

Bachelor of Arts in Conservation Credit Unit Statement

Credit Unit Statement

The Bachelor of Arts in Conservation consists of six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses with the exception of the Area Conservation Studio and the Conservation Research Thesis which are 12-credit courses. The BA(Conservation) curriculum uses 120 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for 6-credit courses.

History and Theory Courses (6 credits each, 120 hours of student learning activities per course).

Collectively these courses demonstrate the multifaceted nature of the conservation field through the study and analysis of a broad range of conservation theories and activities, as they have developed over time. These courses are the framework for the curriculum, providing a solid foundation for understanding the field of conservation and the broader socio-economic contexts of heritage conservation. Teaching is conducted in lectures/workshops/review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course) and the coursework includes the reading of critical texts, case studies, site visits, researching and writing assignments. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions.

The courses are assessed through continuous coursework assessment (20%-100%) and examination (0%-80%). Continuous assessment is usually conducted by various methods including presentations, reflection essays, notebooks, reports (up to 3,000 words) and quizzes. The output should demonstrate relevance to the theory and knowledge taught in class and student's original and critical thinking.

Studio Courses (either 6 or 12 credits each, requiring either 120 hours or 240 hours of student learning activities per course). Each studio course is one semester in length.

These studio courses engage students through a range of conservation related design exercises addressing core and associated issues essential to the training of a conservationist. The studio projects provide opportunities to apply key conservation theories learned in concurrent courses. A progressive learning approach is adopted, where the study sites begin on the micro scale, with an individual building or structure, and advance to more complex and larger projects, ultimately looking at an urban or rural area as a whole.

Teaching is conducted in lectures/workshops/review sessions (36 contact hours per course for 6-credit and 12-credit courses), and involves working on conservation related design

projects in both individual and group formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Field studies and site visits are required. The courses are assessed on the portfolio of project work produced, as well as contributions to discussion and activities in the studio sessions.

Assessment is 100% continuous assessment of drawings, diagrams, posters, presentations and reports (from 3,000 to 9,000 words for 6-credit courses and minimum 6,000 words for 12-credit courses). The output should illustrate the students' ability to integrate the technical and theoretical knowledge learned into a sound solution for a practical problem, and to present their proposal in an organised and professional manner.

Technical Courses (6 credits each, 120 hours of student learning activities per course).

These courses explore building structures, materials and finishes, investigating their repair and maintenance, and include key technical concepts and practical knowledge that underpin the execution of conservation work. Course content directly relates to projects undertaken in the conservation studios. Teaching is conducted in lectures/material workshops/laboratory workshops/review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course), and activities include site visits, case studies, laboratory experiments and demonstrations, and the preparation of reports.

The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment by various methods including integrated coursework, lab work, presentations, quizzes and reports (minimum 3,000 words). The output of the course should reflect the students' understanding of the different properties of heritage materials in Hong Kong and their formulation of the most appropriate conservation method in a specific situation.

Practice Courses (6 credits each, 120 or 160 hours of student learning activities per course).

The professional practice and practical training courses allow students to understand the land development process and the management of an architectural conservation project in Hong Kong. Course content directly relates to real life restoration works. Teaching is conducted in lectures/ review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course), and activities include site visits, case studies, practical training placement and the preparation of reports.

The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment by various methods including integrated coursework, presentations, quizzes and reports (minimum 3,000 words). The output of the course should reflect the students' understanding of the land development process a construction contract, general and particular specifications, tender document and process. Whereas the output of the practical training requires students to demonstrate their understanding of the operation of the conservation practice in Hong Kong or overseas, and reflection on how such practical experience refines and redefines their knowledge on architectural conservation.

Research Course (12 credits, requiring 240 hours of student learning activities per course).

The compulsory research course is a capstone experience involving a taught thesis that results in a clear, well-researched, textual and graphic presentation of a student's philosophical and technical understanding of a particular aspect of conservation. It is a full-year course in the final year of study (50 contact hours per course). It is designed as a means for students to demonstrate their learning from the previous three years and pursue a specific facet of conservation, which is presented in thesis form.

The course is assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment by various methods including research reporting, progress presentations and the final report (minimum 10,000 words) submission. The output should demonstrate the students' ability to conduct research, consolidate research data, formulate critical analysis, and present the entire study in a professional manner, on a conservation aspect of their own interest.

Elective Courses (6 credits each, approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course).

The BA(Conservation) curriculum requires that BA(Conservation) students complete elective courses, totalling 36 credits. Guidance will be provided by Programme Staff to ensure appropriate elective selection.

In lieu of an elective course, students can also participate in an overseas conservation related field school (36 contact hours per course) or do either an independent field study or an independent research project on a topic of their interest, with approval from the Programme Director (36 contact hours per course). These courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment by various methods including research reporting, progress presentations and the final report (minimum 3,000 words) submission. The output for the field school or independent field study or independent research project requires students to illustrate the new knowledge gained in the learning experience and their reflection on how such new knowledge influences their interpretation of what does it mean by best practice in architectural conservation.