

Application Pack: CDP Studentship with Imperial College London and Tate

Imperial College London and Tate are delighted to offer the following Arts and Humanities Research Council fully-funded PhD studentship: **‘Unexpected salt formation in 20th century oil paints and implications for condition, conservation and access to works of art’**.

The successful candidate will be expected begin the studentship on 1 October 2023 on either a full-time or part-time basis and will be required to spend time at both Imperial College London and Tate Britain, spending equal time at each institution. They will be part of a wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

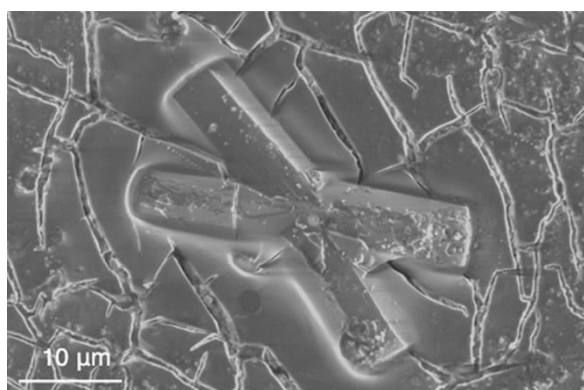


Image: (Left) Image of salt crystal on French Ultramarine oil paint, modified from Fig8 published in: Harrison, J. *et al.* The influence of light and relative humidity on the formation of epsomite in cadmium yellow and French ultramarine modern oil paints. *Herit Sci* 9, 107 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40494-021-00569-2> with a CC BY 4.0 license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. (accessed 15.05.23)

(Right) Architectural photography of Tate Britain Rotunda, 2014, Photo © Tate (Marcus Leith)

Project summary

This PhD studentship will enable a rigorous, primarily scientific study of the factors influencing the development of epsomite in oil paints, to reveal the wider impact of these perplexing salt crystals on modern and contemporary oil paintings and to inform possible mitigating measures to slow crystal formation and development.

The project will be co-supervised by **Professor David Payne** (Professor of Materials Chemistry, Imperial College London), **Dr Judith Lee** (Conservation Scientist, Tate) and **Dr Bronwyn Ormsby** (Principal Conservation Scientist, Tate).

Benefits and opportunities

The successful candidate will be hosted by the Department of Materials at Imperial College London, joining a vibrant community of PhD students supported by experienced research and academic staff. You will be part of the research group of Professor David Payne, a world-leading expert in exploitation of advanced characterisation techniques. This includes the use of vacuum and ambient pressure photoelectron spectroscopy, and in-situ electron microscopy.

At Tate, you will join our [community of doctoral researchers](#), benefitting from staff-level access to Tate's collection, resources and events. You will be embedded within the Conservation Science and Preventive Conservation team within Tate's Conservation Department, which will enable access to Tate's scientific laboratories, comprising established and new analytical and imaging equipment to aid research processes using a range of archival material collections and selected samples from works of art in Tate's collection, supported by colleagues in Paintings and Frames Conservation.

You will also have the opportunity to engage in a minimum of 3-6 months professional development, allowing you to nurture your career, gain transferable skills and expand practical knowledge alongside your studies. Throughout the PhD, you will also have the opportunity to engage in networking and events with Tate and the wider network of museums, galleries and heritage organisations affiliated with the [AHRC CDP scheme](#) as part of the CDP Cohort Development programme.

Funding information

This doctoral training grant is funded through the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) scheme, which offers doctoral studentships as part of a collaboration between a Higher Education Institution and an organisation in the museums, libraries, archives and heritage sector. The studentship is fully funded for 45 months (3.75 years) or part-time equivalent, with the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to cover professional development opportunities.

Through the doctoral grant held by Imperial College London, tuition fees will be paid up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees – Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2023/24 is **£4,596**. Funding is available for both Home and International applicants. The studentship is for 45 months and will provide **full coverage of full-time home fees** and an annual tax-free stipend of approximately £20,218. If you do not qualify as a home student, you can still apply for this opportunity, but you will be responsible for paying the additional amount between the [home and the overseas fees](#)

Eligibility and How to Apply

To apply for this studentship, you must submit an online application via <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/materials/study/materialsphd/materialsphdprojects/> by 10th September 2023 or until a suitable candidate is found.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an in-person interview at Tate Britain or virtually.

- We are keen to encourage applications from a wide range of candidates with suitable qualifications and/or experience. Applicants should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification in a relevant discipline
- We also welcome applicants who can demonstrate equivalent experience
- Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and enthusiasm for developing their skills in the museum sector
- Imperial College London is Committed to equality and valuing diversity. We are also an Athena Bronze SWAN Award winner, a Stonewall Diversity Champion and a Two Ticks Employer.
- This studentship is open to both Home and International applicants. To be classed as a Home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have settled status, or
 - Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have indefinite leave to remain or enter
 - [Download the full guidance \(PDF\)](#)
- NB. All applicants must meet [UKRI terms and conditions for funding](#)

Informal Enquiries

If you are interested in applying, you are welcome to David Payne (primary university supervisor) and Bronwyn Ormsby (Principal Conservation Scientist and secondary Tate supervisor) for an informal discussion: please email both d.payne@imperial.ac.uk and bronwyn.ormsby@tate.org.uk