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Graduate Summer Internship in Objects Conservation

The Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA) is seeking a candidate for an 8-week summer internship in objects conservation.

Position Overview

The ICA is a busy, non-profit regional art conservation center serving museums, cultural institutions, and private clients. We are seeking a graduate student specializing in objects conservation who has completed at least one year in an accredited master's program. This intensive 8-week internship offers hands-on experience and exposure to a wide range of artworks, materials, and treatment approaches.

The intern will

- work closely with the Senior and Assistant Objects Conservators to examine, document, and treat a variety of objects.
- assist with outdoor sculpture projects. Intern should be comfortable working on a ladders and/or lift and with a blow torch
- assist with materials research and literature reviews.
- observe and participate in client consultations, project planning, and workflow management.
- assist with educational outreach programs offered by the ICA.
- become familiar with the daily operations of a busy regional conservation laboratory.
- as opportunities arise assist with preventive care and collection surveys.

The ICA is an open lab with occasional multi-disciplinary projects. Over the course of the summer, the intern may have opportunities to perform treatments, as appropriate, in other specialties.

The internship offers a salary of \$25/hour with no additional benefits. ICA will offer up to \$1,000 for relocation.

Minimum Qualifications

The candidate should be enrolled in an accredited graduate conservation program with a specialization in objects. They will understand the AIC code of ethics and guidelines for practice.

Time Commitment

Full-time (approximately 35 hours per week) for 8 weeks. Internship dates are flexible and may be arranged in coordination with academic requirements.

Supervision & Mentorship

The intern will receive regular supervision, guidance, and feedback from professional conservation staff. Opportunities for discussion of treatments, ethical considerations, and career development will be provided throughout the internship.

About ICA

ICA is the oldest regional nonprofit art conservation lab in the country. We offer conservation services for museums, institutions, and individuals that preserve objects of artistic and cultural value. We empower cultural stewards through expert conservation and preservation education, so that our shared legacy endures. We specialize in the care of paintings, murals, works on paper, objects, outdoor sculptures, monuments, and textiles. ICA also offers a variety of free or low-cost educational programs on art preservation and conservation, including workshops, lectures, site surveys, and disaster response training.

Application Process

Interested candidates can apply by submitting the following:

- A cover letter expressing interest in the internship
- A résumé or curriculum vitae
- Contact information (full name, phone number, and email address) for three references

Documents should be sent via email to Executive Director Holly Witchey:
holly@ica-artconservation.org.

The deadline for applications to be submitted is March 15, 2026.

Applicants invited for a virtual interview will be expected to present a PowerPoint portfolio of their work and experiences. Questions about working at ICA or in Cleveland can be directed to Senior Objects Conservator Claire Curran (claire@ica-artconservation.org).