

# Programme Specification

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)	None
Teaching Institution	Camberwell College of Arts
Final Award	MA Conservation (Art on Paper) MA Conservation (Books and Archival Materials)
Length of Course	2 years, extended full-time
UCAS Code	Not applicable.
Date of production/revision	September 2017 – Rev 1, 2017/18 Entry

## Course Introduction

Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject practiced by professionals who engage in the technical examination, preservation and conservation of cultural property in order to enhance its accessibility. Conservators are required to deploy tactile and visual sensitivity, manual dexterity, technical and craft skills, knowledge of relevant areas of material and environmental science and the ability to research and understand the cultural context from which an object is derived, and the human values it embodies, in order to be able to carry out appropriate and ethical interventive and preventive conservation. Conservators are required to exercise decision making and problem solving skills of a high order. Conservators have a particular responsibility in that treatment is performed on irreplaceable originals, which are often unique and of great artistic, religious, historic, scientific, cultural, social or economic value.

The history of conservation education at Camberwell College of Arts spans four decades. Many graduates from Camberwell's conservation courses have gone on to long and distinguished careers within the conservation profession in the national and international context. Graduates have in recent years been employed at a number of major institutions including the British Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Lambeth Palace Library, the University of Dundee, the Imperial War Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, The National Archive, and the Wellcome Trust. They have also been successful in gaining sought-after ICON (Institute of Conservation) Internships, most recently in the National Library of Scotland, Preventive Conservation (V&A) and Conservation of Eastern Art (Hirayama Studio, British Museum). The courses have been enriched by the diversity of students who come from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds and age groups, who bring a stimulating mix of prior experiences to Camberwell.

In the context of UK Postgraduate Conservation education the distinctive feature of this course is the particular combination of pathways within the MA, namely *Art on Paper* and *Books and Archival Materials*. The course features an induction period, some shared taught elements, and specialist pathway teaching and projects. This allows both the degree of specialisation required in this subject at postgraduate level and fruitful interactions between students via the common taught elements.

Other possibilities for collaboration and interaction stem from the courses base within a thriving art and design community at Camberwell with opportunities for conservation students to meet and work alongside students and staff from other disciplines and to make use of the wide range of technical facilities as appropriate.

The Camberwell Collection also offers a valuable resource for engaging with the varied issues concerning the storage, use and display of complex assemblies of objects.

### **Course Aims**

This course aims to:

- Foster a stimulating learning environment, which supports you to acquire a systematic understanding of the methodologies and techniques, knowledge and understanding appropriate to your development as a professional practitioner in conservation and related careers.
- Provide intellectually challenging learning opportunities, which may include work related learning, that enable you to gain an advanced understanding of the key theoretical and professional contexts of your practice.
- Support you to develop an independent, self-reliant practice, respond to professional opportunities, and undertake further study or research to a higher level as is appropriate to your ambitions.
- Offer you the opportunity to pursue a specific area of study in the context of conservation at an advanced level demonstrating self direction and autonomy in evaluating and solving problems.

### **Course Outcomes**

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:

- A critical awareness and systematic knowledge of key cultural, theoretical, ethical and technological contexts related to conservation.

- An ability to critically consider the role of preservation management and conservation in a changing global environment.
- A comprehensive understanding of materials, environmental science and working practices relevant to conservation and how this knowledge is used to inform conservation decision making.
- The capacity to work independently in initiating, planning and developing a body of work at an advanced level.
- Employment of research, critical review and advanced scholarship reflected in the ability to comprehend, apply and critique methodologies.
- The ability to make sound conservation decisions and judgments based on conservation ethics, scholarship, research, technical analysis and critical reflection.
- A comprehensive understanding of, and ability to execute to a high level of technical competence, the use and management of materials and processes and specialised methods in the conservation of books and archival materials (Books and Archival Materials Pathway).
- A comprehensive understanding of the materials and structures of books and archival materials (Books and Archival Materials Pathway).
- A comprehensive understanding of, and ability to execute to a high level of technical competence, the use and management of materials and processes and specialised methods in art on paper (Art on Paper Pathway).
- A comprehensive understanding of the materials and structures of works of art on paper (Art on Paper Pathway).

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The learning and teaching methods for this course may include:

Classes in relevant laboratory techniques; essay supervision; independent learning; independent practice; inductions; laboratory practice; lectures and seminars; specialist classes in paper conservation; studio practice; supervised execution of conservation project; tutorials.

### **Scheduled Learning and Teaching**

Scheduled learning and teaching is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. In each level you are expected to study for 1200 hours over 30 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

- FHEQ Level 7 (Years 1&2) – 33%

### Assessment Methods

The relevant assessment methods for this course may include:

Conservation journal; conservation project proposal; conservation project report; essays; oral presentations; participation in seminars; practical work; surveys; symposium presentation/paper; technical documentation; timed examinations.

### Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The University of the Arts London Credit and Course Structures Framework.
- The University of the Arts London Learning and Teaching policies.
- CCW (Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon) policies and initiatives.
- The UK Quality Code for Higher Education Subject Benchmark Statements <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>.
- The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf>.
- The UK Quality Assurance Agency's relevant HE framework, subject benchmarks, and academic infrastructure ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)).

### Programme Summary

#### Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

MA Conservation is offered in extended full time (EFT) mode – 2 years = 60 weeks – 180 credits, with pathways sharing key elements.

FHEQ Level 7 (Year 1):

- Unit 1: Materials, Concepts and Skills (60 credits, 600 indicative learning hours).

FHEQ Level 7 (Overlaps Year 1 into Year 2):

- Unit 2: Development and Practice (60 credits, 600 indicative learning hours).

FHEQ Level 7 (Year 2):

- Unit 3: Execution and Reflection (60 credits, 600 indicative learning hours).

Combined Years 1 and 2 = 180 credits.

**Distinctive features of the course:**

**Unit 1: Materials, Concepts and Skills**

This unit is an intensive introduction to conservation techniques and theory supported by studies in preservation management, materials and environmental science, technical analysis and material culture. The craft and technical aspects of the course focus on the conservation of paper based artefacts while the theoretical aspects of the course both underpin this study but also consider more broadly the role of conservation and conservators in the context of cultural heritage more generally.

The role of the conservator is considered in relation to the professional context of the cultural heritage sector and to issues of access. The concepts and techniques of the course specialisms are introduced and developed.

You will follow one of two specialist pathways in either Books and Archival Materials or Art on Paper. You will have previously indicated a pathway preference during the application process. The preference indicated will be discussed in detail during an initial tutorial which will take place during the induction phase. You can notify staff at this tutorial if you wish to be considered for a change of specialist pathway. You will only be permitted to change between pathways if academic staff agree that it is appropriate for you to do so. The choice of specialism will determine the particular program of practical conservation classes you will attend. You will in addition attend a shared program of lectures and laboratory demonstrations.

**Unit 2: Development and Practice**

This unit allows you to expand your range of conservation techniques within the context of your chosen pathway specialism alongside developing research and decision making skills, investigating materials and processes and developing an ability to analyse, select and manage them appropriately. You will continue to explore the cultural context of conservation via student led presentations, seminars and an essay discussing a piece of material culture research you will undertake. Study of materials science will continue via the lecture program and the research and writing of an essay on a topic in conservation science.

During this unit you will take part in a program of visits to conservation departments that will inform your awareness of the professional context of conservation. At a timetabled tutorial you will discuss your ideas for the Unit 3 project with academic staff. You will subsequently complete a project proposal form to be considered by staff that will detail resources and materials required and the research that will support the project. Subject to approval this proposal will form the basis of your Unit 3 project.

### **Unit 3: Execution and Reflection**

This unit centres on the execution and completion of your conservation project. The documentation of the project provides the raw material for reporting on the project and its outcomes in the form of a conservation report, a symposium paper and an exhibition. Contemporary issues in preservation management and professional practice are debated and considered.

### **Additional Course Costs**

Please note that additional costs may be incurred on this course, for such things as printing and photocopying, some materials, optional trips within the UK and overseas and final degree shows.

## **Recruitment and Admissions**

### **Selection Criteria**

- 1 Evidence of a strong interest in conservation and preferably some conservation related experience.
- 2 Evidence of a good level of manual dexterity as could be demonstrated by art and craft skills or industry experience.
- 3 Evidence of an ability to self-direct and evaluate your own work.
- 4 Evidence of an ability to communicate and discuss ideas and findings verbally and in writing.
- 5 Evidence of an ability to gather, research and use information to support your studies.
- 6 Evidence of a high level of ambition and motivation to study on the course.

### **Portfolio advice (only needed if invited to interview)**

- You should show evidence of good manual dexterity and a high level of aesthetic understanding of the media you are presenting.

- You can bring to the interview a portfolio that gives an idea of the above skills. This can include drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, or other craft/fine art skills. You can include conservation work if you have been involved with this.

### **Entry Requirements**

- BA (Hons) degree (2:1 or above) or equivalent academic qualification.
- Professional qualifications recognised as equivalent to a BA (Hons) degree.
- Professional experience or experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to the qualifications required.
- A combination of qualifications and experiential learning, which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to the qualifications required.
- Applicants should ideally have experience of working or volunteering in a conservation setting.
- Personal statement.
- A reference.
- A transcript (translated into English if you are an international student).

### **If English is not your first language**

All classes are taught in English. If English is not your first language you must provide evidence at enrolment of the following:

IELTS level 6.5 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our [English Language requirements](#)).

**Course Diagram**

FHEQ Level 7 (Year 1)			FHEQ Level 7 (Year 2)		
Unit 1		Unit 2		Unit 3	
Autumn Term 15/16	Spring Term 15/16	Summer Term 15/16	Autumn Term 16/17	Spring Term 16/17	Summer Term 16/17
<b>Unit 1: Materials, Concepts and Skills</b>	Unit 1 continued	<b>Unit 2: Development and Practice</b>	Unit 2 continued	<b>Unit 3: Execution and Reflection</b>	Unit 3 continued
20 weeks 60 Credits		20 weeks 60 Credits		20 weeks 60 Credits	

 Formative Assessment       Summative Assessment

If all criteria are met there is an exit award of a PG Diploma at week 20 of Unit 2.

Note: Summative assessment takes place toward the end of each unit. Credit is awarded for the successful achievement of the learning outcomes in the unit. You will need to achieve all the learning outcomes in order to pass the unit.