Postdoctoral Fellowship in Conservation Science

*Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, California*

The Getty Conservation Institute’s (GCI) postdoctoral fellowship is a two-year program designed to provide recent PhDs in chemistry and the physical sciences with experience in conservation science. The 2015-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow will be an integral part of the GCI Science’s newly-formed ‘Treatment Studies’ research area, working also with colleagues in related research areas, such as Materials Characterization. ([http://www.getty.edu/conservation/about/science/index.html](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/about/science/index.html)).

In support of the GCI’s mission to advance conservation practice in the visual arts, ‘Treatment Studies’ undertakes research and development that specifically addresses conservation methods and materials, focusing mainly on the treatment of movable objects and works of art: essentially, applied scientific research for the betterment of conservation practice. The ‘applied’ nature of the work means that the Fellow should collaborate closely with practicing conservators as well as with scientific researchers in other organizations.

The Postdoctoral Fellow is expected to engage with, and be involved in, both new and existing projects and research partnerships that are concerned with conservation methods and materials. The GCI anticipates that the primary focus of the Fellow’s research activities will be polymeric materials for specific conservation operations, particularly coatings and/or consolidating adhesives. The Fellowship thus will be particularly suited to candidates having a strong polymer science background at the graduate level. In addition to working on existing or nascent research area projects, there is scope for the Fellow to pursue independent research on a topic of their own choosing, and to take full advantage of the diverse research facilities available at the Getty. Professional development will be encouraged and assisted through participation in professional meetings, conferences or workshops. It is hoped that the Fellow’s research outcomes become disseminated through publications and conference presentations, both to the scientific community and to art conservation practitioners.

Applicants should have a recent (2010 or later) PhD in chemistry, polymer science, or another relevant physical science, experimental research experience and strong instrumental analysis skills. An aptitude for self-directed learning and for working across academic disciplines is desirable, as are good written and verbal communication skills. Candidates should have an interest in the visual arts and a serious interest in pursuing a career in conservation science within the museum environment.

The fellowship runs from September 2015 to August 2017. In addition to an annual stipend, the fellow will be provided an annual study trip allowance and generous benefits including travel to, and housing in, Los Angeles and full health benefits.

Completed application materials must be received in the Getty Foundation office on or before November 17, 2014. Application materials and full terms of the GCI postdoctoral program can be found on the Getty Foundation website: [http://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/residential/postdoctoral_fellowship_conservation_science.html](http://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/residential/postdoctoral_fellowship_conservation_science.html)