

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Learning Objectives and Research Focus

Acquisition and training of practical skills for independently implementing and/or supervising conservation measures and complex restorative interventions on objects (optionally as a specialist in one of the subject areas or as an interdisciplinary generalist)

Development of conservation-, material-, and art-/cultural-scientific grounded strategies for a holistic understanding of cultural heritage and its sustainable preservation (with special consideration of material, technology, production conditions, materiality, and intangible significance)

Critical reflection and research in current fields of action (e.g. Heritage in Climate Change, Conservation Management Plans (CMP), community-based conservation, Digital Cultures, Intangible Heritage, Decolonizing Conservation, Queering Conservation, Conservation Activism or Disaster Management)

German language skills are required for the Diploma programme.

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

PAINTINGS (on all supports and polychrome wooden objects)

The Painting department teaches the conservation and restoration of paintings and polychrome surfaces on various supports (canvas, wood, metal, etc.) and from different periods. In addition to paintings and painted wooden sculptures adhering to (Western) painting techniques, objects of non-European provenance are also treated. Special attention is given to classical modern and contemporary art in its variety of media, as well as to the highly topical field of preventive conservation and the care and long-term preservation of collection holdings in times of climate change.

OBJECT (metal, glass, ceramics, plastic, organic materials, furnishings, etc.)

The Object department teaches the conservation and restoration of three-dimensional objects from the fields of handicrafts, applied arts, sculpture, design, everyday culture and technical cultural heritage. The focus is on objects of European provenance from the Middle Ages to the present. Their dimensions range from very small to very large, coming from museum or private collections, or from outdoor environments (monuments, architectural elements, etc.). The wide range of materials covered includes metal (especially objects made of bronze, wrought iron, silver or gilded silver), glass, ceramics, porcelain, plastic, ivory, amber, enamel, pearls, corals, gemstones, noble woods, plant products or objects made from material combinations.

STONE (stone, concrete, plaster, stucco marble, mineral building materials, etc.)

The Stone department is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of natural stone and other mineral building materials. Materials such as artificial stone, concrete, brick and terracotta are treated just like stucco and plaster or applied paintwork. In addition to individual objects such as sculptures, reliefs or epitaphs, students also work on architectural works and heritage conservation. The development and implementation of inventory and condition surveys as well as monitoring, protection and maintenance programmes are essential focuses of the training, and both historical and contemporary craft techniques are also taught.

TEXTILES (costume, fashion, accessories, tapestry, leather, furniture coverings, etc.)

The Textile department teaches the conservation and restoration of textiles of various manufacturing techniques, periods, and cultural backgrounds. In addition to flat fabrics, such as embroideries and flags, or large textile objects, such as tapestries and wall coverings, three-dimensional objects, such as historical costumes or works by contemporary fashion designers, are also addressed. Objects made from material combinations, which are treated in cooperation with other departments, provide additional opportunities for students to deepen their knowledge. Dyeing techniques, fiber analyses (natural and synthetic), collection care, light protection, or protection against insects and other pests (Integrated Pest Management) complement the programme.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS (metal, glass, ceramics, leather, textile, fibres, etc.)

This specialisation focuses on the conservation of archaeological finds made of textiles, natural fibres, ceramics, metal, glass or stone, as well as the interdisciplinary development of preservation strategies for find complexes at archaeological excavations. Practical teaching takes place in close cooperation with the Natural History Museum Vienna (NHM) in the workshops and storerooms of the Prehistoric Department. Optionally, there is also the possibility for teaching and research within the framework of NHM excavation activities in Hallstatt (salt finds), at the pile dwellings in Lake Attersee (underwater excavations) or at international teaching excavations.

SOFTWARE AND DIGITAL CULTURES (software, born digitals, digital arts and games)

Our latest specialisation offers a completely new field of work and professional profile. The focus is on the conservation and restoration of software (and, where applicable, its hardware carriers). The intangible properties of software require experimental strategies as well as intensive collaboration in international networks. The aim is the preservation of Born Digital Culture, that is, genuinely digital material created exclusively in digital form. Practical teaching takes place in close cooperation with the Technical Museum Vienna (software*LAB), the Coding Lab of the University of Applied Arts, the Experimental Game Cultures programme and the artBase Rhizome.