

Conference Monuments #3

Internship : Assistant to the scientific committee of an international conference

For the past two years, a multidisciplinary scientific team has been hosting an annual conference to examine mediation and mechanisms, as well as audience experiences, in cultural and heritage institutions. In 2024, the conference focused on how institutions and civil society actors bring monuments to life, particularly through their various presentations (June 2024, Catholic University of the West (UCO)). In 2025, the conference addressed the experiences of monument visitors (May 2025, CMN-Musée de la Marine). A third edition will take place mid-June 2026, in Angers, a city regularly ranked for its attractiveness and quality of life. This conference will be organised by the University of Angers (ESTHUA-INNTO France), with the support of UCO, Ecole Centrale de Nantes (Engineering school) and institutional partners.

From a scientific and socio-professional perspective, this conference aims to understand how the relationships between heritage sites and their audiences are being redefined. What are the social and political logics of culture at work in the mediation of monuments?

During the event, one session will approach sustainable development in relation with monuments. How do monuments contribute to the appropriation of space? How do they shape territory? Global demographic change has profoundly altered the landscapes and social structures of cities. Since 2008, most of the world's population has lived in cities. How can monuments facilitate the inclusion – or, conversely, the exclusion – of new arriving populations? Monuments appear to be "cultural accelerators", places of exchange with the urban, national and international environment and between different cultures (Ponge, 1977). How does the monument contribute to the sense of belonging that supports collective identity and individual self-esteem? (Holtorf, 2018) Which audiences appear to be essential in the mediation process, in dialogue with inhabitants and other visitors? How is the desire for heritage appropriation spread? How do monuments maintain the resilience (the ability of a system or process to absorb disturbances) of populations and territories? Disaster risk reduction is an integral part of social and economic development. How does technology enable knowledge to permeate, by rediscovering traditional mechanisms and allowing these traditional mechanisms to be visualised? Conversely, how can current social and environmental changes be perceived as threats, giving rise to reflections and mechanisms that condition the presence or interaction of audiences?

The conference aspires to focus on best practices in sustainable development. The trainee will play a particularly important role in the success of the conference.

Responsibilities:

- Assist the event's organising committees and scientific advisory board.
- Liaise with participants and speakers under the supervision of the scientific committee.
- Implement best practices in sustainable development for organisers and participants.

- Help with the logistical organisation and smooth running of the event.
- Participate in the editorial process, starting with monitoring the production of texts.
- Contribute to the preparation of reports.

Required skills

Desired profile:

- Master's degree in Cultural Heritage
- Fluent in French and English
- Office suite: Word/Excel

The following cross-disciplinary skills are required:

Know-how:

- Excellent analytical skills in relation to the themes addressed by the event
- Writing skills in French and English
- Ability to collaborate in a cross-disciplinary team with diverse profiles (research, professionals, associations, etc.)

Interpersonal skills:

- An interest in the cultural world, cultural promotion and mediation, and heritage is expected
- Autonomy
- High level of rigour
- Demonstrate initiative and be proactive

Conditions:

- The trainee will work at the ESTHUA INNTO France on the St Serge Campus right in the city centre of Angers.
- Trainees are usually paid 4,35 € per hour for 35 hours per week.

Presentation of the host structure

Amongst the faculties and institutes of the University of Angers, Esthual-INNTO France is the leading European centre for higher education in the tourism field. Esthual is a member of the French Training Courses of Excellence in Tourism. Its international development is reflected in various exchanges with a network of 133 partner universities and schools in 43 countries. The aim is to offer the best opportunities for academic and student mobility thanks to international programmes (Erasmus +, BCI, ISEP, bilateral agreements and double diplomas). The internationalisation of courses and confrontation with various business and cultural environments mean that students are well-prepared for the global labour market.