Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management

Curriculum of the joint master's programme

Joint master's programme
(joint degree)
Duration: 3 semesters (plus foundation building semester for students enrolled at Silpakorn University)
Credits: 90 ECTS or 45 AC
Programme number: 066 572

Version: winter semester 2024/25

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§ 1 Point of departure, objectives and principles

The master's programme of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management (joint master's programme) is a joint degree programme between the Silpakorn University, Thailand, hereinafter abbreviated to Silpakorn, and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria, hereinafter abbreviated to the Angewandte.

The cooperation of Silpakorn and the Angewandte offers mutual value for students of both universities:

- Students enrolled at Silpakorn as their home university are to become the first high-quality conservator-restorers in South-East Asia to gain direct access during their studies to the European know-how that is steeped in tradition. They not only acquire skills and knowledge in preservation, conservation, and restoration of tangible cultural heritage, but also have manifold opportunities for collaborating and connecting with experts globally.
- Students enrolled at the Angewandte as their home university gain profound insights into relevant aspects of Asian cultural heritage and cultural heritage preservation, exploring new fields of work by joining forces with Asian students and graduates. They also experience and develop teaching and training skills in the field of conservation.
- In addition, the close cooperation between students and teachers of both universities and external cooperation partners creates an international network of experienced conservator-restorers to benefit all.

§ 2 Legal basis and academic degree

(1) Legal basis in Austria:

1. The master's programme of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management (International Programme) is a joint degree programme between Silpakorn and the Angewandte pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 26, and § 54d Austrian Universities Act 2002.
2. The programme is assigned to the "Art Studies" group pursuant to § 54 para. 1, Austrian Universities Act 2002.

(2) Legal basis in Thailand: see Regulations of Silpakorn University Graduate School 2018

(3) Upon successful completion of the programme, the academic title "Master of Arts" (abbreviated MA) is jointly awarded by Silpakorn and the Angewandte.

§ 3 Duration and scope

The programme comprises a total of 90 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) which equals 45 AC (American Credits) and corresponds to a minimum study period of 3 semesters. For students initially enrolled at Silpakorn, there is a mandatory foundation-building phase (4 non-credit courses) prior to the first semester.

§ 4 Qualification profile

The joint master's programme of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management (joint master's programme) aims at two different groups of students from two different global regions, providing an environment not only for acquiring skills and competences, but also for transcultural learning and network-building. Due to this specific setup, the programme addresses two different groups of students with different prior qualifications and different qualification intentions. Both groups spend parts of the study programme together, but acquire different competences due to their specific tasks and roles.

Qualifications for graduates enrolled at Silpakorn

Graduates enrolled at Silpakorn (prior qualification minimum: BA in any field) contribute a number of skills to the conservation and restoration of Asian cultural heritage. They are competent in judging where to apply their own conservation and restoration skills and where and how to collaborate with experts in advanced conservation and restoration work.

Resulting from the programme they are equipped with:

- the ability to carry out basic conservation and restoration tasks, including a survey of the object and the development of a strategic approach to its conservation and/or restoration by applying basic knowledge in natural (conservation) sciences, art history, material and techniques, and conservation and restoration practice
- the comprehensive understanding of advanced conservation and restoration processes including self-reflection of their level of expertise and the ability to involve competent experts for tasks exceeding their own level of practice
- an overview of the international professional field of conservation and restoration, including relevant international organizations and networks
- transcultural communication and collaboration skills
- adequate English language skills for subject-specific communication in an international context (level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR Upper Intermediate)
- basic project, site, and cultural heritage management
- their own professional networks based on practical collaboration experiences during the master's studies

Qualifications for graduates enrolled at the Angewandte

- Graduates enrolled at the Angewandte (prior qualification minimum: diploma or MA in conservation and restoration) will be able to apply their advanced level of conservation and restoration skills on an international level, and to convey their competences to students from other cultural backgrounds. They work as international key professionals in conservation/restoration and will also be able to contribute to the development of the professional and institutional field of conservation and restoration in a given country (focus South-Eastern Asia).

Resulting from the programme they are equipped with:

- knowledge of relevant aspects of Asian culture and history
- profound understanding of the international professional field of conservation and restoration, including relevant international organizations and networks
- transcultural communication and collaboration skills
- good English language skills for subject-specific communication in an international context (level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR Expert)
- didactic and teaching skills to deliver basic conservation training to diverse groups of international students
- negotiation skills to interact with authorities relevant to the field of conservation and restoration

- advanced project (and site) management skills
- their own professional networks based on practical collaboration experiences during the master's programme

§ 5 Language

(1) The programme is taught in English. Students submit their written works in English language.

(2) With regard to English proficiency, different admission requirements and learning objectives based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR, apply to Silpakorn and the Angewandte:

	Admission requirements	Learning objectives (at time of graduation)
Silpakorn	Level B1, CEFR*	Level B2, CEFR
Angewandte	Level B2, CEFR	Level C1, CEFR

*If not on entry, students have to provide evidence of their proficiency after the foundation semester at the latest in order to continue their studies.

§ 6 Programme structure

Both universities, Silpakorn and the Angewandte, provide a range of courses relevant to their respective institutional, regional, and cultural expertise. Silpakorn students and Angewandte students go through different study paths due to the different qualification profiles. Both study paths include study phases at Silpakorn and at the Angewandte.

Students enrolled at Silpakorn start earlier than those enrolled at Angewandte as the former need to undergo the foundation-building phase.

During the course of study all students also have the opportunity to participate in international projects.

APPENDIX A lists the compulsory subjects and courses.

§ 7 Admission and entrance exam

(1) Due to the different qualification profiles, there are different admission requirements at Silpakorn and at the Angewandte.

Silpakorn students need to provide:

- minimum BA in any field
- motivation letter
- English proficiency at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR
- successful entrance exam

Angewandte students need to provide:

- minimum diploma (or both BA and MA) in conservation and restoration
- English proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR
- successful entrance exam

(2) New admissions to this joint master's programme are possible every two years. The dates of the respective entrance exams are announced at least 6 months in advance. The entrance exam consists of a portfolio submission and a practical exercise as well as an interview in front of an entrance examination committee.

§ 8 Subjects

Subjects for students enrolled at Silpakorn:

SUBJECT	AC[1]
Foundation Courses	(9)[2]
Conservation Practice	18
Conservation and Natural Sciences	5
History of Art and Culture	3
Management and Communication	10
Cultural Heritage in the International Context	2
Master's Thesis	7
TOTAL	45

Subjects for students enrolled at the Angewandte:

SUBJECT	ECTS[3]
Transcultural Conservation Teaching Workshop	26
History of Art and Culture	13
Management and Communication	17
Cultural Heritage in the International Context	9
Free Electives	5
Master's Thesis	20
TOTAL	90

The distribution of courses is shown in APPENDIX A.

§ 9 Types of courses

(1) Courses are offered according to the academic regulations of the partners.

(2) In addition, there are programme-specific teaching formats:

Teaching Workshop: This course format aims at developing and improving skills and abilities in teaching and (transcultural) communication. Students assume the role of the teacher or supervisor and introduce and guide their colleagues through the process and workflows of conservation: from the documentation, condition survey and concept development to the correct handling of artworks and the implementation of conservation measures. They further hold small course units on specific topics and subjects, prepared in the preparatory course. The objective is that they are able to impart the methodologies and approaches in conservation and to teach basic and more complex topics of conservation to an international audience. They select adequate methods and tools to do so, adjusted to the cultural and educational backgrounds of the students. At the Angewandte, the Teaching Workshop is defined as the Central Artistic Subject[4].

Conservation Practice at International Level: The objective is to enhance the students' competences and capabilities in practical conservation, collection care, concept development and communication by providing access to projects and platforms. An appropriate programme is compiled annually based on the respective candidate situation. This may include, for example:

[1] 1 AC equals 2 ECTS

[2] These credits are additional to the total amount of credits.

[3] 1 ECTS equals 0,5 AC

[4] according to § 1 para. 2 of part II of the Statute on Study Law of the University of Applied Arts Vienna

- International Projects – Conservation Campaigns
- International Summer Schools
- Applied Collection Care (Project Week of the Institute of Conservation)

Conservation Practice at International Level is a compulsory subject for students initially enrolled at Silpakorn and voluntary for students initially enrolled at the Angewandte. If the latter take part in an activity, this can be indicated in the diploma supplement.

§ 10 Exam regulations

(1) At Silpakorn grades are to be awarded on the basis of an 8-tier scale:

Grade	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
Grade point	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0

Students have to obtain minimum B in order to pass compulsory courses and minimum C (not C+) to pass elective courses.

(2) At the Angewandte grades are to be awarded on the basis of a 5-tier scale (unless explicitly defined otherwise): Positive evaluation is "Excellent (1)", "Good (2)", "Satisfactory (3)" and "Sufficient (4)", negative is "Insufficient (5)".

(3) Non-credit courses for students enrolled at Silpakorn will be assessed by the symbols S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory).

§ 11 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis for students initially enrolled at *Silpakorn* consists of a conservation project and a written conservation report including documentation and condition survey, objective and concept, photographic and written documentation of conservation measures. In the course of the master's exam, the conservation project is presented, defended and reflected (related to the student's professional future as a conservator/restorer) in front of a board of examiners. If applicable, one representative of *the Angewandte* should be included in the board. In case of bigger traveling difficulties, an online participation of this representative is possible.

The topic of the master's thesis for students initially enrolled at *the Angewandte* has to be closely related to the subjects of the master's programme, in particular Asian objects/sites, cultural heritage in an international context and transcultural aspects. In the course of the master's exam, the thesis is presented in front of a board of examiners and topic-related questions have to be answered. If applicable, one representative of *Silpakorn* should be included in the board. In case of bigger traveling difficulties, an online participation of this representative is possible.

(2) Prerequisite for admission to the master's thesis is the evidence that all exams and course assessments have been successfully completed.

(3) Students must publish at least one paper relevant to their master's thesis in a peer-reviewed journal, e.g. Silpakorn University International College – Conference Proceedings.

§ 12 Entry into force

This curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2020 in Austria and on 31 July 2020 in Thailand.

Amendments to the curriculum require identical resolutions by *Silpakorn* and *the Angewandte*[5].

[5] In order to enter into force on 1 October, an amendment must be passed by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna by 31 March of the same year (according to § 4 para. 1 of part II of the Statute on Study Law of the University of Applied Arts Vienna).

APPENDIX A: Distribution of courses

Subjects and courses for students enrolled at Silpakorn University International College (SUIC)

Foundation plus 3 semesters – total scope: 45 AC

	SUIC AC	Angewandte AC
JOINT MASTER'S PROGRAMME	36	9
FOUNDATION COURSES (NON-CREDIT)	9	
Practicum in Conservation	3*	
Health and Safety for Conservators	1*	
Chemistry for Conservators	2*	
English for Conservators	3*	
* for students without MA in Cultural Heritage Conservation		
CONSERVATION PRACTICE	10	8
Conservation Practice I	5	
Conservation Practice II	5	
International Conservation Practice I		3
International Conservation Practice II		3
International Projects – Conservation Campaigns International Summer School Applied Collection Care		2
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL SCIENCES	5	
Introduction to Conservation – Materials & Technology	1	
Conservation Science I	1	
Conservation Science II	1	
Documentation and Photography	1	
Preventive Conservation and Collection Care	1	
HISTORY OF ART AND CULTURE	2	1
Western Art and Cultural History	1	
South East Asian Art and Cultural History	1	
Transcultural Reflections of Art Development		1
MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION	10	
Project and Site Management	3	
Cultural Heritage Management	3	
Presentation and Communication Skills	2	
Academic Writing for Conservators	2	
English Courses (optional)		
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT	2	
Conservation Theory and Methodology at International Level	1	
Seminar on Cultural Heritage in Austria and Thailand	1	
MASTER'S THESIS	7	
Thesis	6	
Master's Thesis Preparation	1	

Subjects and courses for students enrolled at the Angewandte

3 semesters – total scope: **90 ECTS**[6]

	SUIC ECTS	Angewandte ECTS
JOINT MASTER'S PROGRAMME	30	60
TRANSCULTURAL CONSERVATION TEACHING WORKSHOP	8	18
Introduction into Transcultural Communication and Collaboration		2
Conservation Teaching Workshop I - Preparations		3
Conservation Teaching Workshop I - Teaching		8
Reflection of Transcultural Collaboration		2
Conservation Teaching Workshop II - Preparations		3
Conservation Teaching Workshop II - Teaching	8	
HISTORY OF ART AND CULTURE	2	11
Introduction into Tibetan and Buddhist Studies		5
Hindu and Buddhist Temples in South and South-East Asia		2
Asian Cultural Heritage in Vienna		2
Transcultural Reflections of Art Development		2
South-East Asian Art and Cultural History	2	
MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION	16	1
Project and Site Management	6	
Cultural Heritage Management	6	
Presentation Techniques and Media		1
Presentation and Communication Skills	4	
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT	1	8
International Frameworks and World Heritage		4
Cultural Property Protection		1
Preventive Conservation		2
Seminar on Cultural Heritage in Austria and Thailand	1	1
Conservation Practice at International Level (optional) International Projects – Conservation Campaigns International Summer School Welterbe Sommerakademie Applied Collection Care		
FREE ELECTIVES	3	2
MASTER'S THESIS		20
THESIS		18
MASTER'S THESIS PREPARATION		2

[6] equalling 45 AC