WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE

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?

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, full-time 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 practicing conservators with at least five years of experience.

RESEARCH Areas

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

TREATMENT Streams

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

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

“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.”

– Kalsyne O’Connor, MAC
The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics.

How to use this map

**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework and labwork.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Start to think about your research interests and the audiences for the research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC, NSERC and OGS funding.
- Be aware of application deadlines as most external awards (SSHRC, etc) are due in mid-November.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Student Cultural Association for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA, Professional development.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- 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 (CACC), and accessing online resources such as conservation online (COCA).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, etc., such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and industrial partners.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your coursework, Master’s Research Project, or Thesis.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Begin compiling an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Undertake projects with museums, galleries, archives, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and industrial partners.

- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from Career Services.

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

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Works in Progress.
- Develop specific expertise through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by the Canadian Conservation Institute, and industrial partners.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- Find a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor.
- 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 School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- 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.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles impeding timely completion.

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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 following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

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 1-2 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 and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships.