PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Art conservation is an exciting and challenging multidisciplinary field involving the examination, interpretation, analysis and conservation of cultural, historic and artistic objects. Queen’s University offers Canada’s only Master’s degree program in art conservation. This program provides the foundation necessary for professional conservation scientists and conservators who 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 and to ensure its preservation for the future. Research is individually designed to suit the background and interests of students and faculty. Topics may be in history of technology or other conservation related areas.

OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the research streams may 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. Research students may undertake a 12-week summer research internship in Canada or abroad, depending upon the focus of their research.

CAREERS

M.A.C. research graduates work in conservation research facilities, art galleries, museums, archives, and related cultural institutions. Students can also pursue doctoral programs in North America, Europe, and Australia.

“My time in the MAC program was wonderful. There is a great family atmosphere and the professors and staff are incredibly helpful and supportive. The education I received at Queen’s has definitely put me ahead of the crowd in terms of pursuing jobs, and no matter where I am working in the heritage field I have my Queen’s MAC education as my foundation for success.”

REBECCA M. CRAIGUE, MAC 2006

Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/sgs
DEGREES OFFERED/LENGTH OF PROGRAM
Master of Art Conservation (M.A.C.)
A two-year 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.

METHOD OF COMPLETION
Research Streams (Pattern 1): Four advanced lecture courses, original research, a thesis, and a thesis examination, with no conservation treatment component. The thesis exam committee shall comprise at least the following members: Chair of Committee who is the Head of the Department (or Head’s Delegate possibly from outside Department); Supervisor(s); and at least one other faculty member, who may be from the department, external to the department or in exceptional circumstances, external to Queen’s.

SUPERVISORS AND FIELDS OF STUDY
Initial contact should be made with the department’s graduate assistant (artcon@queensu.ca) before getting in touch with a potential supervisor.

• Rosaleen Hill – Associate Professor, Paper, Photographic Materials and New Media Conservation. Contact: hillr@queensu.ca
• Emy Kim - Assistant Professor, Artifact Conservation. Contact: emy.kim@queensu.ca
• Patricia Smithen-Program Director, Assistant Professor, Paintings Conservation. Contact: p.smithen@queensu.ca
• Alison Murray - Graduate Coordinator, Associate Professor, Conservation Science. Contact: alison.murray@queensu.ca

FUNDING INFORMATION
Funding is available through Queen’s Graduate Awards and other internal awards. Some students may qualify for teaching assistantships in their second year. Students are also encouraged to apply for external funding such as NSERC, SSHRC and OGS. Entering graduate students who win federal government tri-council awards are automatically provided a $5,000 top-up award by Queen’s. Funding may be available from the research supervisor.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES
Conservation Science Research Stream:
• Four-year Honours bachelor degree in the sciences or engineering with a minimum B+ average (or equivalent).
• Three terms of chemistry at the university level, including at least one term of organic chemistry, all courses preferably with a laboratory component.
• A minimum of two full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.

Mid-Career Research Stream:
• Four-year Honours bachelor degree in humanities, sciences or engineering with a minimum B+ average (or equivalent).
• One full-year, post-secondary course in fine art studio or workshop practice (or equivalent).
• Three terms of chemistry at the university level, including at least one term of organic chemistry, all courses preferably with a laboratory component.
• Applicants with an undergraduate degree in the humanities must have a minimum of five full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
• Applicants with a science or engineering undergraduate degree must have a minimum of two full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
• Minimum of five years of work experience as a conservator.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS
• Good visual sensitivity and manual skills.
• Experience in conservation or conservation science is highly recommended.
• For international students, if required, a minimum TOEFL total score of 600 (paper-based) or TOEFL iBT minimum scores of: writing (24/30); speaking (22/30); reading (22/30); listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120.

Applicants offered an admissions interview will be required to present a portfolio of their work.

NUMBER ADMITTED
12 per year

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES
Application Deadline: January 15 of each year. Interviews are held in March.