Field Archaeology

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 successful 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. To study Field Archaeology, you need to work on an excavation site for at least nine months; up to three months can be spent in a conservation workshop.

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.
- a description of an archaeological site, written and drawn (site plan, sketches)
About the main subject

Field Archaeology is what most people indeed might call archaeology: the work on archaeological sites, the locating and the documentation of archaeological finds. Specialisation, students learn about the latest natural- and engineering-scientific methods, including cutting edge, but more and more common structure tool for the representation and evaluation of results.

An important part of this subject are many practical projects in Germany as well as in other countries. The students learn localisation with classical and modern prospection methods as well as appropriate and professional ways for the excavation and care of archaeological finds. Further, they will understand how to prepare their results for exhibitions and to develop conservations concepts for cultural heritage.

Since Field Archaeology shares a programme of study with three Conservation/Restoration main subjects, it is only logical that the students broaden their knowledge by engaging in these fields as well. Graduates with a bachelor’s degree can find employment at a State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, research institutes and excavation companies. Graduates with a master’s degree benefit from further immersion into techniques of Landscape Archaeology and the Geoarchaeological and Information Technological Field (GIS). They are often needed in scientific projects and can also further be pursued towards a conferral of a doctorate.

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