

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION
[MSc(Cons)]**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)
(These syllabuses are applicable to students who are admitted to the Master of Science in Conservation in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter)*

1. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The Master of Science in Conservation [MSc(Cons)] curriculum shall normally require one academic year of full-time study, or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study, or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

The MSc(Cons) curriculum offers two streams of specialization that focus on different expertise of the conservation profession: 1) Conservation Planning and Management, 2) Design for Conservation. Applicants to the programme will choose one of the two streams as their specialization in their application.

To qualify for the MSc(Cons) degree, all candidates are required to complete a total of 72 credits of courses with a combination of core courses, stream courses, and electives. Candidates are required to follow courses of instruction and satisfy the examiners in each course.

Core courses (required to be taken by all candidates):

CONS8120	Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)
CONS8103	Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8124	Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)
CONS8117	Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)
CONS8216	Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8215	Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)

Stream courses (required courses for each stream of study):

Stream 1: Conservation Planning and Management

CONS8220	Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)
CONS8222	Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)

Stream 2: Design for Conservation

CONS8221	Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)
CONS8223	Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)

As part of the requirements of the two studio courses, CONS8220 and CONS8221, students will join a self-funded international field trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The field trip may take place at the end of the fall semester or during reading week of the spring semester.

Elective courses:

Candidates are required to select and complete two 6-credit elective courses to be chosen from a set of cross-listed courses offered by other programmes in the Faculty of Architecture. Candidates' selection of elective courses shall be approved by the Programme Director.

Suggested electives offered by the Division of Landscape Architecture include the following:

CONS8109	Cultural Landscapes (6)
CONS8224	Digital Heritage: Theory and Application (6)
CONS8222	Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6) <i>(for students in the Design for Conservation stream)</i>
CONS8223	Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6) <i>(for students in the Conservation Planning & Management stream)</i>

2. ASSESSMENT

Each of the courses followed by candidates is examined by an assessment of coursework. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy all the assessments and the relevant requirements prescribed in the Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science in Conservation.

3. COURSE LIST**Full-time mode**

The first semester is dedicated to the establishment of a common theoretical framework for candidates of both streams to acquire foundation knowledge in conservation. The second semester focuses on advanced skills fundamental to the development of expertise in the chosen stream of specialization. The summer semester is dedicated to a piece of independent and original research work.

Part-time mode

The curriculum of part-time mode is spread over a normative period of two academic years. The first year and first semester of the second year of study aims to prepare candidates with the foundation knowledge before they enter the chosen stream of specialization in the second semester of year two. The summer semester of the second year is dedicated to a piece of independent and original research. Candidates are required to follow the course taking pattern outlined below. Alternatively, candidates may select their courses in a different schedule, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

- i. Take the following core courses and one elective course in the first semester of the first and second years:

CONS8120	Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)
CONS8103	Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8124	Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)
CONS8117	Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)
	Elective One (6 credits)

- ii. Take the following core course and one elective course in the second semester of the first year:

CONS8216 Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)
 Elective Two (6 credits)

- iii. Take the stream courses in the second semester of the second year:

Stream 1: Conservation Planning and Management

CONS8220 Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)

CONS8222 Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)

Stream 2: Design for Conservation

CONS8221 Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)

CONS8223 Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)

- iv. Take the thesis course in the summer semester of the second year:

CONS8215 Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)

Core Courses:

CONS8120 Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theories and practices of built heritage conservation. Students learn about the histories of the conservation movement in the local and global contexts and become familiar with terminologies and key concepts, such as conservation, restoration, historicity, authenticity, integrity, world heritage, shared heritage, intangible heritage, adaptive reuse, Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL), etc. Attention is paid to cross-cultural comparisons of different types and scales of built heritage and their associated social, cultural and economic values, with a particular focus on Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Case studies are used to illustrate the processes of understanding tangible and intangible values of heritage buildings, sites and landscapes. Students are required to prepare a Statement of Significance as part of a conservation plan using a values-based assessment approach.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8103 Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)

This course introduces the guiding principles and legal framework for heritage conservation. Through lectures and case studies, students become familiar with the doctrines and terminologies of international charters and regional legislation and examine and assess their relevance and application in the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Students learn how policies and legislation may support, assist and constrain the conservation of heritage and to critique the laws and their enforcement. The course also introduces the professional responsibilities and duties embedded in legal and policy frameworks and discusses ethical standards and codes of conduct related to cultural heritage management.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8124 Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the techniques of documentation, assessment and conservation necessary to understand the significance of and potential for interventions on built heritage. Students gain knowledge and experience in documenting a set of selected heritage sites of different typologies and scales associated with specific building technologies. Through multiple visits, they learn how to produce records and communicate accurate observations in a precise format and repeatable method. The course also introduces the basic principles of material science and construction techniques, enabling students to determine the condition of built heritage and make recommendations for conservation. Students learn to produce a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). (Note: this course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8117 Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the common research methods employed in the field of heritage conservation and its allied disciplines, including archival research, interviews, cultural mapping, and heritage interpretation. Through a series of intensive workshops and individual and group assignments, students acquire the necessary skills to carry out their studio projects and conservation thesis later on in the programme. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8216 Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)

This course explores contemporary issues in the field of heritage conservation. Using a series of readings, students engage with discussions and debates about emergent global challenges to heritage conservation such as climate change, pandemics and mass urbanization, etc. and consider the different ways in which heritage may contribute to achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students are encouraged to reflect critically on the concepts of sustainable development, the roles of science and technologies in conservation, and the future of heritage within specific political, economic and socio-cultural contexts. The course offers students the opportunity to identify and develop a topic in preparation for their Conservation Thesis.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8220 Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a full conservation management plan for a specific heritage building, site, or landscape focusing on management techniques and issues unique to conservation projects in Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. The course explores the responsibilities of heritage practitioners in carrying out conservation work from project planning and implementation to post-project management and maintenance. Through individual and team-based problem-solving exercises, students consolidate their understanding of the entire conservation process and learn how to apply a values-based approach to conservation planning and management. For each assignment, students are asked to support their decisions with

arguments, develop their analytical and advocacy skills through milestone presentations to guest reviewers. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits and a self-funded international field trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Prerequisites: CONS8120, CONS8103, CONS8124

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8221 Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)

Students of this course engage with practical problem-solving exercises in the design and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, sites, settlements and landscapes in the context of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Building on the fundamental concepts acquired in earlier core courses (i.e. preservation, restoration, adaptive reuse, new additions to a historic site, etc.), students research and analyse a specific study area, define major preservation planning problems and opportunities, and formulate contextually and culturally-sensitive design propositions that respond to existing institutional frameworks and community interests. Supporting the main design project, a series of workshops are organized to equip students with a range of technical skills, including aerial photography, photogrammetry, and GIS mapping techniques. For each assignment, students are asked to support their decisions with arguments, develop their analytical and advocacy skills through milestone presentations to guest reviewers. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits and a self-funded international field trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Prerequisites: CONS8120, CONS8103, CONS8124

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8222 Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)

This course introduces basic economic and social theories that are relevant to heritage conservation, including property rights, cultural and social capital, and the governance of common-pool resources, etc. It examines how conservation, as an increasingly important component of economic and cultural policy in different parts of the world, may be harnessed to achieve sustainable development and resource management. Students acquire techniques to assess the economic viability of conservation projects, determine the multiple values embodied within and generated by heritage resources, and analyse the costs and benefits of different heritage initiatives.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8223 Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)

This course allows students to gain insights into the scientific and construction principles used in conservation and restoration techniques. Students acquire the fundamentals of chemistry and physics necessary to understand processes of material deterioration and structural performance of historic buildings. They learn how to assess their conditions, diagnose defects and common problems, and to make suitable recommendations for their conservation. Though visits to local heritage sites and factories, the course also introduces different types of historical construction techniques. As part of the requirements of this course, student produce their own restoration and maintenance specifications for a chosen heritage site. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8215 Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)

This capstone course enables students to demonstrate competency in a chosen area of specialization through independent research. The thesis may take the form of an original piece of research, an original design work, or a laboratory experiment with theoretical or practical applications within the framework of conservation. Topics are chosen according to their relevance to students' interests and capabilities and their contribution to an intellectual debate in the field. Each student works under the supervision of a teaching faculty and meets with his/her supervisor at least once a week throughout the course for consultation and guidance. To complete the course, students are required to present their findings to a panel of experts in a formal presentation, which allows students to demonstrate their capacity to advocate for conservation whilst providing a transparent platform for collegial debates that enable ongoing progress of the profession. Completed theses will be made available to the public as a repository of knowledge on heritage conservation in Hong Kong, Greater China, and East and Southeast Asia.

Prerequisites: CONS8220 *or* CONS8221

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Elective Courses:

CONS8109 Cultural Landscapes (6 credits)

This course introduces the concept of cultural landscapes and its relevance for heritage conservation. Students will gain insight on the notion cultural landscapes as defined in multiple disciplines such as cultural geography, environmental history, and landscape archaeology, as well as international frameworks such as UNESCO, World Heritage sites, etc. The course explores the practical implications of a landscape approach to heritage conservation such as for example Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) and Cultural Landscapes. Students learn to identify and assess different types of cultural landscapes and explore new ways of mapping within the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. The course also enables students to address concerns for the protection of the natural environment and conceive strategies for achieving sustainable development through the conservation of cultural landscapes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8224 Digital Heritage: Theory and Application (6 credits)

This course introduces the common tools for the digitization of heritage assets. Students become familiar with the requirements, process and comparable advantages of different 2D and 3D digitization techniques for built heritage such as surveying, laser scanning, and photogrammetry. Through selected readings and in-class discussions, the course also encourages students to reflect critically on the recent 'digital turn' in heritage studies and explore the ethical implications of heritage digitization and digital heritagization.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8222 Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)
(for students in the Design for Conservation stream)

This course introduces basic economic and social theories that are relevant to heritage conservation, including property rights, cultural and social capital, and the governance of common-pool resources, etc. It examines how conservation, as an increasingly important component of economic and cultural policy in different parts of the world, may be harnessed to achieve sustainable development and resource management. Students acquire techniques to assess the economic viability of conservation projects, determine the multiple values embodied within and generated by heritage resources, and analyse the costs and benefits of different heritage initiatives.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8223 Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)
(for students in the Conservation Planning & Management stream)

This course allows students to gain insights into the scientific and construction principles used in conservation and restoration techniques. Students acquire the fundamentals of chemistry and physics necessary to understand processes of material deterioration and structural performance of historic buildings. They learn how to assess their conditions, diagnose defects and common problems, and to make suitable recommendations for their conservation. Through visits to local heritage sites and factories, the course also introduces different types of historical construction techniques. As part of the requirements of this course, student produce their own restoration and maintenance specifications for a chosen heritage site. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment
