

Conservation of Clocks

Postgraduate Diploma Programme

Programme Summary	
Awarding body	University of Sussex
Teaching institution	West Dean College
Programme title	Conservation of Clocks and Related Objects
Final award / FHEQ level	Postgraduate Diploma / level 7
Mode of study	Full-time, 36 weeks
Programme Leader	Matthew Read
External reference points/benchmarks	<p>The UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 Qualification Descriptor for Level 7</p> <p>Subject Benchmarks Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology • Art and design • History of art, architecture and design <p>The Institute of Conservation Professional Standards</p>
Entry Criteria	<p>Successful completion of West Dean's Graduate Diploma in Conservation of Clocks and Related Objects, or appropriate relevant experience, or a good first degree in a relevant subject.</p> <p>English language: CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) Level B2 or IELTS 6.5.</p>

Programme Aims

The aims of the programme are to provide:

Practical

1. A context for the analysis, assessment and treatment of historic horological objects
2. The opportunity to develop sophisticated specialist craft and conservation skills
3. A research environment for the development and public dissemination of innovative approaches to the conservation of horological objects

Theoretical

1. The opportunity to contribute to the development of historical, cultural and technical understanding of horology through primary research and investigation
2. The opportunity to evaluate methodologies, develop critiques and propose new hypotheses
3. A context for individual inquiry and group debate across the conservation specialisms

Professional

1. A context for the development of a range of verbal, written and visual skills appropriate for the communication and documentation of conservation projects and research
2. A context for the development of, and critical reflection upon, personal and professional codes of practice
3. Opportunities to plan and implement a range of projects that are either increasingly technically more complex, or have issues that are of a compounded or more complex nature

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme students have:

Practical

- The ability to independently handle, assess and make reasoned proposals for the treatment of technically more complex historic objects, or have issues that are of a compounded or more complex nature
- A sophisticated and fluent competence in a range of materials, techniques and skills for the conservation of horological objects
- The ability to contribute to current research and technical innovation in the conservation of clocks.

Theoretical

- The ability to investigate and interpret horological objects within historic, cultural and technical contexts using an advanced understanding of underlying concepts and competence in primary research.
- The ability to critically evaluate theories, apply ethical reasoning and propose new hypotheses
- An advanced understanding of mechanics, physics and chemistry as applied to the analysis and treatment of horological objects

Professional

- The ability to independently generate comprehensive research and project documentation to a professional standard
- Developed informed professional attitudes including awareness of currently accepted codes of practice and the relevance of continued professional development
- Developed the ability for informed and reasoned decision making in relation to complex, conflicting or high risk professional situations

Alignment to External Reference Points

The programme is aligned with QAA and FHEQ frameworks and models of good practice. The programme design and student work is overseen by Programme Advisors drawn from industry and the conservation profession. Students are exposed to a range of professionals in both public and private sectors, institutions and models of good practice within the arena of conservation.

Programme Structure

Postgraduate Diploma – Programme Diagram

Semester 1 (18 weeks)				Semester 2 (18 weeks)			
Study Block 1	Formative Review/ Christmas Vacation	Study Block 2	Stage Assessment	Study Block 3	Formative Review/ Easter Vacation	Study Block 4	Final Assessment
Unit CL PG1A – Extending Practice - 45 credits				Unit CL PG2A – Professional Practice - 45 credits			
Unit PG 1B– Science Analysis – 10 credits				Unit PG 2B – Professional Perspectives – 15 credits			
Unit PG 1C–Research Methods for Conservation– 5 credits							

Programme Units

- CL-PG1A: Extending Practice
- PG1B: Science Analysis
- PG1C: Research Methods for Conservation
- CL-PG2A: Professional Practice
- PG2B: Professional Perspective

Distinctive Programme Features

- Students learn through working on historic objects
- Students are exposed to a range of horological and allied experiences through lectures, live projects, visiting practitioners and field visits
- Immersive environment encourages joint learning and interdisciplinary practice
- Students are given opportunities to build professional contacts and networks
- Workshops are open seven days a week, 07.00 to 22.00, giving extended opportunities for practical work
- The programme has a low student to staff ratio
- Staff have a broad range of professional horological experience from commercial to museum and heritage contexts

Learning and Teaching – methods and strategy

West Dean is committed to providing a distinctive, high quality teaching and learning environment for practice-led study and research. A rigorous teaching and learning environment is in place to nurture a deep engagement with practice and its integration with historical, theoretical, cultural and contextual frameworks. Teaching and learning activities and associated resources aim to provide every student with an equal and effective opportunity to achieve intended learning outcomes. On successful completion of their programme of study, West Dean students become practically accomplished, theoretically aware and professionally autonomous practitioners.

Our continuing priorities are to:

- Provide students with opportunities to learn and develop their skills through working on a range of very high quality, historic objects.
- Further develop practice-led study and research within a stimulating and creative cultural environment.
- Promote the integration of theory and practice where each is tested and informed by the other.

- Increase opportunities for students to engage in professional practice through engagement with live projects involving liaison with clients.
- Enhance and further develop a range of specialist learning resources.
- Support staff development by encouraging opportunities to engage in high-profile consultancy and research projects.

At Postgraduate Diploma level students are expected to work more independently; to assume a certain level of autonomy; and to engage in personal research.

In Clocks there is an emphasis on the development of a specialist area of horological conservation practices. The programme is designed to allow students extended periods of time for research and bench craft practice in order to develop their specialism.

Subject specific resources include a dedicated workshop with individual benches for each student. The workshop is equipped with a professional standard range of hand and power tools including lathes and drills and facilities for chemical treatments and cleaning. Students have access to the full range of metalworking and woodworking facilities in the adjacent departments. There are facilities for digital photography for the production of photographic records and documentation.

Practical Experience & Work Placement

Students:

- Initially, undertake a range of bespoke practical exercises to further develop bench craft and machine tool skills
- Continue to build a portfolio of work in the form of a range of treatment to historic clocks
- May negotiate a work placement of up to six weeks duration (not mandatory) Previous work placements have included British museum, national maritime Museum, State hermitage Museum St Petersburg.
- Have the opportunity to contribute to research and consultancy projects

Assessment – methods and strategy

- Work is assessed on a continuous basis independently by at least two members of staff (normally the programme leader and a programme tutor) . This assessment is fed to students informally on an on-going basis through discussion and formally at assessment and review points (mid-term and final assessments)
- Assessors use a pro-forma prompt sheet to ensure a consistent range of elements of work required is assessed
- Students sit a written examination at the end of each semester to determine their theoretical and historical knowledge.

- Essay work is assessed independently and graded according to the assessment definitions
- All assessment is formalised in grades as set out in the assessment definitions
- Assessment is reviewed and moderated by the external examiner