

ACADEMIC POLICY & QUALITY OFFICE

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MSc Historic Conservation

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by School of the Built Environment

Date approved:	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2019

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
July 2016	Transferred to new template, update graduate attribute from global to active citizenship	CMA Compliance, Update to graduate attribute
October 2016	General edit	To reflect changes to Programme Handbook
April 2018	General edits and updates	Periodic review

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award:	MSc
Programme title:	Historic Conservation
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PG Diploma; PG Certificate in Historic Conservation
Brookes course code:	MSC-HIC/PL78
UCAS code:	P008083
JACS code:	K400
HECoS code:	
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Full-time: 1 year Part-time: 2 years
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	No benchmarks for post graduate programmes, however this programme's aims and outcomes conform to the QAA descriptor qualification at M level set out in the NQF
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)• Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)• Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) – provides partial exemption from the educational requirements of Membership to the RTPI.
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The Historic Conservation programme has been an innovation not only in conservation education, but also in the relationship of Oxford Brookes University with the University of Oxford. The syllabus was jointly planned by the two institutions and validated in 1990. It became recognised by the Council and the General Board of Studies of the University of Oxford from 19th December 1990. Subsequently both parties have offered certificate programmes based on components of the MSc/PG Dip.

The Brookes programme is aimed at those who wish to develop their knowledge and skills in historic conservation, as well as their abilities in independent study and research. It examines the principles, procedures and practices relating to the conservation of historic structures and sites, within the context of the wider built environment and the processes of building design, planning and construction. It draws upon a wide range of disciplines, from the arts and humanities to the social and natural sciences, and from the academic and theoretical to the professional and technical. It also embraces a variety of perspectives, reflecting the extent to which conservation practice has become entwined in the construction, expression and contestation of modern-day cultural identity.

The programme follows the guidelines on Education and Training ratified by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the Areas of Competence defined by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC). The multidisciplinary nature of the course means that it attracts a wide variety of students from a range of academic and professional backgrounds. There is no 'typical' conservation practitioner, and those with training and experience in architecture, planning, surveying, engineering, construction, geography, history, archaeology, museology, literature, the fine arts and many other fields all make distinctive contributions. A particular strength of the Brookes programme is the way it encourages debate amongst the diverse student group, helping its graduates to become reflective participants in the shared enterprise of historic conservation.

The MSc/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate programmes aim to develop students' knowledge, skills and critical abilities in conservation, within the context of the wider built environment and the processes encompassed by urban and rural planning. In particular, it aims to:

- Develop a critical appreciation of the historical, cultural, intellectual, political and economic background to the activity of conservation;
- Provide an in-depth understanding of the principles, procedures laws, policies and practices of conservation in the context of development management and the town planning process;
- Develop basic skills in the survey, analysis and recording of individual historic structures and sites;
- Provide an in-depth understanding of appropriate methods and techniques of repair, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- Facilitate understanding of those features of historic structures and sites that merit preservation;
- Enable students to develop and refine their research skills in the collection, critical analysis and presentation of information in the context of historic conservation.
- Provide students with an opportunity to pursue detailed, extended and specialised study in historic conservation.

Please refer to the following link to view the staff profiles within the School of the Built Environment:

<http://planning.brookes.ac.uk/staff/index.html>

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the cultural, aesthetic, social, political, economic, and environmental values that underpin current theory and practice of conservation and regeneration in the historic environment.
2. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of current UK laws, policies and central government guidance in respect of the historic environment, and a critical awareness of their impact and interpretation by local authorities.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and characteristics of traditional building materials, their decay and methods of repair.
4. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the development of the historic environment, including an appreciation of the characteristics of the principal building types and styles from various periods.
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the financial and economic aspects of conservation including the use/re-use of historic buildings and the regeneration of historic areas, along with knowledge of the UK property market and building contracts.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of the principles of townscape analysis and urban design.
7. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the wider context of conservation, including the public policy background and the various agencies involved in the process, and an understanding of how conservation and regeneration objectives are realised within this framework.
8. Critically assess the condition of historic buildings and appraise alternative techniques and materials for their repair and maintenance, and the extent of intervention necessary.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

9. Identify the special significance of a building or site by carrying out research, analysis and recording using a variety of techniques including archival/documentary searches, photography, measured survey and drawing.
10. Develop the techniques necessary for the production of an academic dissertation and in doing so make a contribution to the body of knowledge in the subject.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

11. Critically appraise new interventions in historic contexts and formulate design guidance for historic areas.
12. Demonstrate self-management, IT, problem solving and team working skills

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

13. Communicate design concepts using both graphic and written skills.

14. Demonstrate effective presentation techniques – verbal, written and graphical.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

15. Demonstrate the effective sharing of ideas and procedures within a multicultural group of people and evaluate case studies taken from an international set of examples.

16. Demonstrate the ability to compare practices internationally in relation to the international principles and educational guidelines set down by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
HCON7001 /P37800	Historical Studies I	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7002 /P37801	Historical Studies II	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7003 /P37802	Building Construction & Repair	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7004 /P37803	Historic Building Analysis and Recording	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7005 /P37808	Conservation Economics	10	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7006 /P37809	Design for Conservation	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
HCON7007 /P37850	Conservation and Regeneration: Theory law and practice	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
URBD7009/ P32078	Research Methods	10	7	Compulsory for MSc	100% coursework
HCON7008 /P37899	Historic Conservation Dissertation	50	7	Compulsory for MSc	100% coursework

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

PG Cert = HCON7007/P37850, HCON7003/P37802 and HCON7004/P37803 = 60 credits

PG Dip = HCON7001/P37800, HCON7002/P37801, HCON7003/P37802, HCON7004/P37803, HCON7007/P37850, HCON7005/P37808 and HCON7006/P37809 = 130 credits

MSc = HCON7001/P37800, HCON7002/P37801, HCON7003/P37802, HCON7004/P37803, HCON7007/P37850, HCON7005/P37808 and HCON7006/P37809, URBD7009/P32078 and HCON7008/P37899 = 190 credits

Each module of the programme is assessed individually, generally on the quality of written work, and to some extent on verbal presentations. Assessment methods may include essays, project work and verbal presentations, workshops, simulations, and practical exercises. In keeping with the programme emphasis on practical application, all assessment is based on coursework.

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

For full accreditation, students must pass all modules required for the MSc.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

This programme uses a wide variety of teaching, learning and assessment methods, appropriate to the knowledge and skills needed; a student-centred approach is an important feature. While most modules have a lecture 'core', this is normally supported by discussion, presentations, projects and practical sessions. The project base is a highly appropriate vehicle for historic conservation education and all modules use real-life case studies. As the programme evolves, increasing emphasis is placed on students managing group activities, decision making and presentations. There is emphasis in all the coursework on presentation and communication skills and report writing

Students will undertake the collection, analysis and presentation of data (quantitative and qualitative, socio-economic and environmental, primary and secondary), through coursework, projects and the dissertation. Throughout the course students will develop a wide variety of professional, technical and transferable skills.

All modules are assessed separately with an overall pass mark of 50%. The modules are assessed in a variety of ways, including essays, reports, individual and group project work, and the individual dissertation. Further details for each module assessment are published in the individual module syllabi and are guided by the Brookes Assessment Compact. Each module handbook enlarges on the syllabus and provides information about the programme, details, teaching methods, coursework schedules, assessment regimes, reading lists, etc.

Most of the assessment is on the basis of coursework. Practitioners operate in a wide variety of agencies across the public, private and voluntary sectors, and a comprehensive array of skills and knowledge is required. The ability to communicate information to different clients and interest groups is also important, and clarity and effectiveness of presentation is thus an important assessment criterion. The methods of assessment are designed to evaluate skills in design, graphic presentation, quantitative methods, report writing, analysis and verbal presentation, as well as factual knowledge and theoretical understanding.

The five Specific Graduate Attributes (see Section 3 above) are attained through the Learning Outcomes associated with the various programme modules. Academic Literacy will enable graduating students to acquire the knowledge and skills associated needed for specialist professional work in the historic environment. Research Literacy will enable graduating students to undertake research relating to conservation issues in an academically rigorous manner. Critical Self-Awareness and Personal Literacy will enable graduating students to reflect on the role of conservation and development professionals in society. Digital and Information Literacy will enable graduating students to obtain information associated with planning, conservation and development issues from a wide range of sources. Global Citizenship will enable graduating students to reflect on and evaluate the differing cultural and international approaches to conservation and planning.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior qualifications necessary for entry to the programme, including English language requirements:

- A first class or upper second class honours degree, OR

- An appropriate professional background and experience in historic conservation and the built environment

AND

- English as a first Language or IELTS 6.0/TOEFL 600/275 (paper/computer) or other appropriate evidence of English language skills, both oral and written, that meet University and programme requirements. For IELTS, students are expected to achieve 6.5 in each component.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

The programme has close links with the professional conservation world, both in the UK and – increasingly – further afield. The modules draw upon a large pool of external speakers, most of them senior specialists in the sector, and students make further professional contacts through the programme of field trips and workshops, and in the course of researching their assignments and dissertations. The MSc course has now been in existence for a quarter of a century, and its graduates have gone on to work in a range of roles across the sector and around the world. Many remain in contact with the programme, returning to Brookes for social events or as visiting lecturers. Such close connections with practice are a great advantage to those taking the course: the curriculum is continually enriched by the insights and experience of active practitioners, while graduates and visiting speakers can often help current students to engage in placements, volunteering and other forms of work-based learning

Completion of the programme may lead to a range of career opportunities, including:

- Local government planning departments, particularly conservation officer posts
- Planning, property and built environment consultancies such as Alan Baxter Associates, Montague Evans and CgMs
- Amenity societies such as the SPAB, Georgian Group and Victorian Society
- Campaign groups such as SAVE Britain's Heritage
- National heritage agencies such as Historic England, Historic Scotland and CADW
- Charities and building preservation trusts such as the National Trust, Landmark Trust and Vivat Trust
- Conservation architecture practices, building firms and specialist contractors
- Heritage education advisors
- Historic property insurance
- World Heritage Sites, Historic Royal Palaces and the Prince's Regeneration Trust
- International conservation bodies such as UNESCO and ICOMOS