Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART CONSERVATION?

Art conservation is an exciting and challenging multidisciplinary field involving the examination, interpretation, analysis and conservation of cultural, historic and artistic objects. Professional conservators and conservation scientists must rely on their knowledge of both the humanities and the sciences to understand the creation and production of material culture in past and present contexts to ensure its preservation for the future.

Why QUEEN’S?

“The instruction and education I received at Queen’s has given me unique treatment and research experience that allows me to be confident when challenging myself as a conservator. The co-operations and deep understanding between all the students and the instructors created a supportive and irreplaceable learning environment that I am very thankful to have been a part of.”

– Kaslyne O’Connor, MAC

Queen’s University offers Canada’s only Master’s degree program in Art Conservation. Projects and research topics are individually designed to suit the background and interests of students and faculty. Students have opportunities to work with humanities, science and engineering departments at Queen’s, and may undertake projects with museums, galleries, archives, the Canadian Conservation Institute and industrial partners.

Program STRUCTURE

There are two possible streams within the Art Conservation Program:

- **Treatment stream:** A four-term program of theoretical and practical study on campus, advanced lecture courses, lab work in conservation of heritage objects, a research project, and two 12-week off-campus summer internships.

- **Research stream:** A two-year research program is offered to science and engineering graduates, leading to a career in conservation science. A one-year, mid-career research stream is also available to practising conservators with at least five years of experience.

TREATMENT Streams

- Conservation of paintings
- Conservation of artifacts
- Conservation of paper, photographic materials, and new media

RESEARCH Areas

- History of technology
- Degradation and conservation of materials
- Other conservation-related areas

Treatment-stream students need to apply to one of the three treatment streams. Research students should visit the the [Art Conservation Program website](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs) to learn more about faculty members and their research areas. We encourage you to contact a potential supervisor before applying.
**Art Conservation MAC MAP**

**GETTING STARTED**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and during your coursework and labwork.
- Consider how your course pages can contribute to your research project or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the program and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGHS Habitats.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you are continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC, NSERC and OGS funding.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Please visit and, if possible, get experience in a conservation laboratory.
- Consider joining groups like the Emerging Conservators Committee in the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC), and accessing online resources such as conservation online (CoCoL).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Healthcare, and the Queen's Archives.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop, or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to Do With That?* or *The Academic Job Search* from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your research project or thesis.
- Look into taking a 12-week summer internship in Canada or abroad.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your research project or thesis.
- Attend and participate at a major conference in the field, such as the Association of North American Graduate Programs in the Conservation of Cultural Property (ANAGPCI).
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend and participate in major conference in the field, such as the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
A graduate degree in Art Conservation can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: Meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and Innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness: an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
A Master's degree in Art Conservation can take your career in many directions. Some of our MAC students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Conservation-research facilities
- Art galleries
- Museums
- Archives
- Other cultural institutions
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Four-year Honours Bachelor's degree in humanities, sciences or engineering.
- One full-year, post-secondary course in fine art studio or workshop practice.
- Three terms of chemistry lectures and labs at the university level, including organic chemistry.
- Applicants with a humanities background must have a minimum of five full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
- Applicants with a science background must have a minimum of two full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average (3.3 GPA).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Good visual sensitivity and manual skills.
- Experience in conservation is highly recommended.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.
  The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES, DEADLINES, AND ACCEPTANCES
- Application due: January 15th.
- Interviews: Held in March.
- Number Admitted: Approximately 12 students are admitted for the Treatment Stream and 2 admitted for the Research Stream per year.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

Funding is available through Queen's Graduate Awards and other internal awards. Some students may qualify for teaching assistantships in their second year. See the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.