



The V&A's Conservation Department offers unpaid student placements to applicants enrolled on a recognised conservation training course. The placement provides an opportunity for students to gain work-based experience alongside the V&A's conservators. Available conservation specialisms include paper, books, paintings, textiles, furniture, sculpture, metals, ceramics and conservation science. Applicants must note:

- The placement must be a requirement of the student's studies.
- The placement is undertaken on a voluntary basis.
- The duration of a placement will normally be from three weeks to six months.

What to expect from a student placement in the V&A Conservation Department

- Students on a placement at the V&A Conservation Department can expect to work on a variety of assignments that may include interventive and preventive conservation, as well as administrative tasks and research projects.
- The work is selected, by the student's allocated supervisor, from the studio's existing work program.
- Time off and holidays, if required, will be arranged locally with the student's supervisor.
- Any written reports or presentations by the student relating to the placement, including those required by their educational institution, should be made available to the supervisor to review, before submission. Copyright will remain with the V&A.
- Occasional studio visits will be arranged so that students will have a chance to meet each other and discuss their work as a group. They will also have the opportunity to engage with other departmental activities where appropriate.

Applying for a conservation student placement

Applications should be made online via our [Jobs page](#)

Two references should be provided. These can be from a previous employer, a sponsor, or a tutor from the student's current educational establishment. References can be emailed separately to conweb@vam.ac.uk.

For applications to be processed successfully:

- All applications must indicate one choice of conservation specialism.
- Applications must be received at least six months before the intended start date as some studios may be booked up to two years in advance.

We regret we do not have the resources to consider or respond to applicants who:

- are not currently on a recognised conservation training course
- seek specialist training in an area that would require close supervision and specific objects to be selected
- wish to undertake detailed research requiring access to specialist staff expertise and equipment
- have not completed the application form fully or not indicated their one choice of specialism clearly
- have not shown their educational background and previous work experience clearly
- do not have the required visa or funding arrangements in place

Deadlines for student placement applications

The deadline for student placement applications is rolling, and placement dates and duration are set on a case by case basis depending on the requirements of the student's course, and supervisor availability. If you have missed the advertisement deadline listed on the jobs page, a new advert will be put up shortly.

Internships in the Conservation Department

The V&A's Conservation Department does not currently offer paid internships to conservation graduates or professionals. Any paid internships offered in future will be advertised online via our [Jobs page](#). The V&A's

Conservation Department does consider applications for internships from applicants that have secured external funding (from, for example, the Erasmus program). These are considered on a case by case basis and are subject to studio workload. If you have secured external funding and would like to apply for an internship please fill out an application for a placement and stipulate that you have funding and would like to apply for an internship. Alternatively please email conweb@vam.ac.uk.

The V&A does not offer unpaid internships.

Other information

All data is held in accordance with the V&A's Privacy Policy and the V&A operates a policy of equal opportunities.

For information about other opportunities including volunteering and jobs at the V&A please visit our [Jobs page](#).

For general information on careers in the conservation profession, visit the [Institute of Conservation](#).