



WADDESDON

Internship Role Profile

Title:	Conservation Assistant Intern
Department:	Collection Department
Reporting to:	Collection Steward
Period Covered:	13 January to May 2020

About Waddesdon

Waddesdon is a Rothschild house and gardens set in the Buckinghamshire countryside just outside Aylesbury. It was created for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 1870s. Now owned by the National Trust, but managed by the Rothschild Foundation, it remains the epitome of 'Rothschild style'.

Waddesdon is a dynamic place shaped by three generations of Rothschilds, bringing together a world class collection of art and decorative arts of the 18th century, displayed in original historic interiors including English 18th-century portraits, French 18th-century furniture and porcelain, books, drawings and works on paper, textiles and sculpture. Visitors today can still see Ferdinand's unrivalled collections, alongside contemporary art, and wander in the immaculate Victorian gardens. There is also a working aviary, wine cellars, shops, restaurants and a woodland playground.

Over 300 staff and more than 300 volunteers help mount special exhibitions, host educational visits, hold wine tastings, lead guided walks and talks, and run events throughout the year, including a magical Christmas season. Private events – parties, meetings and weddings – are held at the Dairy (a private building on the estate) and at the Five Arrows, a Grade II listed boutique 16 bedroom hotel near the gates of the Manor.

All profits from the trading company are covenanted to The Rothschild Foundation to support the conservation, collections and maintenance of Waddesdon as the highest quality visitor experience.

Overall Purpose of a Waddesdon Internship

An internship at Waddesdon will allow participation in some of the most exciting experience in a nationally and internationally renowned institution. This will in turn give interns a number of formal and informal learning opportunities that will assist the recipients with their future careers.

Our aim is to ensure we open the doors of Waddesdon as widely as possible to the future curators, conservators, visitor managers, archivists, gardeners, facilities managers, chefs, stewards, events managers and leaders we may need in the future.



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The Collections Department:

The Collection Department is responsible for the care and access, conservation, research and interpretation of the contents of the House and the historic fabric of the building, the sculpture in the Gardens and the historic paper and photographic archive. This includes an annual exhibition programme and the management of a gallery at the Stables used for changing exhibitions and contemporary art. It also includes the Windmill Hill Archive, the Image & Book Libraries and a Textile Conservation Workshop.

The Steward Team is part of the department and comprises stewards and conservation assistants and cleaners who are responsible for the day-to-day care and conservation of the collections, including handling, moving, cleaning and setting up of the Collection ready for opening and the public as well as preparing the House for Christmas and putting it to bed in the Winter. The team also supports special events in the House and additional activities such as filming.

Learning Opportunities:

- Learn how to provide general conservation cleaning, including the outdoor statuary.
- To learn how to correctly vacuum and dust areas in the collection ready for opening to the public and assist with setting blinds and lights
- To help the conservation assistants with Conservation in Action involving a deep clean of certain rooms in the house in front of the public as well as behind the scenes cleaning once it has been put to bed.
- Learning how to support to the team with any handling of works of art or changes to exhibitions.
- Learning how to to the team for events in the collection, which may include special tours, out-of-hours access, filming and photography or dealing with specialist groups and individuals such as conservators and other consultants
- To gain familiarity with the conservation principles for management of the collections, and understand the mechanisms for control of the environment, including light and RH (relative humidity) monitoring.

Skills & Experience Desired:

- Interest in or knowledge of an area of art history, history, history of architecture or heritage studies
- Evidence of good manual dexterity and/or manual handling
- Demonstrate an understanding of the kinds of conservation issues which might affect historic houses and their collections
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Organised with a good attention to detail
- Willingness to engage with the public
- Willingness to work at height



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Benefits of Internship:

- No more than 22.5 hours per week with your Department, to enable time for study or any employment opportunities that may be desired.
- Shared accommodation provided on the Waddesdon Estate with other students on the programme
- An allowance of £10 towards food or petrol costs for each day of activity. There may be opportunities for paid employment in our other business areas that can run alongside the internship.
- A Waddesdon staff card offering 20% discount in our catering and retail outlets.
- In order reap the maximum learning benefits from the internship, availability for the full duration of the period is encouraged.
- The opportunity to join a cohort of 8 interns at Waddesdon, with a comprehensive induction programme across the wider business that sits alongside learnings in your desired business area.
- The opportunity to review and present your learning outcomes to the management team at the end of your time at Waddesdon.
- Monthly reviews with the HR department in addition to weekly meetings with your department mentor

Application:

Closing date for applications is 11pm on the 17 November with interviews planned for w/c 25 November. Applications should be submitted, with cv and covering letter, to application@waddesdon.org.uk