Conservation and Restoration of Archaeological and Historical Heritage

The city of Berlin is one of the most important cultural centres in Germany, so it seems fitting that also a Conservation and Field Archaeology programme is located in Berlin. Conservation/Restoration - Field Archaeology is a uniquely interdisciplinary study programme, with its courses in both *Field Archaeology* and in *Audiovisual and Photographic Cultural Heritage - Modern Media* even one-of-a-kind within germany.

Courses take place in a repurposed, historically significant factory building that forms part of HTW Berlin‘s Wilhelminenhofcampus. It is located in Berlin - Oberschöneweide, right at the banks of the river Spree. Within this building, an entire floor is available to our students, providing excellent laboratories and studios where students enjoy hands-on laboratory classes and have their manual through practical work. Since the study programme is rather small (40 students per year with about 10 students per main subject), the classes have a focused, but casual atmosphere. Upon their successfull graduation, students are then thoroughly qualified to find employment in museums and archives or to engage in treatment in the private sector.

Basic information

Requirements for the study programme are either:

- an advanced technical college entrance qualification;
- higher education entrance qualification
- or specific higher education entrance qualification

Prior to application for the programme, a 12 -month internship needs to be completed, either in conservation facility or at an excavation. Special exceptions can be discussed with the professors of the main subject you wish to attend.

Your application then needs to include both documentation about this internship, as well as a confirmation of attendance.

In the documentation you should describe the place and type of your work, the duration of your internship, professional supervision and materials used, tools and equipment. Support in finding a suitable organisation for your internship is provided by the professors and laboratory engineers, do feel free to contact them.

Applicants will be interviewed before they are admitted to the courses. Necessary documents for the interview include an application dossier and a handwritten resume (2-3 pages).

Application dossier

- three free artistic works (different media such as oil paint, tempera, water colour, charcoal drawings etc.)
- a description of a historic exhibition, in writing and sketches, including descriptions of structure and installation, exhibition plan, perspective sketches and drawings of the exhibition elements such as display cabinets etc.
- one freely chosen 3D curvo-linear ornament (max. 20 x 20cm) made of metal, wood, plaster or papier maché

About the main subject

Conservation and Restoration of Archaeological and Historical Heritage deals with those kind of artefacts that are found underground or underwater. Students learn how to restore archaeological ceramics, iron, copper, glass and organic artefacts as well as objects consisting of numerous different materials. Ground of the various classes is for students to learn how to conserve damaged material, handle cultural artifacts with advanced deterioration properly and document any historical information that can be discovered from the object. Another essential part of the training is to ensure an appropriate documentation of the object and the treatments performed. The course provides insights to the related operations in close collaboration with natural scientists, archaeologists and anthropologists. The study programme focuses on generalisation rather than specialisation. Instead of handling only one material or group of artefacts, students learn how to deal with a variety of archaeological finds in their complexity and in different material combinations. The specialisation occurs either in the masters programme where students can deepen their knowledge and experience in one type of materials or artefacts, or even later while gaining working experience.

Contact information

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