



JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Conservation Intern (Decorative Arts, Decorative Surfaces)

DEPARTMENT: Royal Collection Trust

SECTION/BRANCH: Works of Art

LOCATION: Marlborough House Conservation Workshops

REPORTING TO: Senior Decorative Arts Conservator

Job Context

The Royal Collection is one of the largest and most important art collections in the world. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts (including books, manuscripts and photographs), runs to more than a million objects and is spread among some thirteen royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The works of art are held by The Queen in trust for her successors and the nation. The Royal Collection department is one of the five departments of the Royal Household. It oversees the research, interpretation, custody, conservation and presentation of works of art, runs the programme of exhibitions in London, Windsor and Edinburgh, and manages the public opening of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residences of The Queen, and Clarence House, the official residence of The Prince of Wales. Three sections within Royal Collection Trust (Paintings, Decorative Arts and the Royal Library) have both curatorial and conservation responsibility for the Royal Collection and an Internship is offered by each section.

Organisational Chart

The Conservation Intern will report to the Senior Conservator in whichever section he / she is appointed to but will work closely with all members of the conservation team, occasionally working alongside relevant curators both internal and external and will also have contact with other Royal Household employees and, on occasion, members of the public.

Experience Offered

The internships offer an invaluable opportunity to gain an insight into the activities of one of the three conservation sections of Royal Collection Trust. The Intern will assist the various members of the section to which they have applied in order to gain a better understanding of the relevant disciplines and working methods carried out there. The intern will also be provided with project work as part of the ongoing conservation programme to contribute to an aspect of the section's work over the nine-month period, and will be expected to produce a report to the Senior Conservator at the end of the Internship.



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Key Activities

Tasks routinely undertaken by the Intern may include:

- Examining decorative objects to determine treatment options
- Cleaning of objects and associated components
- Cleaning and consolidation of decorative surfaces, i.e. lacquer / painted / gilded
- Preparation and use of various types of filling compounds
- Re-touching / colour matching of repairs
- Assisting with documentation in treatment reports

Development Opportunities

The main opportunities for the Intern are:

- To gain experience of working with a small, conservation team and a strong foundation in a wide range of the tasks and skills required of a Conservator in the selected field;
- To gain first hand exposure to an unparalleled collection of Decorative Arts;
- To develop greater insight into a specific area of conservation and the demands and standards required by Royal Collection Trust and a working Royal Palace, through individual project work and assisting the workshop/studio team; and
- To gain an understanding of the Collection's conservation and curatorial control systems.

Practical Requirements

The internship is offered for a minimum of 9 months, 5 days a week. The standard hours for the internship are Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:30 (including a one hour lunch break). The normal location of the work will be Marlborough House Conservation Workshops, but the intern may also be required to work at other London sites, including Windsor Castle.

The position is part of a rolling program of Conservation internships and is not designed to lead to a permanent position. Holiday leave will be offered on a pro-rata basis.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Good practical skills within the selected conservation field;
- Enthusiastic approach and a willingness to make the most of the experience;
- Effective verbal and written communication skills;
- A proven ability to work independently without supervision;
- A proven ability to work effectively within a team environment;
- The ability to use initiative and take responsibility;
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail;
- To have thorough ground knowledge of the restoration of gilded, painted and decorative surfaces, and also Oriental Lacquer.

Desirable:



The Royal Household

- Degree (or equivalent) in conservation/restoration or related subject