**Preparing for Graduate Study: Suggestions from the Association for North American Graduate Programs in Art Conservation**

Compiled April 2020

The directors and other graduate program members of the Association for North American Graduate Programs in Art Conservation (ANAGPIC) recently gathered via Zoom to share distance teaching and learning strategies, summer and internship placement needs, postgraduate placement schemes and solutions, and opportunities to further connect our work and educational/institutional communities using digital platforms.

We are united in our desire to strengthen conservation education and training, and to assist and advise emerging conservation professionals as you navigate new and unprecedented career paths. As conservation educators, we remain committed to your success.

We recognize that pre-program candidates may not always have access to in-person classes or internships, and offer a few avenues on how to enhance your preparation for graduate study. Some possibilities include:

* Engage fully with the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property – Emerging Conservators Committee ([emergingconservators.cac](https://www.facebook.com/emergingconservators.cac/)) and mentorship programs (CAC-ECC) ([About Us - Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (cac-accr.ca)](https://www.cac-accr.ca/about-us/) ), and the American Institute for Conservation – Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (AIC-ECPN) ([Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (culturalheritage.org)](https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/emerging-conservation-professionals-network) ) and take advantage of their many educational resources.
* Check out other conservation organisations, both national and international to learn about the profession, different approaches and projects. These include:
	+ Canadian Conservation Institute (<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute.html>)
	+ The Canadian Association for the Conservation of Cultural Property ([Canadian Association of Professional Conservators (capc-acrp.ca)](https://capc-acrp.ca/en/)
	+ The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) <https://www.culturalheritage.org/home>
	+ National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>
	+ Institute of Conservation (ICON) <https://icon.org.uk/>
	+ International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) <https://www.iccrom.org/>
	+ The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) <https://www.getty.edu/conservation/>
	+ Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) <https://www.aiccm.org.au/>
	+ Netherlands Institute for Conservation+Art+Science+ (NICAS) <https://www.nicas-research.nl/>
	+ The International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) [International Council of Museums - ICOM-CC (icom-cc.org)](http://www.icom-cc.org/)
	+ International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) <https://www.iiconservation.org/>
* Have you discovered the wealth of peer-reviewed conservation literature? Select and read online articles about a topic which interests you. Determine which sources are reliable and which publications you think are interesting. Explore and evaluate popular Conservation and Restoration content through social media and online videos – how do these differ from peer-review publications?
* Review informational webinars hosted by conservation associations and regional centers. Use these learning opportunities to strengthen your skills and knowledge in areas of interest and in other selected areas or disciplines. Keep a record of all webinars reviewed.
* Take online, for-credit courses in areas central to our practice, from history of technology to STEM, interdisciplinary humanities, art history, anthropology, cultural studies, data analytics, photography/imaging, programing, etc.
* Take online non-credit courses to develop skills in technical photography, project management, or computer programs, such as Excel or Photoshop, etc.
* Examine the chemistry of your favorite arts or crafts material. Whether this is a strand of wool, a welded joint, or oil paint, explore its chemical structure and look at how it is made, processed, and used.
* Review the research projects undertaken at Queen’s Art Conservation Program <https://www.queensu.ca/art/art-conservation/research> and see if this work inspires you! Look into research grant programs available to individuals and institutions in preservation at the local, regional, national, and international level – these can be a valuable source of funding for students and early researchers.