at Maison Dieu and developing didactical activities.
- Helping with the creation of training materials for volunteers and participate in volunteer training in collections care.
- Participate in outreach activities online, including the project website, blog, social and traditional media.

Arrangement

The internship will be based at the Bainbridge Conservation Studios in London, SE23 and SE26 for 12 months. At least 5 days per month will be based at the Maison Dieu, and some weekend working will be required with the public engagement activities. There can be flexibility in working hours.

Applicant requirements

- Good knowledge of conservation practice, including remedial options, conservation science and decision making, which could be demonstrated with a qualification in remedial conservation, ideally furniture or wooden objects, or through practice.
- Actively pursuing a career in a conservation.
- Have strong, demonstrable hand skills in conservation / craft practice. Ideally in wood, but it could be other allied skills.
- Be motivated to advocate for conservation and the Maison Dieu project and engage with a wide audience of all age groups.
- Have, or the potential to develop good interpersonal skills, especially in communication.
- Ideally be Covid-19 vaccinated to ensure safe working practice in the studios.
- The right to work in the UK for the duration of the internship.

Applicants from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Candidates will be asked to present a portfolio with evidence of their conservation work, skills and experience at interview.

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

Closing date: 8th November 2021

Interviews will be held during the week 22nd November 2021 at Bainbridge Conservation studio, London.