



Conservation of Ceramics

Graduate Diploma Programme

Programme Summary	
Awarding body	University of Sussex
Teaching institution	West Dean College
Programme title	Conservation of Ceramics
Final award / FHEQ level	Graduate Diploma / level 6
Mode of study	Full-time, 36 weeks
Subject Leader	Lorna Calcutt
External reference points/benchmarks	<p>The UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 Qualification Descriptor for Level 6 Subject Benchmarks Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology • Art and design • History of art, architecture and design <p>Institute of Conservation PACR Standards</p>
Criteria for admission to the programme	<p>Degree or qualification at equivalent level to a second year of undergraduate study, e.g. HND, DipHE, and an interest in and experience of working with ceramics and related materials.</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 ceramic and related material objects
2. The opportunity to develop high level applied craft and conservation skills
3. A research environment for the development of innovative approaches to the conservation of ceramic and related material objects

Theoretical

1. An introduction to the historic and technical development of ceramics in relation to cultural and scientific contexts
2. An introduction to the methods of research and analysis used within the discipline
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
2. An introduction to the personal and professional standards of conservation practice and the ethical treatment of objects congruent with national and international policy and practice
3. Opportunities to plan and implement real projects for a range of clients/contexts

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme students have:

Practical

- The ability to handle, assess and make proposals for the treatment of a range of ceramic objects
- Knowledge of and ability to apply a comprehensive range of materials, techniques and skills to diverse object types
- Knowledge of current research and technical developments that inform contemporary approaches to the conservation of ceramics

Theoretical

- The ability to identify and understand objects within historic, cultural and technical contexts
- The ability to test and inform practice through theory and vice versa
- Demonstrated an understanding of body types and making techniques through analysis and interpretation of objects

Professional

- The ability to generate supporting documentation relating to their work consistent with professional practice
- Developed an understanding of ethics, standards and self-development in relation to the professional practice of conservation
- Begun to develop a professional and independent decision making framework relating to the conservation of objects

Alignment to External Reference Points

The programme is aligned with QAA and FHEQ frameworks, ICON and models of good practice. The programme design and student work is overseen by Programme Advisers and the External Examiner. Students are exposed to a range of professionals, institutions and models of good practice within the arena of conservation.

Programme Structure

Graduate 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 Block4	Final Assessment
Unit CE GIA – Induction - 30 credits		Unit CE G2A– Development 1 – 15 credits		Unit CE G3A – Development 2 – 15 credits		Unit CE G4A – Consolidation and Reflection – 30 credits	
Unit G1B – Science Induction – 10 credits				Unit G3B– Science Development – 10 credits			
Unit G1C – Contextual and Professional Studies 1 – 5 credits				Unit G3C – Contextual and Professional Studies 2 – 5 credits			

Distinctive Programme Features

- Students learn through working on real objects
- Students are exposed to a range of objects and allied experiences through lectures, live projects, visiting practitioners and study 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 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. The College is also committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning to nurture a deep engagement with practice and its integration with historical, theoretical, cultural and contextual frameworks. The College seeks to ensure that teaching and learning activities and associated resources provide every student with an equal and effective opportunity to achieve intended learning outcomes. Our overriding intention is that, 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, often museum-class 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 Graduate Diploma level, students are supported by intensive tuition; careful supervision of practical work; focussed lectures; technical demonstrations; and outside visits.

In Ceramics, students work on historic objects from the beginning of their course developing their skills in relation to a range of materials and body types in projects of increasing complexity.

Subject specific resources include a well-equipped workshop with individual work spaces for students. Specialist facilities for cleaning, retouching and finishing. A pottery studio for making, firing and finishing new work.

Practical Experience & Work Placement

Students:

- Initially, undertake a range of bespoke practical exercises to further develop conservation skills
- Continue to build a portfolio of work in the form of a range of treatments to diverse objects and their documentation
- Have the opportunity to contribute to research and client-facing 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 are asked to submit an essay and/or deliver a presentation at the end of each semester to determine their conceptual, 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.