



Painting Conservation
Object Conservation
Stone Conservation
Textile Conservation
Software Conservation
Conservation of Archaeological Finds
Cultural Heritage Conservation Management

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

A successfully passed entrance examination is a prerequisite for the programme. We recommend that all applicants attend a consultation by appointment (in person or online) and visit the OPEN HOUSE in advance.

Diploma Programme in Conservation
10 semesters, 300 ECTS / Mag. art.
✉ kons-rest@uni-ak.ac.at
🌐 conservation.angewandte.at/apply
🌐 openhouse.uni-ak.ac.at

FAQs

Is it necessary to submit an artistic portfolio to attend a consultation?

No. During consultations, you can also obtain basic information about the courses on offer. We are also happy to help you decide which departments would be suitable for you. However, to ensure successful admission to the examination week, it is very helpful if you bring along a few of your own nature studies to the consultation hour. We will be happy to give you feedback and tips on how to best design the works in your portfolio. After all, the quality of your portfolio is the only key to admission to the examination week.

What should the artistic portfolio include and what should it not include?

The portfolio should contain at least 20 recent works in A3 to A2 format. Precise nature studies in pencil are desirable (still lifes, landscapes, architecture, nude drawings, etc.; series are desirable, and sketchbooks may also be included). The drawings must be labelled with your name and the date. Only real objects may be used as models for the nature studies, not photographs. If you have already completed an internship in restoration (this is not a prerequisite for admission), samples of your work may also be included in the portfolio – these must be documented with photographs and text and should not be brought in as originals.

How is the admissions test conducted? What is assessed? How can I prepare?

Entrance examinations take place annually in February. The earliest possible start date for studies is the winter semester following the entrance examination. Admission is valid for three semesters, but students can only begin their studies in the winter semester. The first step is to submit an artistic portfolio, the second is to successfully complete the admission examination in person. This lasts four full days (9.00–18.00 each day) and takes place at the institute at Salzgies 14, 1010 Vienna. The original portfolio submitted will remain at the institute for the entire four days. During the admission examination, we assess: personal motivation (interview), practical skills (nature study with pencil, modelling in clay, constructive building), spatial awareness (3D drawing), ability to recognise historical materials and manufacturing techniques, prior knowledge of art/cultural history (eras, styles, artists, historical events, etc.), critical reflection skills (written discussion on a controversial topic), colour sense (colour mixing without black and white), ability to work in a team (group work), and basic knowledge of chemistry. To prepare for the chemistry test, we recommend the Duden volume »Abitur Chemie. Basiswissen Schule« (A-level Chemistry: Basic Knowledge for School). All tasks are graded individually by a panel of examiners.

What is the acceptance rate? What are the chances of being admitted?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide binding information or forecasts. Experience shows that around 100 people apply with an artistic portfolio, around 25 of whom are invited to the entrance examination. Of these, 10–15 people can expect to be offered a place on the course.

What school-leaving certificate or prior experience is required for the programme?

Applicants must be at least 17 years of age to be admitted to the programme. Although a Matura/Abitur qualification (or equivalent) is not required by law, it has proven to be a good foundation for the programme. Applicants should inform themselves in advance about the everyday work of conservators. A preliminary or trial internship of several weeks in a restoration studio is recommended, but is not a prerequisite for admission to the programme.

What does the study programme and curriculum look like?

The diploma programme consists of two study phases. The balance between theory and practice is an important aspect of the programme. At least two full days per week (Wednesday and Thursday, 9.00–16.30) are devoted to practical work on original objects.

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On the other days of the week, theoretical courses (lectures, seminars, exercises, excursions) impart knowledge in conservation, natural sciences, materials science, art history and cultural studies. The first stage comprises two semesters and is intended as an introductory and orientation year in all subject areas, while the second (eight semesters) focuses on specialisation in one of the subject areas or on an interdisciplinary approach. Learning and recognising (historical) manufacturing techniques complement the programme. In the fourth year of study, students can complete a practical semester at a domestic or foreign institution. After the preliminary diploma in the fourth year, the fifth and final year is devoted to the diploma thesis. Here, students work as independently as possible to either solve a complex restoration problem in its entirety or contribute to the further development of conservation sciences by answering a currently relevant research question.

🔗 studien.homepage.uni-ak.ac.at/curricula/588_2019U_00.pdf

Specialist in one of the fields or interdisciplinary generalist?

You only have to make this decision at the end of your first year of study. In the first year, you will rotate through all departments and have many opportunities to discuss your options with senior students, lecturers and graduates. However, during the entrance examination, we will ask you which department(s) you are interested in studying. We need to know this in order to better estimate and plan the resources required for each department.

Is the programme conducted in German or English?

The programme is taught in German and English. Knowledge of German is essential, especially for practical project work. At the end of the first year of study, you must provide proof of German language proficiency at level B2. Without this, you will not be allowed to continue your studies.

Can I work while studying?

Basically, yes. However, the programme, especially the first three years, is a full-time programme. This means that you will only have time to work in the evenings or on weekends. During this time, you will also have to prepare for exams or write seminar papers. It is therefore advisable to pursue gainful employment during the lecture-free periods (February, July, August and September) in order to make the best possible use of the courses offered during the semester. If necessary and depending on your academic performance, we can also arrange paid internships during the holiday period.

Are study abroad opportunities available as part of the programme?

Yes. Not only is it possible, it is even highly desirable. In the fourth year of study, we recommend spending a semester abroad, if your personal circumstances allow. The institute has access to an extensive global network for this purpose. Internationality is our strength.

What are the career prospects after graduating?

Our graduates are in high demand throughout Austria and internationally. Almost all of them work in their chosen field of employment or research after graduation. During your studies, we prepare you for a career as an independent conservator or support you in gaining a foothold in a museum or relevant research institution. Career prospects are therefore very good. After completing your degree, you also have the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree or one of our postgraduate programmes. Our field of work is constantly evolving and guarantees lifelong learning in any case.