



# PLANNING YOUR PATH TO FELLOWSHIP

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC AND ARTISTIC WORKS

By nurturing skills, talent, and leadership capacity we ground our words in action. Our investment in our Fellows is demonstrated through IIC's enrichment programmes, grants, international prizes and awards.

## WHY BECOME A FELLOW? – SHARING VALUES, MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

Becoming an IIC Fellow connects you to a network of colleagues who are respected internationally and are committed to advancing the profession for the common good.

Our Fellows are trusted for their high standard of excellence and expertise, have peer recognition, and a voice that is amplified through our networks. The culture of generosity among our Fellows means that knowledge and learning are shared, across a growing and inclusive network.

IIC is unique in being the only global learned society and fellowship organisation for conservators and conservation professionals.

## Demystifying the process

However, we realise that it can seem daunting to apply for IIC Fellow status, especially if you don't see others taking this path in your workplace, country or region. Meanwhile some of the language around election to Fellowship first originated in the 1950s and can be off-putting and seem inaccessible. This is something we are determined to change, for the benefit of all.

Therefore, this guide sits alongside the [more process-based advice here](#), to talk you through becoming a Fellow as a practical, achievable career goal. There are three points of entry:

- **Individual Member**
- **Regional Group Member**
- **Non-member**

Whatever your route, our Fellows are at the heart of IIC and we welcome a diversity of experience, from working in institutions and private practice to universities and commercial suppliers.

Nominations are received and reviewed by the Fellowship Committee and IIC Council before going to ballot three times a year. Deadlines for nominations are as follows:

31 March 31 July 30 November

## When should I start thinking about becoming a Fellow?

We are encouraging applications from people who have a few years solid experience in their careers, who approach conservation with intelligence and nuance, and a desire to enhance the profession. You don't have to be very senior or at a huge institution, with an enormous publications list to become a Fellow.

Typically, people start to think about applying for Fellowship 10 years or so into a career (including your training) – but this is a very rough guide. Your experience may be demonstrated through the projects you have worked on, your leadership or in helping conservation branch out in new ways.

## Take opportunities to connect and continue learning

IIC offers numerous ways to continue professional development, network and meet colleagues internationally.

Currently you might:

- Choose one of IIC's leadership programme options. Our ten-month interactive [Adapt course](#) with leadership masterclasses is free to conservators in emerging economies. [International Leadership Mentoring Programme](#) runs three times a year for IIC members.

- Come to [Congresses](#) and participate in the Fellows' and Members' networking events – in person or online and at international hub events across numerous time zones. This is a great way to meet colleagues, members and existing IIC Fellows.

As well as building your CV and confidence, these programmes and events will help you get to know others in the profession.

## Who will support my nomination as a Fellow?

IIC's model for nominating Fellows has historically been based around existing Fellows nominating and voting for new entries. However, this can be a block if you don't know or work with IIC Fellows personally. Becoming more involved, via some of the routes described above, is one option.

We are also rolling out other new ways to encourage Fellow applications this year – from short one to one chats with existing newer Fellows – and half hour events on the detail, where you can ask questions. If you are already a member of IIC you can [watch one of our recent half hour events with Q&As here](#).

## Taking the final step

Our aim is that at the point your name goes on the ballot paper, it should be with a solid, informed confidence that you have the necessary skills, to be affirmed by the voting process.

If you need any further information please get in touch with IIC's Fellowship and Member Engagement Manager, Ellie Sweetnam on [ellie.sweetnam@iiconservation.org](mailto:ellie.sweetnam@iiconservation.org) or visit the IIC website: [www.iiconservation.org](http://www.iiconservation.org)

“OUR AMBITION IS TO BUILD AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE NETWORK OF FELLOWS IN EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD. OUR GOAL IS TO EMPOWER CHANGE AND BECOME A CATALYST FOR DISCOVERY AND PIONEERING PRACTICE GLOBALLY”.

Julian Bickersteth FIIC, President IIC



Peer election, recognition, respect and integrity



Trusted - sets a high standard for excellence and expertise



Being part of a growing and inclusive network with an open generosity to share knowledge and learning



International fellowship acknowledges the impact you've made, your contribution, influence and vision