

Harvard Art Museum

Fogg Museum
Busch-Reisinger Museum
Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Established in 1928 by Edward W. Forbes and located in the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, the department of conservation is the oldest fine arts conservation treatment, research, and training facility in the United States.

The Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies specializes in the conservation of works of art on paper, paintings, sculpture, decorative objects, and historic and archaeological artifacts. While the Center primarily serves the Harvard Art Museum, clients occasionally include other institutions, such as historical societies, regional or specialized museums, archives, libraries, and historical sites.

The Center is also a training and teaching facility for advanced-level conservation students, art history students at Harvard University, museum trainees, and professionals already working in the field. As an outgrowth of these activities, the Center regularly conducts and publishes the results of research in conservation and art history.

Conservation training at Harvard University was formalized in 1972 with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The training program is supported with grants and funds from The Samuel H. Kress Foundation and by endowment funds.

The Fellowship

The Conservation Fellowship at the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies aims to broaden the experience of post-graduate-level fellows. The program offers practical training that introduces state of the art analytical and treatment techniques and raises awareness of philosophical issues concerning the conservation of works of art. Three fellowships are made available each year in paintings, works of art on paper, and objects and sculpture.

Directed by staff conservators and conservation scientists, the program's flexible curriculum is designed to accommodate the varied experience, personal interests, and professional objectives of each fellow.

Emphasis is given to practical training in the examination and treatment of works of art. In addition, through the Center's affiliation with Harvard University, fellows have access to an extraordinary array of resources, including distinguished art collections, advanced scientific equipment, and renowned libraries. Fellows are encouraged to take advantage of the many curriculum courses, lectures, and seminars offered by the University.

Fellows participate in the Museum's active exhibition program and may become involved in both technical and art historical research that is incorporated into exhibition catalogues and independent publications. Collaboration with curators and scholars provides opportunities to work on problems of condition, attribution, and authentication. Fellows spend one month on a technical research project investigating an artwork or group of objects from the collection. Staff conservation scientists supervise the use of advanced examination techniques, including petrography, polarizing light microscopy, infrared reflectography, X- and beta- radiography, X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, FT-IR micro spectroscopy, UV/visible spectroscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and electron-beam microprobe.

Facilities

The Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies is currently located in an 8,000 square feet off-site facility, along with the Museum collections and staff, while the Museum in Cambridge is renovated. Facilities include three conservation laboratories, an analytical laboratory, a library, seminar room, and administrative offices. The Center holds important historical and reference archives, including the Forbes Collection of Pigments, the Burroughs X-ray Archive, the Gettens Archive of Aged Pigments and Media, and the Gluck Archives on British Artists' Materials.

The Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies works in close collaboration with the [Center for the Technical Studies of Modern Art](#).

Harvard University's Department of the History of Art and Architecture and the Fine Arts Library maintain the visual collections and more than 300,000 volumes. The Fogg Art Museum, the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, and the Busch-Reisinger Museum, comprising the Harvard Art Museum, together hold one of the most extensive university art collections in the world, with more than 250,000 works of art.

Program Schedule

January 15: Application materials due; incomplete applications will not be considered after this date.

February: Interviews of selected candidates

March: Notification of acceptance to program

September 1: Program begins

June 30: Program ends

Eligibility

Completion of graduate-level training in conservation; additional courses in material sciences and competence in a foreign language are desirable. Preference is given to those who have completed graduate-level training in conservation, but third year graduate students will also be considered.

Application Procedure

A complete application includes curriculum vitae, a one page single spaced statement summarizing the applicant's interests and intent in this fellowship and chosen specialization, official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate studies, and three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes.

Letters of recommendation can be included with application materials or can be sent directly from the recommender to the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies.

All materials must be submitted in English

Deadline for receipt of application materials and supporting documents is January 15th.

Please send application materials and supporting documents to:

Kathleen Kennelly
Harvard Art Museum
Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3383

In addition, all applicants must apply online with statement of interest and curriculum vitae only. Job postings can be found at the [Harvard University employment web site](#). Please search by keyword "conservation."

Inquiries may be directed to:

Kathleen Kennelly
Email - kathleen_kennelly@harvard.edu
Telephone - 617.495.2392
Fax - 617.495.0322

Interview Procedure

Applicants invited for an interview should be prepared to present the following:

- A personal art portfolio, to demonstrate knowledge of materials and techniques. Actual works are preferred, though slides, digital images or photos are acceptable.
- A conservation portfolio, including a range of treatments from minor to major, with accompanying treatment photos and reports.
- Any research projects carried out during conservation training.

Stipend and Benefits

Current pay rate is \$1,200 bi-weekly and a modest travel/research allowance is provided.

Fellowships are eligible for Harvard University benefits, including contributory dental and health insurance and access to University resources.

Award

Upon satisfactory completion of the fellowship, a certificate is awarded by the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, Harvard Art Museum.