

MA IN CONSERVATION OF WALL PAINTINGS

Summary

Additional entry qualifications

1 Candidates must be able to demonstrate manual dexterity and must have normal colour vision.

Curriculum

2 The first two years of the programme are taught, and in the third year candidates undertake a research project, assessed by means of a c.15,000-word dissertation, and spend the remainder of the year in the practical application of skills and knowledge.

First-year components

Course 1: Science for conservation

Course 2: Materials & technology

Course 3: Theory & practise of conservation

Course 4: Art History

Course 5: Practical and fieldwork

Course 6: Documentation

Course 7: Site visits

Second-year components

Course 8: Environmental causes of deterioration

Course 9: Scientific examination and analysis

Course 10: Cleaning & consolidation

Art History

Fieldwork

Research Project proposal

Third-year components

Fieldwork

Research Project

Duration of course of study

3 The normal length of the programme is three years of full-time study.

Examination

4 Candidates must pass each component of the programme to be awarded the degree.

5 These components are:

Year One: three written examinations and assessment of overall performance including practical work by means of an oral examination.

Year Two: three written examinations and/or assessment of overall performance including practical work by means of an oral examination.

Year Three: assessment of overall performance including practical work by means of an oral examination, and a dissertation of c.15,000 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography and documentary appendices).

6 The dates of the examinations will normally be:

Year One: Written papers: June

Year Two: Written papers: March

Year Three: Assessment of overall performance including practical work in the last week of the academic year in years one, two and three. Dissertation: mid-June.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

Aims

- To ensure the improved care of wall paintings through providing appropriate education in their conservation.
- To impart a methodology in order to allow the selection of strategies of conservation in line with accepted professional practice.
- To facilitate an understanding both the original techniques and historical considerations, and the chemical and physical properties, of wall paintings in their environmental context.
- To develop competence in the evaluation of intervention options, and an appreciation of ethical considerations.
- To prepare students to enter professional employment as conservators.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the MA in the Conservation of Wall Paintings, students should be able –

- To contribute to the assessment of the values of the painting and its context.
- To examine and assess the original and later materials of both the painting and its support, and the implications these have for deterioration and intervention.
- To identify relevant factors of deterioration and evaluate the likely effects on the painting of measures proposed for their control.
- To contribute to the design and implementation of a programme of conservation which may include: preventative measures to address the causes of detrimental change; passive measures to address the activation mechanisms of deterioration; emergency and protective interventions; remedial treatments; and design and implement monitoring and maintenance programmes.
- To produce full written, graphic and photographic documentation.
- To participate in the development of the profession, for instance through the presentation and publication of papers.