

Master of Science in Conservation [MSc(Cons)]

Credit Unit Statement

Students admitted to the MSc(Cons) will take a total of 10 courses for 72 credits with approximately 1,440 hours of student learning activities to be completed in full time mode between one to two academic years or in part-time mode between two to four academic years. In full-time mode, students are expected to complete 30 credits each in the first two semesters and a 12-credit thesis course in the Summer Semester. In part-time mode, students are expected to complete 12 to 18 credits each in the first and second semesters of the first and second years, and a 12-credit thesis course in the Summer Semester of the second year.

At the time of their application, candidates will choose one of the two streams of specialization: 1) Conservation Planning and Management, or 2) Design for Conservation. Each stream is composed of seven compulsory courses and two electives to a total of 60 credits, and the final thesis course which is 12 credits.

The norm for a 6-credit course is 120 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) and 240 hours of student learning activities for a 12-credit studio course and the 12-credit thesis.

The different types of courses in the curriculum are summarised below:

Studio courses

Credits: 12

Total contact hours: 72h

Self-learning: approx. 168h

Total student learning activities: approx. 240h

Output / Examination: 100% continuous coursework assessment

At the core of each stream of specialization, studio courses introduce the pedagogy and culture of design in conservation. Students engage in practical problem-solving exercises in the design, adaptive reuse, management, and planning of architectural, urban or regional conservation sites. Projects are closely related to lecture courses and provide the opportunity to apply and develop a wide range skills and ideas at play in conservation. Teaching involves individual and group projects, regular presentations during critical reviews, site visits, lectures, and skill-building workshops. Studio courses are assessed through continuous coursework assessment. Assignments includes drawings, photos, videos, animations, models, and project reports (up to 3,000 words).

Lecture courses

Credits: 6

Total contact hours: 24h

Self-learning: approx. 96h

Total learning activities: approx. 120h

Outcome / Examination: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Through lecture courses, students gain technical competencies and critical intellectual skills required to guide decision-making in conservation planning, design and management. Teaching is conducted through lectures, workshops, tutorials, and seminars in weekly two-hour sessions. Learning activities include site visits, field trips, community engagement exercises, and other forms of experiential learning. Courses are assessed through continuous coursework assessment. Assessment methods are decided between the program director and respective course leaders to align with the program learning outcomes and may include essays, reports, quiz, written examination, individual and group presentations (up to 5,000 words).

Thesis

Credits: 12

Total contact hours: no less than 24h

Self-learning: approx. 216h

Total learning activities: approx. 240h

Outcome / Examination: 100% continuous coursework assessment

The CONS8215 Conservation Thesis is dedicated to the completion of an individual piece of original research on a chosen topic under the supervision of a teaching staff. It is required as a capstone course intended to demonstrate competency in the field, accomplishment in a chosen area of specialization, and the capacity to perform independent research. Contact hours are flexibly organized between students and supervisors to provide guidance, support and encouragement throughout the course, but should not be less than 1.5h per week. The final thesis should be between 10,000 and 15,000 words and assessed through continuous coursework assessment including a formal presentation.

19 October 2021