PURPOSE OF SF INTERNSHIPS AT THE SMITHSONIAN

The purpose of the Castle Collection pre-program furniture conservation internship is to provide a practical learning experience for candidates considering a graduate level degree in art conservation. Conservators are responsible for the long-term preservation of cultural property. Conservation involves developing appropriate methods of handling, preserving, and interpreting cultural materials, and activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care. For more information please visit the website of the American Institute for Conservation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This internship is an opportunity to work on the care and preservation of nineteenth century American furniture, in-use within a historic building environment. The intern will participate in assessing and examining the condition of selected objects and will focus on object stabilization. At times the project may require lifting, handling and movement of furniture. The intern will participate in cleaning, repair, and conservation treatment and documentation. Hands-on instruction will be supplemented by readings and discussions of current standards and practices. The intern may also create a record of the project to include in a graduate application portfolio.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will engage in activities which contribute to the smooth functioning of the specific internship experience, and participate with Castle Collection staff in routine activities within the Smithsonian’s Institutional headquarters. Additionally, the intern will assist with lab maintenance and moving furniture as needed. Depending on the internship experience, students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and or skill from among the following: oral and written communication, report writing, initiative, professional demeanor, ability to take direction and self-monitoring.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Mentor will provide intern with assignments and activities which will provide the opportunity for the incumbent to learn about, and participate in a professional capacity in the management of a conservation treatment. Mentor is also responsible for identifying the expectations of the project and the provision of opportunities to participate in conservation activities, and the provision of resources, time, and support to facilitate the successful completion of the assignments.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

2. Presentation to SF senior staff of final project (including process used, results obtained, benefits to SF and suggested follow-on work)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through supervised conservation treatments, he/she will encounter a range of materials and techniques, learn the properties and applications of conservation materials, and utilize specialized tools and analytical equipment as appropriate.

Professional skills to be developed will include:
- Visual examination and condition assessment
- Photography and documentation
- Conservation treatment

Visit our website for more information. | E-Mail: SFinternship@si.edu