

Ref: IIP1907

Clare Hampson Fund British Library Internship Internship in Book Conservation

12-month Internship starting November 2019

Location: British Library

Educational Stipend: £17,000

Funded by the Clare Hampson fund, the Icon internship will focus the conservation of manuscripts, archive materials and books and offers experience of working in a multidisciplinary conservation department in a large institution.

Overview of the host

The British Library (BL) is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries. Our mission is to advance knowledge to enrich lives, by preserving our collections for the future and striving to make them as accessible as possible to the public. There are an estimated 160 million physical items in the library with manuscripts and rare books comprising a significant proportion.

Opportunities

The intern will conserve/preserve items from the British Library's collections in order to improve the longevity, stability and accessibility of these items. They will learn how to make treatment decisions for a range of collection items considering these within a spectrum from museum artefact through to functioning, working object to meet the conservation challenges and accessibility needs of a national institution. There will be the opportunity to work with Preventive Conservation colleagues and on items for exhibition and loan and to advocate for the profession through our events and outreach programme.

Across the year, with the support of their supervisor, the Intern will be given the opportunity to gain experience of standard book conservation on primarily, but not exclusively, paper-based objects from a range of cultural material including archival collections. The experience will allow the intern to develop their knowledge and understanding and practical skills in the following areas:

- Assessment of items to determine causes of deterioration.
- Development of treatment options to ensure the improved condition, longevity and accessibility of collection items within the context of a minimal intervention approach.
- Conservation consultations of multiple items or collections to assess and report on their condition and to propose strategies for their care and access.
- Assist colleagues and senior colleagues in the conservation of items requiring unprecedented or unusual skills or treatments, or in prolonged treatments, where a team approach is necessary/
- Assess collection items as required using a range of specialist analytical and recording equipment.
- Keep accurate written and photographic records detailing treatments undertaken on each individual job, time spent, recording methodology, techniques and results of treatments etc.
- COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations and how to follow the recommendations for the safe handling and use of chemicals, materials and equipment and general health & safety controls in all areas of their work and to participate in/co-operate with the risk assessment process.

In addition, the intern will be given the opportunity to:

- To work with the Preventive Conservation team to preserve the library collections, including pest management, dust surveys, collection surveys, collection moves for specific projects, handling training, liaising with reading room staff, ordering consumables.
- To liaise with supervisor, colleagues and other conservation professionals on proposed conservation treatments and storage and display methods.
- To take responsibility for own continuous professional development. The intern will keep abreast of current conservation and preservation issues and professional ethical developments.
- To participate in Collection Care and Conservation professional and public programmes to represent the work of the studio or department.

Applicant Requirements

- Must have graduated in the last 2 years with a Master's degree in book conservation or in paper conservation.
- Be able to demonstrate relevant book conservation skills, including diagnostic, remedial and research skills.
- Be able to demonstrate the benefits of the internship to their professional development
- Good written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate preferred treatment options and implications of these options, ability to write reports and to produce clear documentation
- Good time management skills in order to prioritise workloads and meet deadlines
- An understanding of, and ability to apply the professional code of ethics to practical conservation projects
- Able to work in a team with other professional staff within a communal studio space, contributing to the maintenance and management of shared equipment and space
- The right to work in the UK
- Good computer skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel

Please apply using the application form on the Icon website only.

Closing date: 9am on 23rd September 2019

Interviews will be held during the week of 30th September (TBC).