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.

TREATMENT Streams

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

RESEARCH Areas

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

Treatment-stream students need to apply to one of the three treatment streams. Research students should visit the [Art Conservation Program website](#) to learn more about faculty members and their research areas. We encourage you to contact a potential supervisor before applying.

“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
Art Conservation  
MAC 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/program goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for support.

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.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles impeding timely completion.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your coursework, Master’s Research Project, or Thesis.
- 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).
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Art Conservation can equip you with:
  - 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 and analyze information, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Perseverance
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
  - Awareness and 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:

- Archives
- Art galleries
- Conservation research institutions
- Museums
- 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.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool.

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Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGSPA website for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

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.