Museum and Internship Opportunities

4. Positions at the Smart Museum: As part of its teaching mission, the Smart Museum offers several paid internships in the curatorial, education, and registration departments to University of Chicago students. These internships offer an excellent opportunity for students to become more acquainted with museum work, and to gain experience in preparation for a museum career. Interns generally work 10-15 hours per week. Intern positions are posted in the Department of Art History and on the Museum’s website.

4.1 Rhoades Internship and Curatorial Course: The Rhoades Internship is an endowed position at the Art Institute that is held annually by an advanced graduate student in our department. During the Internship, the student is appointed to an appropriate curatorial department and works on a project related to his or her scholarly interests. The Internship carries compensation for 10 hours of work per week through the academic year. A call for applications for the Rhoades Internship is issued during spring quarter.

The Rhoades curatorial course is taught annually in our department by a curator at the Art Institute. It often involves class sessions at the Art Institute to study works firsthand.

4.2 COSI Mellon Curatorial Research Fellowships: Each year, the department offers two COSI curatorial research fellowships. Fellows are paired with curatorial mentors and spend two days per week performing primary, scholarly research and writing about clearly defined objects in the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection over the course of the year. Publishing is a critical component of these fellowships, and each fellow will have the opportunity to develop their object-based research into a publication on the Art Institute’s website, in catalogues, or in other scholarly venues. These fellowships are offered at two levels: writing and dissertation completion. The call for applications is sent out in winter quarter.