

# The Fashion Archive Internship Program

Experiential Learning at the Intersection of Fashion

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*This internship offers more than an introduction to fashion history - it's an opportunity to explore fashion's influence across disciplines and develop skills that translate into a variety of career paths.*

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## Description

The Fashion Archive Internship Program offers a hands-on, interdisciplinary experience for highly motivated junior and senior students interested in exploring fashion's connections to business, technology, communication, and culture. Through engagement with The Fashion Archive—a curated collection of historic and contemporary fashion - interns will gain practical skills in research, digital strategy, and public engagement, while examining how fashion intersects with diverse industries.

Interns will contribute to ongoing research projects, develop content for exhibitions and digital platforms, and explore fashion's role in branding, media, innovation, and global markets. A key component of the program is an independent research project, culminating in a presentation at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) Conference.

## Objectives

- Provide hands-on experience in archival research, digital engagement, and exhibition development, emphasizing fashion's intersections with business, technology, and media.
- Develop students' ability to analyze fashion's role in global markets, branding, digital communication, and innovation.
- Foster a broader understanding of fashion as a dynamic, interdisciplinary field that shapes and is shaped by diverse industries.
- Enhance students' presentation and storytelling skills through research and public engagement.
- Offer a platform for students to contribute to *The Fashion Archive* as a resource for exploring fashion's broad applications.

## Requirements

- Sophomore, Junior, or Senior status
- Minimum cumulative GPA: 3.2
- Demonstrated interest in the diverse intersections of fashion, including design, technology, science, history, culture, or archival studies
- Strong research and writing skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Commitment to **7 hours** per week for the entire academic year
- Successful completion of an interview process
- Commitment to present research at the annual URCA conference

### *Experiential Learning Focus*

This internship is designed to provide a rich experiential learning environment centered on the diverse intersections of fashion.

Interns will:

- Gain hands-on experience working with historic and contemporary fashion objects, understanding their role within the broader context of fashion's applications.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practical tasks, focusing on the interdisciplinary context of fashion preservation and analysis.
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through research and collection management, considering the multifaceted nature of fashion's connections.
- Enhance their communication and presentation skills through public engagement and research dissemination focused on the diverse fields intersecting with fashion.
- Build professional networks within the field of fashion history and the broader interdisciplinary landscape of fashion.

### *Benefits*

- Valuable experience in a professional archival setting, specifically focusing on the diverse intersections of fashion.
- Opportunity to develop research and presentation skills related to the history, applications, and cultural impact of fashion across various fields.
- Networking opportunities with students and professionals in the field.
- Enhanced resume and portfolio.
- A deeper understanding of fashion's evolution and its contemporary landscape as it intersects with numerous disciplines.

### Intern Responsibilities

#### Collection Management (Interdisciplinary Context)

- Assist with the cataloging, documenting, and photographing of objects, considering their role within the broader context of fashion's intersections.
- Participate in the proper storage and handling of objects.
- Assist with the organization and maintenance of The Fashion Archive's storage and workroom.
- Assist with object condition reports

#### Research and Documentation (Interdisciplinary Focus):

- Conduct research on specific objects within the collection, focusing on their connections to diverse fields, including design influences, technological advancements, scientific innovations, and cultural impacts.
- Assist with the development of exhibition materials and educational resources related to the interdisciplinary nature of fashion.
- Contribute to *The Fashion Archive's* online database and digital collections.
- Research historic and contemporary contexts of fashion, including designers, brands, technological advancements, scientific discoveries, and cultural shifts.

Public Engagement (Interdisciplinary-Centric):

- Assist with tours and presentations for visitors.
- Contribute to *The Fashion Archive's* social media presence.
- Assist with the planning and execution of events.

Research Component (Interdisciplinary Analysis):

- Develop and conduct an independent research project related to a specific object or group of objects within *The Fashion Archive's* collection.
- Prepare a research presentation for the annual URCA conference.
- Present research findings to curator and other stakeholders.

General Administrative Duties

- Assist with general tasks as needed.
- Attend regular meetings with the curator.
- Maintain accurate records of internship activities.