

Considering...working in Art and Law

If you're passionate about Art and cultural history, becoming a curator is not your only career option! Combining your love of culture with an interest in Law or business could lead to a number of different careers.

Firstly Law, this is a niche area so you can't train specifically as an "Art Lawyer" in the UK - it's likely you would specialise in property, intellectual property, copyright or tax law and then work in a law firm which has art-related clients (like museums/galleries/private investors). A starting point for this could be to look at law firms affiliated with the [Institute for Art and Law](#)

- Try to get exposure of both worlds; gaining work experience in a legal setting as well as a gallery/museum. See our website for information on [work experience](#) and the [legal sector](#).
- Keep up to date with key issues by reading journals like [Museums Journal](#) and [Arts Professional](#) and [The Art Newspaper](#) or follow them on twitter. For Law see [Lawcareers.net](#)
- Other potential employers to explore: in-house legal departments of the larger museums and galleries; legal departments in auction houses; bodies like Arts Council England; Historic England and National Trust.

Art Insurance, Auction Houses

There are specialist companies who work specifically with private collectors, museums, galleries, local authorities or commercial companies. You could help ensure collectors, buyers and sellers work responsibly by working for them:

- [Hiscox](#)
- [High Worth Insurance](#)
- [Anthony Wakefield Fine Art Insurance](#)
- [AXA Art](#)
- [Sotheby's](#)
- [Christie's](#)

Policy making and Arts funding:

Organisations that implement (and potentially influence) government policy, make decisions on funding applications from museums, galleries and artists. Some examples:

- [UNESCO](#) - is known as the "intellectual" agency of the United Nations and has responsibility for protecting creative and cultural heritage. Find out about unpaid [UNESCO internships](#)
- [ICOM](#)- International Council of Museums, create policies and tools to support museums to prevent trading in illegal antiquities: For example, see [The Red List database](#)
- [Historic England](#) - the public body that looks after England's historic environment.

- [Arts Council England](#) - The custodian of public investment, committed to championing and developing the arts, museums and libraries in England
- [National Trust](#) - protect and open to the public over 350 historic houses, gardens and ancient monuments in the UK
- [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) - use money raised by National Lottery players to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect heritage

Restitution/fraud investigation:

Private companies, government bodies, local and national law enforcement organisations help advise on crime prevention and research restitution issues. Some examples:

- [The Commission for Looted Art in Europe](#) is an international expert and non-profit representative body which researches, identifies and recovers looted property on behalf of families, communities, institutions and governments worldwide
- [The Art Loss Register](#) is the world's largest private database of lost and stolen art, antiques and collectables. Its range of services includes item registration, search and recovery services to collectors, the art trade, insurers and worldwide law enforcement agencies

Law enforcement/security:

Working at a local, national or international level.

- The [London Met Police](#) have an Art & Antiques Unit
- FBI [Art Crime Team](#)
- [Interpol](#) - The world's largest international police organisation. Find out about [Interpol internships](#).
- Careers in the [UK Police](#) and the [graduate leadership programme](#)

Research related:

- [ARCA](#) - The Association for Research into Crimes against Art is a research and outreach organisation which works to promote the study and research of art crime and cultural heritage protection. Find out about [ARCA Postgraduate certificate](#) (based in Italy) and [ARCA internships](#) (mixture of paid and unpaid).
- [Arcadia](#) - cultural heritage and environmental protection research and funding body. They work with different universities and organisations. (Sometimes offer paid internships).
- Academia - some universities investigate and report on these kinds of issues. For example, Oxford and Leicester Universities are delivering a research project into [Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa](#).

Getting work experience and finding out more:

- Many of the above organisations offer formal internships or you could try making a speculative application for work experience. Visit our website for [help with writing CVs and applications](#).
- At York we have the [Student Internship Bureau](#) which often has relevant paid opportunities, such as research projects and there are also a lot of heritage related [volunteering projects](#) available.
- It can also be possible to do some virtual work experience in both arts and heritage related and business-related career areas. See our blog on [virtual volunteering](#) for more details.

Note: some internships offered in this sector may be unpaid. Before starting an internship, you should be clear about the length of the internship, pay and conditions, what you will be expected to do, and what you will gain from the experience.

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. Careers and Placements cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

©Careers and Placements November 2020

york.ac.uk/careers

UoYCareers

