



AICCM Education and Training Committee

Terms of Reference

Revised 2 February 2020

AICCM Education policy statement

The AICCM is the peak industry body for art and materials conservators in Australia. AICCM recognizes that professional knowledge, ability and skill are gained by both practical and formal training and that participation by conservation professionals with a wide range of educational backgrounds enriches the field. Conservation educators are encouraged to map curriculum against the AICCM Code of Ethics and Code of Practice (2002), the AICCM Statement on conservators in an Australian context (updated 2015) and international benchmarks, to enable appropriate knowledge, ability and skill for graduates. Education providers should also provide curriculum and learning pathways towards meeting AICCM Professional Membership criteria, which enables graduates to be endorsed as professional conservators by the AICCM.

Background

The AICCM Education and Training Committee (ETC) replaces the Education Standing Committee (2003 - 2015). The AICCM Education Standing Committee was established in 2003 following the *AICCM Education Training Summit* in Canberra. The aim of the standing committee was to “address all issues regarding conservation education as it relates to the business of the AICCM” and to respond to the closure of the University of Canberra Materials Conservation course in 2003. Members of the Standing Committee were selected by National Council, with the Vice President as Chair, to be the formal liaison between education providers and the AICCM (distinct in its role from the then existing

Education SIG). Strategic education issues or queries were directed to the Committee through the Chair. Information provided to the Committee remained confidential within the Committee. The Standing Committee has worked with both the University of Melbourne, and the University of Canberra on the formation of their new materials conservation courses.

The ETC has been formed to reflect the new education landscape following the introduction of the new tertiary courses. It was established by AICCM National Council to address training and education needs for conservators within Australia as well as the conservation education of non-conservators. The terms of reference of the ETC also reflect the increased role of the committee in supporting professional membership development needs.

Aim

To identify and advocate for appropriate educational standards, professional development, training priorities and training opportunities that complement current education pathways for emerging, early and mid-career conservators, to advance the conservation profession.

Objectives

The AICCM Education and Training Committee's key objective is to make a positive contribution to the educational standing of the profession and to the development of new generations of conservators.

Objectives include:

1. Advocate for professional, university-based education for conservators to the highest standard in Australia and aligned with international benchmarks. This includes encouraging communication with, and between, course convenors and the conservation/heritage sector.¹
2. Respond to ongoing training and professional development needs of conservators and allied colleagues.
3. Advocate Professional Membership of the AICCM as an industry benchmark within the private and public sectors. AICCM Professional Membership criteria enables graduates to be endorsed as professional conservators by the AICCM.
4. Advocacy and support for Indigenous-led training initiatives and conservation training of Indigenous cultural centre workers, to reflect Australia's unique and continuing cultural heritage.

Tasks

The committee will:

1. Communicate appropriate educational standards for professional conservators.
 - a) Communication with University course advisory boards
 - b) Develop and maintain the AICCM Education Policy statement
 - c) Continue to be responsive to industry and education providers needs through maintaining the *AICCM Code of Ethics and Practice*, the *AICCM Statement on Conservators in an Australian context* (updated 2015) and *AICCM Statement on conservation technicians/assistants in an Australian context* (updated 2015).
2. Research the current climate of education and training in Australia to provide an evidence base for decision-making and meeting the needs of the conservation profession. This would include:
 - a) Listing current education courses.
 - b) Investigating what other professional organisations are doing
 - c) Documenting what internships exist within Australia and how they are conducted
 - d) Investigating other opportunities for education and training
 - e) Provide information and statistics on the current job market in Australia
 - f) Provide up-to-date information on funds, awards and scholarships
3. Prioritise professional development activities. This involves catering for both emerging and mid-career conservators, taking note of Professional Membership renewal requirements. It also involves working towards defining projects for funding requests.
4. Coordinate skills and training summits and/or education-related sessions at AICCM National Conferences, as required.
5. Create and install an Education and Training Wiki, as a 'live' repository for members to access and report on education and training opportunities.
6. Communicate and promote the benefits of Professional Membership to AICCM members and allied professionals.
7. Review and maintain the following documents: the *AICCM Statement on Conservators in an Australian Context* and the *AICCM Statement on Conservation Technicians/Assistants in an Australian Context*. These documents

clarify the role of conservators, technicians and assistants in an Australian context and describe the range of skills, knowledge and activities required by cultural heritage conservation professionals. They are designed to be used as a reference for students, educational providers, those seeking to contract conservators and other employers. The statements were developed by reviewing international standards and Australian position descriptions.

8. Track national and international trends and developments in education and training development and delivery strategies.
9. Report on activities to the National Executive and provide reports to National Council and Council Meetings.

Membership

The AICCM Education Standing Committee will consist of AICCM members only, and membership will be ratified by AICCM National Council. The term of committee membership is annual, in line with National Council renewal. The maximum term of membership is five years.

The committee is recommended, but is not bound to include:

- a) Chair, Education and Training Committee.
- b) Immediate past Chair, Education and Training Committee (optional)
- c) AICCM Professional Membership Representative Officer
- d) The AICCM Events and Special Interest Group and Events Coordinator representative
- e) The Emerging Conservator Special Interest Group Convenor

Potential /alternate sub-divisions within the committee may include:

- Professional development working group
- Emerging conservators working group
- Conservation marketplace working group