

Restoration and Conservation of Art and Artefacts



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This is part of the series “Unusual careers”. Lesser known careers are being researched and compiled by Mrs. Shobha Mathur.

This document provides valid links to various sites. All the links are working and secure as on August 2016.

For any suggestion, amendment, criticism or praise, please contact me at shobham@yahoo.com

Unusual Careers

Restoration and Conservation of Art and Artefacts

Introduction

Art restoration refers not only to the restoration of paintings but also to the restoration of murals, photographs, manuscripts, sculptures, textiles and other art objects.

Art restoration and conservation are sometimes used synonymously, but there is a difference.

Restoration is returning the picture or artifacts to their original state, and **conservation** is trying to keep the piece clean and stopping from deterioration.

In both processes the article is not changed and is kept in its original condition.

Though Archeology, architecture and museology cover part of the restoration process, specific courses are now developed for protection, development, administration and maintenance of all heritage resources - objects, buildings or structures, or environments.

What It does

It requires a solid knowledge of fine art, art history and cultural history, as well as science and chemistry.

Art conservators not only preserve the actual objects, but also create a safe environment to restore, repair, store and transport the object.

Some objects will be kept in storage, while others will be on constant display and they have to be treated accordingly.

The art conservator needs to know how light, temperature, and humidity can affect the object in the long term. Art conservators also advise the museum curators or owners on the best ways to preserve and treat the various objects.

Conservation is needed for other things too, especially for books, Papers, Buildings or structures, pottery and different courses are offered.

Work

Conservators need to have good technical knowledge and skills to be able to restore a piece to its original appearance. They are also required to know the history of the art material since they cannot make any alterations to the artwork, only restore it to its original appearance .

Steps in restoration process are:

1. **Diagnosis:** First the work is analysed visually, chemically or technically to determine the cause and extent of the problem. The technology of infrared and ultraviolet scans, X-ray and microscopic analyses has simplified this job. Accordingly Restorers choose different material and techniques .
2. **Cleaning:** layers of dirt and corrosion from the acidic paint are removed to prevent deterioration and bring out the original colours or contours of the object.
3. **Structural Repairs:** Minor damages such as holes or tears are covered up using different materials so that the appearance of the object is not ruined. A thorough knowledge of different materials and their interaction is needed.
4. **Retouching:** Usually the final stage of restoration work, it calls for immense patience and skills to maintain the authenticity and looks of the painting. Restorers touch up only the damaged areas with neutral tones.

Attributes

The qualities you require in order to be successful in this career are keen powers of observation, eye for detail, aesthetic appreciation, patience, steady hand, willingness to work long and strenuous hours, respect of the artist and a scientific outlook.

Remunerations

The remuneration varies widely. Some institutions employ art restorers on a project-wise basis.

Private collectors also employ art restorers primarily on this basis.

Some institutes also permanently employ art restorers and pay them monthly salaries.

The remuneration depends from project to project and institute to institute. Because art restoration is such a specialised task, the remuneration is generally very good.

If one works abroad, then the remuneration will be excellent as Restorers can earn well. The payment depends on the type of work and time required to finish it. The average income might be within Rs 2-3 lakhs per year and with experience you can expect up to Rs 50,000 a month. The Archaeological Survey pays around Rs 15,500/- a month to beginners.

Eligibility

An undergraduate degree in a field such as fine art, art history, anthropology, cultural studies, fine art, organic chemistry, or science is needed as the first step.

The graduate courses can be up to 3 years. Here the Art graduates learn the sciences and vice versa. These are available mostly in western countries.

In India now we have post graduate and Doctoral courses .

In India many scholarships and grants are available.

After Graduation you can opt for any one of these

- Get a postgraduate degree in art conservation (From western Countries)
- Apply for a graduate position in an art conservation department, where you get on-the-job training.
- Get an internship after your schooling. A career in art conservation often leads to conservation framing and painting restoration.

Job Prospects

The field of art conservation was so far unexplored but with the growing awareness for conservation of art, professional conservators are in great demand these days.

On completion of a course you have an option to work in government jobs or private museums or art galleries. Museums, houses, private galleries or individuals with wide collection of antiques also employ art conservation graduates.

In India trained and skilled art restorers find openings at any of the three National Museum Centers (Restoration Departments) or at private art firms or even start their own practice.

Some other options are teaching, art journalism, archaeology, art dealing (involves trading art materials which requires a good business sense and artistic skills).

Traditional attitudes about art are changing. Earlier broken or damaged objects were considered inauspicious and thrown away. Today, they are considered precious antiques.

This radical change in attitudes has fuelled the art restoration business. Even though restoration takes place at selected places (museums, private art firms), the need for skilled restorers is desperately felt. This is therefore, a promising future for all art-lovers.

Government jobs in art conservation:

Government employs art conservation specialists for state-run institutions, art galleries and museums and some of the examples of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage. The following government agencies are working under the art conservation field:

- Archeological Survey of India, New Delhi

- National Museum, New Delhi

- National Research Laboratory for the Conservation of Cultural Property in India, Lucknow

- National Archives of India

- Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management

- Indira Gandhi Centre for Art and Culture

- National Gallery of Modern Art

- Indian Museum, Kolkata

- Government Museum, Chennai

Main Restoration Centers

A major proportion of the restoration and conservation work in India takes places at the following places:

National Museum Centres

Situated in Lucknow, Delhi and Calcutta, these centers look after their own art works and occasionally those of other state museums. Most of their services are to the government collections and private jobs are only taken if connected to our national heritage.

INTACH

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in New Delhi provides restoration/conservation facilities to private collectors and institutions and charge a nominal fee for their expenses.

Restoration Firms

A few of these firms take on work from private collectors, and may charge high fees for their services.

Private Practice

Some restorers choose to have their own firms, but the high costs of running the business tend to retard their growth and expansion.

Courses

1. NATIONAL MUSEUM INSTITUTE of History of Art, Conservation and Museology

(Deemed to be University)
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

<http://nmi.gov.in/departmentsconservationcourses.htm>

The Department offers full-time MA and PhD programmes in Conservation.

The MA course provides students a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical training to prepare for professional career in conservation of art and cultural heritage. The programme encompasses art-historical, archaeological, curatorial, and scientific studies of the works of art. The coursework combines a variety of teaching and training methodologies including lectures, seminars, essays, reviews, project works and hands-on practical learning to develop essential skills in critical thinking, decision making and communication, assessment and ethical conservation treatment of art and cultural heritage.

The students registered for the PhD programme gain a deeper understanding of a subject area and develop a capacity for independent, focused and systematic approach to learning and to discover best practices, data-driven insights, innovative solutions and latest trends to strengthen professional competence.

2. National Museum, New Delhi

Announce short term courses from time to time. Suitable scholarship are awarded to deserving candidates.

Director

(Conservation)

Sh. S.P. Singh

23016098, 23019272 Ext. 273

All matters related to Conservation of Art Objects.

<http://www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/>

Course on Care of Textiles and other organic materials

Conservation Laboratory, National Museum, New Delhi shall organize its annual programme of "Three months Intensive Training Course on Care of Museum Material from January 27, 2016 to April 26, 2016. The aim of the training is to impart both theoretical and some practical training in the field of conservation of art objects, taking one subject each year.

3. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Post Graduate Diploma in Museology and Conservation (also see museology)

<http://www.csmvs.in/education/2014-07-21-10-10-30/p-g-diploma-in-museology-and-conservation.html>

The CSMVS Museum has introduced a Post Graduate Diploma course in Museology and Conservation with the aim of carving out critically and creatively prospective museum professional with traits and skills related to good museum practices.

The PG Diploma programme has created a niche for itself in the academic and professional realm of Museum management. The Museum has been granted permanent affiliation to the University of Mumbai for conducting this course. The course covers various aspects of collection management, exhibit designing, project implementation, communication aids and leading edge ideas in conservation practices.

Eligibility

Candidates with a Bachelors Degree in Arts, Science, Fine Arts or equivalent examinations recognized by the UGC are eligible to apply for the programme.

Admissions

Selection of candidates is strictly on merit and according to reservation norms of University of Mumbai. Applications are invited through newspaper advertisement.

Fees Structure

Tuition fee INR 3000/-

Registration fee INR 2000/-

Study materials, Library fees INR 1500/-

The fees for International students are INR 32,500/- plus examination fee.

Fees for study excursions, examinations etc will be charged extra as applicable. All the fees are payable at the time of admission. Fees once paid will not be refunded.

4. Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management New Delhi

<http://dihrm.delhigovt.nic.in/>

Master in Conservation, Preservation and Heritage Management

Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management (DIHRM), established by the **Govt. of NCT of Delhi** and affiliated to the **Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University**, is a unique institution in India devoted to the study, Conservation and Preservation of the Heritage. Archaeological monuments, arts and crafts, oral and written literature, living tradition, natural features and environment are all part of our heritage.

The Department aims to create a trained and involved group of Heritage Managers, by providing instruction and research guidance adhering to the modern principles of management along with heritage related disciplines of Conservation, preservation, art, architecture, literary and oral traditions among others. The Institute has tie-ups with many leading Institutes/Foundations/ Organizations in India and abroad.

Admissions & Courses

1. Master in Archaeology and Heritage Management (MAHM)
2. Master in Conservation, Preservation and Heritage Management (MCPHM)

(CET CODE - 141)

Eligibility Conditions: The candidates eligible to apply for the Master Degree Courses should be a Graduate (3 years degree course) in any subject of Humanities, Commerce or Sciences (those appearing in 3rd year final exam may also apply). The student must be a graduate from an Indian or recognised foreign university or have passed an examination recognised as equivalent to a degree and possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed by the University from time to time.

5. Built Heritage Studies and Conservation

The Built Heritage Studies and Conservation Modular Course: As an endeavour to address this issue, three premier organizations in the city, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Heritage Conservation Society (MMR- HCS), the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS Museum) and Sir J.J. College of Architecture came together to jointly institute a certificate course in Built Heritage Studies and Conservation. This is a modular programme to allow in- service personnel, engineers and others from Government organizations to attend particular sections of the course.

The Capacity Development Programme in Built Heritage Studies and Conservation will invite contractors, artisans, construction workers who are engaged with conservation, persons with experience of heritage conservation works, senior students or internship candidates of Architecture, Planning, Civil and Structural Engineering who demonstrate a strong desire to work in the field of conservation and conservation enthusiasts.

The course is structured into six modules, dealing with the following:

Module I: Approaches to Built Heritage Conservation and Damage Mapping

Module II: Materials Conservation I (Lime Plaster, Stucco, Stone and Concrete)

Module III: Structural Conservation, Retrofit and Maintenance

Module IV: Conservation Project Management

Module V: Materials Conservation II (Timber, Metals, Glass, Brick, Terracotta, Ceramic Tiles and Mosaics)

Module VI: Urban Conservation and Enabling Environment.

Each module will be of a five day (40 hours) duration and will be conducted by a module coordinator with a designated team of experts and resource persons. Each module will have dedicated course material and elaborate reference archives. The six modules will be distributed throughout the year, from August to April, at regular intervals.

Participants will be given participation certificates for attending individual modules. A diploma will be jointly awarded by the MMR-HCS, the CSMVS and Sir J.J. College of Architecture to participants who successfully complete all six modules. Diploma applicants have to submit written assignments at the end of each module. They are also required to successfully complete a written examination at the end of all six modules to be eligible for the diploma.

6. National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural property

<http://www.nrlc.gov.in/english/training.htm>

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Certificate Course on Conservation of Cultural Property

Since its inception, training has been one of the most significant activities of NRLC. Training programs on both curative and preventive aspects of conservation are conducted regularly.

Till date a large number of professionals from Indian museums, archives and archaeology departments besides professionals from south and south-east Asian countries have benefited from these programs.

NRLC has air-conditioned lecture halls and state of the art laboratory facilities for conducting different types of training programs. It maintains excellent rapport with other cultural institutions of the country. Its curative conservation training programs concentrate mainly on stone and metal artifacts, library and archival materials, paintings on paper, canvas and wall, although it has facilities for wood, bone and ivory also.

The application form can be downloaded from the website: www.nrlc.gov.in. The filled application should reach the Director, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Sector E/3, Aliganj, Lucknow – 226 024 by the respective last date. In service applicants should send their applications with attested copies of the certificates and degree/s through proper channel only.

For further queries, if any, contact Head of Office, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Sector E/3, Aliganj, Lucknow – 226 024. The contact numbers are 91 522 2335359, 91 522 2333912, Fax No. 91 522 2328930.

Head, Training Division

N.R.L.C

E/3, Aliganj, Lucknow-226 024 (India)

Tel: +91-0522-2335359

Fax: 0522-2372378

Every year some special programs for the museology students of different universities are also conducted by the laboratory.

NRLC also conducts a number of specialized workshops on care and conservation of different types of cultural property. The duration of the workshop varies from 3-10 days based on the type of program.

7. Centre For Museology & Conservation

<http://uniraj.ac.in/Departments/centermuseo&conservation/mcur.html>

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

The Centre for Museology and Conservation was established in 2006. Academic Programmes of the Centre includes Museum Management, Collection and Research documentation of Heritage sites, Elements of [ndian art, architecture, Archaeology, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Folk art and culture, Anthropology, Identification and conservation of Cultural heritage of the country.

Master's Programms

MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Seats:20

Duration: two years

Eligibility: Students witha Bachelors degree (B.A/B.Sc./B.Com.) with minimum 48% marks are eligible for Admission.

P.G. Diploma in Heritage Management and Tourism

Seats:30

Duration - one year

Eligibility: Students with Bachelor Degree in any faculty with minimum percentage of 48% in under graduate course. The candidates who are persuing P.G. Course can also apply for this course. A relaxation of 5% marks will be given to SC/ST/OBC and who are associated with museum and Tourism area.

Fees: - S.F.S./ Rs. 5000/-

Ph.D. Programme:

8. The Centre for Heritage Management

Ahmedabad University ,Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Master of Management studies (heritage management)

<http://chm.ahduni.edu.in/academics/master-of-management-studies-heritage-management/>

It is a two-year programme that will integrate the technical expertise of heritage conservation with management skills in its academic curriculum, and impart the same to prospective heritage professionals.

Admission Criteria:

Minimum required qualifications are:

- A Bachelor's degree in any discipline (with a minimum of 50% marks) and an interest in heritage management.
- Students in the final year of their Bachelors degree studies may also apply if they are appearing for the final exams by June 2016, and the final results can be submitted by **September 30, 2016**
- Working professionals as well as International students are welcome to apply under the same criteria.

A call for second round of admissions for only a few seats available are currently on. The entrance test as well as personal interviews for this second round will take place between **12th – 14th July 2016** for eligible candidates.

The last date of receiving completed application form along with application fee and required documentation is **July 7, 2016**

The programme's admission policy and application form can now be downloaded from the following links.

Downloads:

- [Prospectus for Master of Management Studies \(Heritage Management\) 2016-2018](#)
- [Admission Policy for Master of Management Studies \(Heritage Management\) 2016-2018](#)
- [Application Form for Master of Management Studies \(Heritage Management\) 2016-2018](#)

CENTRE FOR HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

(Ahmedabad University)

Asmita Bhavan

Principal SV Desai Marg,

Opposite H.L Commerce College, Near Commerce Six Roads,

Navrangapura,

Ahmedabad – 380009

GUJARAT, INDIA

Contact: +91 79 26308523

E-mail: info.chm@ahduni.edu.in

Manuscriptology

Manuscriptology is a branch of study in Archaeology about history or Literature by means of very old Palm-leaf manuscript's, Rare Paper Manuscript's, Epigraphy and Underwater archaeology.

9. Banaras Hindu University

<http://www.bhu.ac.in/arts/lis/index.html>

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

M.A. in Manuscriptology and Palaeography, Postgraduate Diploma in Manuscriptology

Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, offers Two year Post Graduation Course in Manuscriptology and Paleography. It will be governed and conducted by the Rules and Ordinances of the Special Course of Study as approved by the Academic Council of the University. The course aims to provide education & training of handling Manuscripts – its storage, preservation, conservation, study & use.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements: Bachelor Degree of this University or equivalent Degree from other University with 50% marks, relaxation in case of foreign students with special permission of the University and Admission Committee of the Course. The Honours subject at B.A. (Hons.) Level should be Indian Languages/Oriental Languages/History/AIHC/Philosophy/History of Arts/ Linguistics. The reservation of seats for the admission to this Course shall be according to the University Rules.

Duration of Course: 2 Years (4 Semesters).

No of seats: Twenty Seats (20)

Semester Examinations

There will be 4 semester examinations during the course of study. In a session, 2 semester examination will be held at the end of semester i.e. December and April. There will be 4 Papers, each of 100 marks in every semester and candidate will have to give 3 test /sessionals in every paper which will be of 30 marks. Semester system of the university follows Grading System in lieu of traditional marking

system. There will be 5 Credits in each paper, 20 Credits (total) in each semester.

University of Mumbai

<http://mu.ac.in/portal/faculties/arts/languages-linguistics-literature/departement-of-sanskrit/>

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Department of Sanskrit

Certificate Course in Manuscriptology

Diploma in Manuscriptology

Advanced Diploma in Manuscriptology

The University of Mumbai is one of the oldest and premier Universities in India. The Department of Sanskrit was established in the year 1963. It has well-experienced teaching faculty which undertakes research activities in their respective field of research. The Department participates in various research activities under the University with Potential for Excellence Schemes.

Certificate course in Manuscriptology- Rs. 1040/- (Including Exam Fee)

Diploma course in Manuscriptology-Rs. 1540/-(Including Exam Fee)

Advanced Diploma Course in Manuscriptology - Rs. 2040/-(Including Exam Fee)

For General Enquiry Contact

Fort Campus: 22708700.

Kalina Campus: 26543000 / 26543300.

Contact Address

Registrar
University of Mumbai
M.G. Road
Fort
Mumbai-400 032

10. INTACH - The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Heritage Academy

<http://heritage.intach.org/>

Short courses and Practical sessions

INTACH Heritage Academy offers short courses on a range of issues and themes related to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage. They announce such courses periodically.

INTACH Heritage Academy
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
71, Lodhi Estate
New Delhi 110 003
Direct Line: 011-24627371

Conservation Training in the U.K.

Professional education and Degree available outside India.

In UK 3 year courses are available in Fine Art Conservation as a PhD or MA degree.

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11. The Courtauld Institute, London –

<http://courtauld.ac.uk/>

- PGDIP IN THE CONSERVATION OF EASEL PAINTINGS
- MA BUDDHIST ART: HISTORY AND CONSERVATION
- MA CONSERVATION OF WALL PAINTING

Fees is from 16800 Pounds to 20000 Ponds.

<http://courtauld.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>

12. The Hamilton Kerr Institute, Cambridge.

<http://www.hki.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/courses>

The Hamilton Kerr Institute is a leading centre for teaching and research in the Conservation of Fine Art.

The three year Post Graduate Diploma provides a combination of academic teaching and supervised studio work. The Institute also offers internships to graduates of academic courses to gain further practical experience and an opportunity for research.

13. "Training for Conservation,"

<http://cool.conservation-us.org/byorg/abbey/an/an10/an10-1/an10-114.html>

The United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) has put out an eight-page publication called "Training for Conservation," which can be had for fifty pence from UKIC, c/o Conservation Department, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1P 4RC.

It lists 59 institutions, most of which deal with training in museum conservation.

Eight of them offer training in library and archival conservation:

1. Brunel Technical College (Dept. of Printing & Graphic Communication, Davy Houses, Ashley Down, Bristol BS7 9BU) has a one-year program in bookbinding and restoration, leading to a certificate or diploma. It also has a two-year program in paper and document conservation, leading to an advanced certificate.
2. Camberwell School of Art and Crafts (Peckham Road, London SE5 8UF) also has two programs, both two-year. The paper conservation program leads to a DATEC diploma, and the "Prints and Drawings--Archive/Library" program leads to a DATEC Higher Diploma Certificate.
3. Colchester Institute (School of Printing, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex C03 3LL) has a 2-year program in book conservation that leads to a diploma (towards EARAC Diploma in Design).
4. Gateshead Technical College (Durham Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE9 5BN) has a two-year program in prints, drawings and watercolors, leading to a DATEC Higher Diploma.
5. Guildford County College of Technology (Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1EZ) has a two-year (full time) program in bookbinding and book restoration, leading to a diploma.
6. Lincolnshire College of Art (Lindum Road, Lincoln) has a program or programs, two years in length, in book and paper gilding, lace, and replica making, leading to a TEC Diploma.
7. The London College of Printing (Bookbinding & Print Finishing, Processes Department, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6SB) has four programs:
 8. Finishing processes (3-5 days; leads to a College Certificate) [Can this be right?]
 9. Book & Document (30 weeks part time, i.e. Thursday pm; leads to a certificate of attendance)
 10. Craft bookbinding (1 year; leads to a certificate)
 11. Extended study in above (1 year; leads to a certificate)

12. Society of Archivists (West Yorkshire Record Office, Registry of Deeds Building, Newstead Road, Wakefield, Yorkshire WF1 2DE) has a course in lamination and binding of archival material that takes 24 weeks over two to three years. It leads to a certificate.