

**THE ALEXANDER EWART COPLAND ATTINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP**  
**&**  
**THE NINA STANTON ATTINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP**  
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

**Background**

In 1975 Alex Copland was one of the first Australians to attend the Attingham Summer School for the study of historic houses and collections in Britain. This course of study, with its privileged access to fine houses and their collections, learned tutors and an international student body, was a significant event in his life and it remained a special memory which he often recalled with pride.

Nina Stanton was a leading curator/museum director, an enthusiastic Attingham alumna and the driving force behind the establishment of The Copland Foundation. On her death in 2009, Nina made a bequest to The Copland Foundation specifically to support Australian museum and heritage professionals to attend Attingham Trust courses other than the Summer School.

First established in 1952, the London based Attingham Trust offers programs which provide an insight into the development of one of the greatest contributions to Western art, the country house, together with its collections and landscape settings, as well as the development of the royal palace in England.

Today many Attingham alumni are among the staff of museums, galleries, universities, heritage bodies, design practices, and conservation programmes throughout the world.

**Three annual residential summer programmes are offered by the Attingham Trust each year: the Attingham Summer School, the Attingham Study Week, and Royal Collection Studies.**

**ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL**

Founded in 1952 as the Attingham Summer School Trust (now the Attingham Trust) and named after the great neo-classical house in Shropshire at which the Summer School was first held, the Attingham Summer School has established an international reputation for academic excellence.

**The aims of the school are to:**

- ☐ to examine the architectural and social history of the historic house in Britain and its gardens and landscape setting
- ☐ to study the contents of these buildings- their paintings, sculpture, furniture, ceramics, silver, textiles and other applied arts - as well as the planning, decorative treatment and use of the interiors
- ☐ to stimulate debate on the problems relating to the conservation and presentation of the country house and its contents

**The Summer School is designed for qualified young people, for established professionals and for dedicated collectors who can contribute from their experience. The course is academically rigorous and physically demanding.**

### **ATTINGHAM STUDY WEEK**

The Attingham Study Week is a strenuous and stimulating nine-day course studying historic houses and their collections. Based in specific regions of Britain and occasionally abroad, a wide range of houses, many of them private, are visited accompanied by tutors. The architecture, gardens and interiors including collections of paintings, furniture and other decorative arts are studied within a context of social history. It is intended for museum curators, lecturers, architects, conservationists and others with a keen interest in the fine and decorative arts.

Accommodation is in modest hotels, where lectures are also given.

### **ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES**

Established in 1996, Royal Collection Studies is an annual course organised on behalf of the Royal Collection Trust by the Attingham Trust.

Based near Windsor, it studies the patronage and collecting of the Kings and Queens of England from the 15th century onwards. The teaching includes lectures and tutorials, as well as visits to both the occupied and unoccupied palaces in and around London. Since the school is held when the Royal Family is not in residence, WINDSOR CASTLE forms the central theme. Regular visits are also made to study the architecture and contents of other palaces, generally outside normal opening hours.

The teaching is organised on broadly chronological principles, developing an understanding of the changing function and character of the Royal Collection through a study of the monarchs responsible for its creation. Comparisons are made with other European court cultures. The school looks at architecture, and British and European decorative arts, paintings and works on paper, concentrating on the individual strengths of each period.

The course is intended primarily for those professionally engaged in relevant work. Members of past programmes have been drawn from all over the world.

## **THE ALEXANDER EWART COPLAND ATTINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP**

**(Administered by THE COPLAND FOUNDATION TRUSTEES with the assistance of the Copland Foundation Sub-Committee. The final selection of the annual Copland Scholar must approved by The Attingham Trust).**

**The Copland Foundation** offers **The Alex Copland Scholarship** on an annual to one Australian to attend one of the above residential summer programs. The scholarship covers the cost of all the tuition and accommodation fees related to the Attingham program applied for, as well as \$5,000 towards the cost of airfares (direct flights) and two nights' accommodation in London before the program commences.

In addition, the Foundation offers **The Nina Stanton Scholarship** to attend either Royal Collection Studies, the Attingham Study Programme, or any other short course offered by the Attingham Trust. The scholarship covers the cost of Attingham program, plus an additional \$2000 towards travel expenses. All other travel and additional costs must be met by the applicant.

Applicants must have an architectural, historical, materials conservation, conservation advocacy or academic background, or a close involvement with the fine and decorative arts.

Applicants applying for either Scholarship will be shortlisted by the Copland Attingham Scholarship Sub-Committee. The Copland Foundation, then forwards the applications of these candidates, along with a recommendation, to London for the final approval of the Attingham Trust. The Copland Trustees reserve the right not to recommend the awarding of a scholarship if, in their opinion, there are no suitable applicants.

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised in January and may then, if desired, lodge an application directly with the Attingham Trust.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Each candidate must submit a completed application form electronically to [trustees@coplandfoundation.com.au](mailto:trustees@coplandfoundation.com.au) by the deadline in November of each year (refer to The Copland Foundation website).

Each of two referees must submit electronically (that is, as an email attachment) a letter of recommendation directly to **trustees@coplandfoundation.com.au** by the deadline each year. The responsibility for ensuring that letters of recommendation are received on time rests solely with the applicant. Letters should be enlightening and provide the Selection Sub-Committee and the Foundation with solid information; thus they should be explicit, objective and based on the writer's real familiarity with the applicant's qualifications. References from former Attingham students are especially meaningful.

As unsuccessful applicants will have the opportunity to apply directly to the Attingham Trust, you may wish to request that referees retain a copy of their letter of recommendation.

Successful applicants must be willing to give a lecture on an aspect (of their choice) of the Attingham program they attended. The time and location of the lecture is to be decided in consultation with the Copland Trustees.

**Please Note:**

- You are urged to submit your application as soon as possible - do not wait for the deadline.
- Please visit the Attingham Trust site [www.attinghamtrust.org](http://www.attinghamtrust.org) for more detailed information on the programs offered - however it is important to understand that all applications for an Alexander Ewart Copland Attingham Scholarship or Nina Stanton Scholarship must be made directly to The Copland Foundation.
- No applications will be accepted other than those received electronically.
- Receipt of all applications will be **personally** acknowledged via email within 48 hours.
- No hard copies will be accepted.
- Only one application for any program for any one year will be accepted.
- Only applications from Australian residents can be accepted.
- All applicants will be responsible for any medical fees incurred whilst abroad, and it is highly recommended that any successful applicant takes out appropriate medical insurance.
- Any applicant unsuccessful in any one year may reapply in a following year.