



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



The 2024 Nigel Seeley Fellowship Frames and Furniture

National Trust: The Royal Oak Conservation Studio

Application Deadline: April 30, 2024

The Nigel Seeley Fellowship provides training and educational opportunities for individuals with a professional interest in the preservation of historic interiors, finishes, and collections. It is named for the National Trust's Head of Conservation, Dr. Nigel Seeley (1989-2002).

This year's assignment will be at The Royal Oak Conservation Studio in Sevenoaks, Kent.

The Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio is a contemporary workspace steeped in history. The multi-specialist team of conservators work in a 600-year-old barn with a 21st century interior, they are dedicated to the treatment of National Trust paintings, frames, furniture, and objects. Located in Sevenoaks, Kent, Knole is a unique piece of cultural heritage that sits in a beautiful and popular deer park just off Sevenoaks High Street. Built as an Archbishop's palace and transformed into a lavish Jacobean country house by the Sackville family, six centuries of history are contained in one of the largest houses in England.

Established in 2017, the conservation studio sits at the heart of Knole and is an important asset for the National Trust, not only for the care of its collection but also for championing the cause of conservation. The studio is open to visitors, who can learn about conservation and see the team of experts conserving a range of artefacts from the National Trust's collection.

The 2024 Fellowship Assignment

The Nigel Seeley Fellowship will support a conservator and provide the opportunity to gain training and experience in the conservation of frames and furniture, the Fellowship will be 3 months in duration starting from mid-September 2024 at the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio. The Fellow will be supervised by a studio conservator, who has specialized in decorative surfaces, treatments will span gilded frames and painted or lacquered furniture. The Fellow will be based at the studio but there will be opportunities to travel to other properties with members of the team to undertake collection surveys, participate in training events and carry-out remedial conservation treatments in-situ.

Responsibilities of the Fellow:

The Fellow will receive an introduction to the National Trust and the conservation studio. They will have access to the studio's materials and equipment. Besides training in frames and furniture conservation the Fellow will be expected to develop their own treatment proposals and undertake conservation treatment under the guidance of their supervisor. The Fellow will produce all documentation relating to the treatment of their delegated objects, including a final written report of the work undertaken during the Fellowship.

Fellowship Benefits:

- \$20,000 stipend
- \$1,200 travel subsidy
- Work visas arranged by The Royal Oak Foundation
- Housing will be provided in Sevenoaks, Kent
- Opportunity to work in the UK with senior National Trust staff in decorative art conservation.
- Experience working with specialist National Trust staff at Knole, Sevenoaks.
- Participation towards developing significant skills working directly with senior staff of the National Trust's conservation studio.
- Complimentary Royal Oak membership providing free access to NT properties.
- Visits to additional NT sites throughout the UK.

Equipment Requirements: All equipment necessary for the completion of the Fellowship will be supplied by the National Trust.

Eligibility:

- Relevant training and experience in conservation
- American Citizenship with passport valid until June 2025
- Proficient English-language skills (written and spoken)

Application Procedure

1. CV that includes evidence of skills relating to frames and or furniture conservation
2. Statement of interest
3. Two letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the candidate's work
4. Submissions made to: seeleyfellowship@Royal-Oak.org
5. Applications received no later than: April 30, 2024
6. Candidates may be asked to interview with Fellowship committee members
7. Decision date: May 15, 2024
8. The Fellowship will begin on September 16, 2024

The Fellow will work as part of a team and should have the ability to work well under pressure and communicate complex issues clearly. The Fellow will submit written reports to both the National Trust and The Royal Oak Foundation. The Fellow must be comfortable engaging with members of the public visiting the Royal Oak Conservation Studio and be willing to share his/her experience on The Royal Oak Foundation website.

The Fellow should carry health insurance.

Start Date: On September 16, 2024.

Who Should Apply: Applications are welcome from individuals at any career point. Applicants should hold a degree or certificate in art conservation with a focus on furniture, textiles, and/or objects, or relevant experience. Familiarity of complex large 3-dimensional objects is essential.

Fellowship Stipend: For the Fellowship period, the Fellow will receive an educational stipend of \$20,000 to be paid in two installments. The Fellow will also be provided with housing in the Sevenoaks, Kent area, and a travel subsidy of \$1,200.00.

Fellow will be responsible for travel arrangements, food and other personal expenses associated with the Fellowship. The Fellowship will include a Royal Oak Individual membership.

Application Deadline: The application deadline is April 30, and the Fellowship will take place in mid-September 2024 for a mutually agreed upon 12-week cycle. The successful applicant will be notified by May 15.

How to apply: To submit your application, please email materials to seeleyfellowship@royal-oak.org. Please include the downloaded and signed form with your email.

The Royal Oak Foundation

The Royal Oak Foundation is the United States tax-exempt membership affiliate of the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Royal Oak raises funds for the conservation of historic properties including houses, gardens, countryside and coastlines in Britain. Royal Oak also sponsors educational programs that address issues in conservation and preservation.

www.royal-oak.org

The National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland

The National Trust was founded in 1895 by three Victorian philanthropists concerned about the impact of uncontrolled development and industrialization on the English countryside. More than a century later, the Trust now cares for more than 300 historic buildings and 100 landscape parks of outstanding interest and importance, over 635,000 acres of countryside throughout England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and nearly 775 miles of coastline. www.nationaltrust.org.uk



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Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Please read the guidelines and project details before completing this application.

(1) General Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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Home Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Home Telephone	Cell Phone Home	Email
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Workplace

Workplace Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Work Telephone	Work Email
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Citizenship

Educational Institutions	<i>Dates Attended/Degree Earned</i>
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I have heard of The Royal Oak Foundation before this application: Yes_____ No_____

(2) Curriculum Vitae or Resumé

(3) Statement of Interest (no more than 500 words)

Summarize your experience treating a wood gilded surface (furniture or frame) or other conservation related experience. Describe what you hope to learn from this fellowship and how The Royal Oak Foundation Conservation studio will benefit from your experience.

(4) References Please supply two recommendations from people who are familiar with your work and who are unrelated to you. Letters of recommendation should be e-mailed directly from recommender to seeleyfellowship@royal-oak.org. Recommender must include applicants name in the subject line. Please provide recommenders' contact information below.

(a)

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
Institution				
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		Email		

(b)

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
Institution				
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		Email		

(6) Checklist

This checklist will guide you in assembling your application.

Application Materials

- ☐ Completed, signed Application Form
- ☐ Resumé or curriculum vitae
- ☐ Statement of Interest
- ☐ Letters of reference from two individuals—arriving via e-mail
- ☐ Valid U.S. passport (expiration date must be 6 months beyond date of project)

(7) Declaration (to be signed by all applicants)

I declare that I am a citizen of the United States. If awarded a Fellowship, I shall pursue my work to the full term and I state that all funds given to me by The Royal Oak Foundation will be used solely for my own education and maintenance. I certify that all information provided in support of this application is true and correct.

Signature

Date

(8) APPLICATION DUE APRIL 30, 2024

Please E-Mail Application Materials to seeleyfellowship@royal-oak.org