

Job Title: Preventative Conservation Intern	
Managed by: Pathways Manager/Assistant Steward	
Department: Stewards/Collections	Location: Waddesdon Manor
Salary: National Living Wage & subsidised accommodation on site	Contract Type: One-year fixed term from 14 September 2026
Hours: 37.5 hours per week over a 7-day rota. Some weekend and evening work will be required, which you will be notified of in advance and TOIL will be granted	

An overview of what you will be doing

The Stewards play a central role in the care and presentation of Waddesdon Manor and its collection, helping to preserve the House and its contents for future generations. This internship offers a practical introduction to preventative conservation and the day-to-day care of heritage objects within a historic house open to the public.

As part of the team, you'll gain hands-on experience in tasks such as object handling, cleaning historic interiors, caring for outdoor sculpture, and supporting the presentation of rooms and displays. You'll also begin to develop more advanced skills, including painting hanging, specialist cleaning techniques, and working with collections management systems.

Starting at the end of the summer season, you'll learn how the House operates across the year. This includes supporting daily and weekly routines during busy visitor periods, as well as taking part in the winter clean—deep cleaning rooms from scaffold towers, handling a wide range of objects, and contributing to both team and individual projects.

You'll also gain exposure to wider aspects of conservation work, such as integrated pest management, clock care, and working alongside external conservators. There may also be opportunities to support filming projects within the Manor.

This role includes weekend working on a rota and occasional out-of-hours work, with time off in lieu provided. By the end of the internship, you'll have a clear understanding of how routine care and preventative conservation protect and sustain a historic house and its collection.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for someone with a genuine interest in history and heritage, who is curious about how historic houses and collections are cared for behind the scenes. No prior experience is required—what matters is a willingness to learn, get involved, and take pride in your work.

You'll be part of a small, close-knit team working together to maintain high standards of conservation and presentation. This means being a reliable team player, communicating well, and supporting others with shared, often physical, tasks.

At the same time, you'll need to work independently at times, managing your own tasks and adapting as priorities shift. Being organised, self-motivated, and open to feedback will help you succeed.

The role is practical and hands-on. You should be comfortable working indoors and outdoors, in varying conditions, and carrying out tasks such as cleaning historic interiors, handling objects, and accessing high-level areas using ladders or scaffold towers.

If you enjoy practical, detailed work and are interested in a future in heritage, this internship will give you a strong foundation.

Skills you will gain

- Preventative conservation cleaning methods and familiarity with approaches for a diverse collection, including Ceramics, Metalwork, Leather, Furniture, Wood, Textiles, Stonework etc
- Environmental monitoring
- Object handling and packing
- Painting hanging
- Use of a Collections Management System (CMS) database
- Confidence with assisting in the supervision of contractors or filming/photography within the Collection
- PASMA certification for scaffolding (valid for 5 years)
- Ladder training (potential, not confirmed)
- IPAF mobile platform certification (potential, not confirmed)

Additional opportunities

Potential to work in other departments for short periods to gain wider experience. Dependant on personal interests, but typical departments are Collections Management, Archives and Records, Visitor Experience and Learning.

If external specialist conservators are working on site there is a likelihood of shadowing and helping with the work (please note this is not guaranteed).

As part of the Pathways Internship, you will have the opportunity to participate in a three-day Intern Skills Workshop, designed to support your personal and professional development. This workshop will cover a variety of topics aimed at enhancing your skills, broadening your knowledge, and preparing you for future career opportunities.

In addition, you will be able to take part in staff and intern events throughout the year, providing valuable networking opportunities, insight into different roles across the organisation, and a chance to engage with the wider team. You will also have access to a training budget to support your learning and development, allowing you to attend relevant courses, workshops, or conferences.

To ensure you make the most of your internship experience, you will receive full one-to-one mentor support from the Pathways team. Your mentor will guide you through your projects, help you set and achieve personal development goals, and offer advice and encouragement as you explore potential career pathways.

Overall, this internship is designed not only to provide hands-on experience in a heritage setting but also to support your growth, development, and future career ambitions in a structured and supportive environment.

You might be looking for a future career in...

This internship provides a strong foundation for a career in heritage, conservation, and museum work. Following this role, you could progress to positions such as: National Trust House Officer, Museum or Gallery Technician / Handling Roles, Preventative Conservation Assistant.

While this internship offers valuable hands-on experience, it can also serve as a stepping stone for more specialised roles that may require further study or professional experience, including:

- **Curatorial Positions**
- **Collections Management**
- **Specialist (Restorative) Conservation**

By combining practical skills, exposure to a historic house environment, and mentoring support, this internship equips you with the experience and insight to explore a range of pathways within the heritage and conservation sectors.

<u>EDI Capture Form</u>	<u>Apply Now</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
---	----------------------------------	---