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.

“...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

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 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](#) to learn more about faculty members and their research areas. We encourage you to contact a potential supervisor before applying.
Art Conservation

**MASTER OF ART CONSERVATION (MAC)**

### GETTING STARTED

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework and labwork.
- Consider how your course papers 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 SGS Habitat.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as **Context and Meaning**.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as **Works in Progress**.
- Consider participating in the **3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition**.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the **Centre for Teaching and Learning**. Enroll in SGS901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Undertake projects with museums, galleries, archives, the **Canadian Conservation Institute**, and industrial partners.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community 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 **OCIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate**.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with the **International Student Advisor**.

**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 counsellor. 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 Forum** to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

### WRAPPING UP

**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 institutions
- 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.

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.*
Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?
Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

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 SGS HABITAT 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. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

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 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’ information on awards and scholarships.