



INTERNSHIP IN CONSERVATION AUTUMN 2021



Further information for candidates

The Heritage Council and the Chester Beatty are pleased to offer a twelve-month internship in book and/or paper conservation. The scheme is co-funded by the Heritage Council and the generous support of the Chester Beatty's Patrons. The internship offers the possibility of professional workplace experience within a prestigious institution.

Details of the internship:

The successful candidate will gain experience working in the busy Conservation laboratory. They will work under the supervision of the Head of Conservation. Practical projects will be assigned to fit in with the museum's on-going treatment, exhibition and loan programmes and include the preparation of manuscripts and single folios for digitisation from across the collections.

The internship is for a period of one year only and will be funded at a rate of **€26,700 per annum** (subject to PRSI and PAYE). The start date is flexible and can be adjusted to fit the successful candidate's existing commitments; however they would ideally start in December 2021/ January 2022.

Background:

The Chester Beatty

The Chester Beatty houses the great collection of Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968), the American mining engineer, financier, and philanthropist. The internationally acclaimed collection of manuscripts, prints, icons, miniature paintings, early printed books and works of art from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe open a window on the great cultures and religions of the world. Egyptian papyrus texts, beautifully illuminated copies of the Qur'an, European medieval and renaissance manuscripts, Turkish and Persian miniatures, Buddhist paintings, Chinese dragon robes and Japanese woodblock prints are among the highlights of the Collections. For more information, please go to www.chesterbeatty.ie or follow the conservation blog <https://chesterbeatty.ie/conservation/>

The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council's vision is that the value of our heritage is enjoyed, managed, and protected for the vital contribution that it makes to our identity, well-being, and future. The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest, our priorities are to support jobs, education, and heritage tourism in local communities. The Heritage Council complements but importantly builds on the work of other state heritage bodies which have primary responsibility for the care of property in state ownership and the designation of protected areas.

The Heritage Council was established as a statutory body under the [Heritage Act, 1995](#). It takes an integrated approach to heritage, with responsibilities that include both its cultural and natural aspects. The Heritage Act provides a definition of 'heritage' — and its breadth is truly comprehensive. It includes monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects such as art and industrial works, documents and genealogical records, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens, parks, and inland waterways.

The internship scheme is part of the Council's commitment to the promotion of best practice for conservation across Ireland. It started with an initial one-year internship at the Chester Beatty in 2006. Since then it has expanded to include The National Library of Ireland, Trinity College Library and The National Gallery of Ireland. For full details of other internships being run in 2021 please go to <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie>

Key Responsibilities:

- Carrying out condition assessments on items prioritised for digitisation, exhibition, loan or rehousing and entering condition details on the museum's collections management database (Adlib).
- Assisting with handling of objects during professional photography.

- Carrying out preservation and conservation treatments as required to stabilise paper and book materials, maintaining the highest technical and ethical standards.
- Promoting the Chester Beatty and Conservation Department by participating in outreach activities including contributing to the Chester Beatty Conservation blog.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Head of Conservation.

Essential Requirements:

- Candidates should be recent graduates (2019-21) of a recognised conservation training programme with preference given to book and paper conservation programmes.
- Candidates should have basic experience of handling bound manuscripts and museum objects and must be able to work within a team environment.
- Self-motivation and good organisational skills, with an eye for detail.
- The applicant should ideally have enough experience to be able to work with a degree of independence.
- Competence in the use of information technology to achieve work objectives, including use of PCs and Office software, the internet and other electronic and presentation tools.
- Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a particular interest in the Chester Beatty collections.

Conditions:

The intern will be encouraged to present a lecture on an aspect of their internship as part of the Chester Beatty's education programme and National Heritage Week. The preparation of a research paper of sufficient quality for publication in a professional journal and relevant to the nature of the collection worked upon will also be encouraged and supported. Applications cannot be considered by previous recipients of a Heritage Council conservation Internship.

Accountability:

The intern will keep the Heritage Council apprised of the progress of the internship with bi-annual reports. The Chester Beatty will afford the intern the full array of services within a large organisation, both professionally and socially, including health & safety training, and the standard training and guidance afforded to new members of staff.

Terms:

The internship will be subject to normal schedules of payments, probationary period and leave agreements. They will benefit from working within a team, not only of fellow professionals, but also within a larger organisation with associated management issues, budgets and deadlines. The Conservation intern will work on-site five days per week. The Chester Beatty operates a Covid-19 safe working environment in line with public health and government protocols.

In partnership with the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme they will be available for contributing to workshops/ training days in agreement with the Chester Beatty. The Chester Beatty is an equal opportunities employer.

Please note that work permit restrictions apply in relation to applicants from non-EEA countries. Applications can only be considered from candidates who are eligible to work in Ireland.

For further information please visit:

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/migrant_workers/employment_permits/work_permits.html

How to apply:

Candidates should send a letter of interest, current curriculum vitae, and the contact details of two referees to: Mary Corless, HR Manager, Chester Beatty, Dublin Castle, Dublin, DO2 AD92, Ireland, or by email to: personnel@cbl.ie with "Internship in Conservation 2021" in the subject line.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 22nd October at 5pm** and interviews will be held on **Tuesday 9th November 2021**.

Please note: All data received relating to the application will be held in line with the Chester Beatty's data protection and record retention policies.