

Conservation and Restoration

Curriculum

Diploma Degree Programme

Duration: 10 Semesters

Programme Number: 588

This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.

Version: Winter Semester 2019/20

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna
on 17 May 2019

§ 1. Qualification Profile

The diploma degree programme of Conservation and Restoration aims to prepare students for an academic restorer's continually changing and expanding field of activity.

The study programme objective is to enable students to independently carry out measures for examining, conserving and restoring art and cultural goods in line with the appropriate standards of professional ethics¹. To achieve this, the knowledge of current methods of prevention and preservation form the basis of the programme. At the same time, students will receive guidance in the pursuit of scientific conservation research and interdisciplinary cooperation with other specialist fields.

The study programme will convey the internationally recognized quality criteria for the development of long-term and sustainable preservation strategies. The knowledge imparted will be based on conservation sciences, natural sciences and the humanities. During the course of the programme both theoretical and practical contents are treated as equally important and are set up to mesh with each other. Individual emphasis on certain topics will be possible. On top of that, international cooperation activities and projects will serve to expand professional skills.

Programme graduates are characterized by their responsible handling of art and cultural goods and a methodically structured approach in their work. They are able to argue the strategies they have developed, as well as react flexibly to the highly diverse requirements of their field of activity.

§ 2. Admission

- (1) Prerequisite for the admission to the diploma degree programme is that applicants pass the exam of an examination board.
- (2) On registering for the entrance examination, a portfolio with specimen of artistic works is to be handed in.
- (3) The entrance examination is threefold:
 1. evaluation of the portfolio of artistic works provided by the applicants.
 2. hands-on tasks and conservation-restoration exercises.
 3. exam from the field of humanities and the field of natural sciences.
- (4) The entrance examination has been passed when all parts have been completed successfully.

§ 3. Content, Duration and Academic Degree

- (1) Pursuant to § 54 [1] Universities Act, the diploma degree programme of Conservation and Restoration is assigned to the group of Artistic Studies and is seen as an artistic programme with a high proportion of scientific knowledge.
- (2) The diploma degree programme covers 300 ECTS credits which represents a duration of studies of 10 semesters.
- (3) The teaching language is German, whereas individual courses/lectures may be held in English.
- (4) On graduating successfully, the academic degree of *Magister* or *Magistra der Künste* is awarded (Magister/Magistra artium, abbreviated to Mag.art.).
- (5) Pursuant to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) the five-year diploma degree programme is set up to represent level 7 (Master Degree).

§ 4. Programme Structure

- (1) The diploma degree programme of Conservation and Restoration is arranged in two study segments. The exact allocation of study subjects with their appropriate semester hours and ECTS are detailed in the appendix.
- (2) The first study segment consists of the following compulsory study subjects and covers 60 ECTS:
 1. Central Artistic Subject – Conservation-Restoration Practice I-II (36 ECTS)

¹ E.C.C.O. - Professional Guidelines I - The Profession (2002), E.C.C.O. - Professional Guidelines II - Code of Ethics (2003) and E.C.C.O. - Professional Guidelines III - Conservation education (2004).

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2. Conservation Sciences – Restoration (10 ECTS)
 3. Natural Sciences (8 ECTS)
 4. Humanities (6 ECTS)

(3) The second study segment consists of a diploma thesis to the extent of 30 ECTS, free electives amounting to 27 ECTS and the following compulsory study subjects amounting to 183 ECT:

1. Central Artistic Subject – Conservation-Restoration Practice III-IX (126 ECTS)
2. Conservation Sciences – Restoration (24 ECTS)
3. Natural Sciences (18 ECTS)
4. Humanities (15 ECTS)

(4) Students of the first study segment are entitled to attend courses from the compulsory study subjects of the second study segment, excluding the central artistic subject.

(5) The programme is characterized by the significant role of its central artistic subject „Central Artistic Subject - Conservation-Restoration Practice“.

(6) The central artistic subject of Conservation-Restoration Practice offers four areas of specialization: conservation and restoration of paintings, conservation and restoration of objects (focus on metal), conservation and restoration of stone and conservation and restoration of textiles.

(7) On commencing the second study segment, students must decide on one of the four areas of specialization. It is possible to select an additional individual focus within these specialist fields (e.g. conservation and restoration of archaeological or contemporary art and cultural goods).

(8) It is advisable to select from the range of free electives such courses which provide general knowledge regarding the discipline's current state of affairs and/or in-depth knowledge regarding compulsory subjects.

§ 5. Course Examinations

(1) Examinations relating to compulsory courses and free electives are classed as course examinations.

(2) Course examinations will be carried out by the members of teaching staff in charge of the courses. Examination contents, methods and assessment criteria are to be announced in the online course certificate prior to the start of each semester.

(3) Course examinations may be carried out as written or oral exams.

(4) Course examinations relating to the central artistic subject consist of the continuous assessment of a student's work during the whole semester, plus a concluding examination at the end of the semester. For the positive conclusion of a semester it is necessary to complete both parts with a positive result.

During the first study segment, this examination provides evidence of basic knowledge acquired in conservation and restoration from the four areas of specialization on offer. It also serves to evaluate a student's aptitude for the individual areas. During the second study segment it serves as evidence of in-depth knowledge gained in the chosen area of specialization.

(5) As a prerequisite, the positive assessment of a course from the central artistic subject requires an attendance record of 80 % of the scheduled course sessions.

(6) Regarding the central artistic subject of Conservation-Restoration Practice, the positive assessment of the previous course is a prerequisite to register for the next course up.

§ 6. Diploma Examination and Diploma Thesis

(1) The first diploma examination consists of the examinations stipulated for all compulsory courses allocated to the first study segment.

(2) The second diploma examination consists of the examinations stipulated for all compulsory courses of the second study segment, plus the artistic diploma thesis.

(3) The artistic diploma thesis consists of a conservation-restoration practical part and a written conservation-scientific part to reflect on and supplement the practical part.

(4) The topic of the artistic diploma thesis is to be taken from the selected specialist field of the central artistic subject.

(5) The student is entitled to propose the topic of her/his artistic diploma thesis, or select one from two recommendations made by her/his supervising tutor.

(6) Prerequisites for the positive assessment of the artistic diploma thesis are:

1. Successful completion of the agreed conservation-restoration practical part.
2. Successful completion of the written conservation-scientific part.¹

(7) The conservation-restoration practical part and the written conservation-scientific part are to be assessed separately and are to be merged into one total mark. For an overall positive assessment, it is necessary to complete both parts positively.

(8) Pursuant to § 83 [1] Universities Act, the student is entitled to prepare – instead of the artistic diploma thesis – a scientific diploma thesis from one of the programme's scientific study subjects available for examination. These are: conservation sciences - restoration, humanities and natural sciences.

§ 7. Final Provisions and Transitory Regulations

(1) The curriculum and its appendices come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students of the programme of Conservation and Restoration from its effective date onwards. Any study segments already completed remain unaffected.

¹ Pursuant to the current submission directives, the written conservation-scientific part incorporating all amendments must have been received by the head of the institute.

APPENDIX: Distribution of Study Subjects Sorted by ECTS

1. Study Segment

	Semester Hours	ECTS
Central Artistic Subject – Conservation-Restoration Practice	36	36
Central Artistic Subject I-II	36	36
Conservation Sciences - Restoration	10	10
Introduction into Conservation Practice I-II	4	4
Historical Technology – Painting Techniques	2	2
Life Drawing / Study of Nature	2	2
Photographic Documenting for Restorers	2	2
Natural Sciences	8	8
Basic Chemistry	3	3
Introduction into Materials Science	4	4
Laboratory Practice, Health & Safety	1	1
Humanities	6	6
Art History (Cycle) I-II	4	4
Introductory Seminar into the History of Art	2	2
TOTAL		60

2. Study Segment

	Semester Hours	ECTS
Central Artistic Subject – Conservation-Restoration Practice	126	126
Central Artistic Subject III-IX	126	126
Diploma Thesis	0	30
Conservation Sciences – Restoration	24	24
Preventative Conservation	5	5
Seminar on Conservation Technology	4	4
Historical Technology	5	5
Theory and Practice of Monument Preservation	2	2
Supervising Exhibitions and Collections	2	2
Conservation-scientific Working	2	2
Life Drawing / Study of Nature	2	2
Documenting for Restorers	2	2
Natural Sciences	18	18
Binding Agents and Glues in Restoration	4	4
Instrumental Investigative Methods in Restoration	3	3
Materials Science	2	2
Solvents in Restoration	2	2
Internship in Investigative Techniques	2	2
Colour Chemistry	2	2
Basics of Pigment and Binding Agent Analysis	2	2
Colour Theory	1	1

Humanities	15	15
Art and Cultural History	7	7
Art History (Cycle) III-IV	4	4
Iconography and Stylistics	2	2
Studying Original Artworks	2	2
Free Electives	0	27
TOTAL		240