

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION  
[MSc(Cons)]**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)  
(These regulations are applicable to students who are admitted to the Master of Science in Conservation in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter)*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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**Admission requirements**

**CONS1**

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Master of Science in Conservation, [MSc(Cons)] candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of this University or from a comparable institution accepted for this purpose; motivated candidates with a degree in other disciplines with relevant experience may also apply, subject to approval by the Faculty on a case-by-case basis;
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required; and
  - (d) demonstrate a good command of spoken and written English as a prerequisite for acceptance.
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**Qualifying examination**

**CONS2**

- (a) The qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the prescribed courses of study.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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**Requirements for graduation**

**CONS3**

To be eligible for the award of the MSc(Cons) degree, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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## **Period of study**

### **CONS4**

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study, or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Faculty.

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## **Completion of curriculum**

### **CONS5**

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) enrol for courses of a total of 72 credits in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses;
  - (c) follow instruction in the courses prescribed, and complete satisfactorily all coursework set either as assessment tasks or practical work;
  - (d) attend all field trips, including the mandatory self-funded international field trip that is part of the two studio courses, and complete all assigned field work; and
  - (e) satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment.
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## **Assessment**

### **CONS6**

- (a) Every examinable assignment must be submitted within the stipulated deadline or within a final extended deadline approved by the Programme Director in consultation with the Internal Examiners.
- (b) Candidates who have failed in not more than two courses in any semester if they are full-time, or in any two consecutive semesters if they are part-time, shall be permitted to make up for the failed course in the following manner as determined by the Board of Examiners:
  - i. undergoing reassessment in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester; or
  - ii. resubmitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
  - iii. repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
  - iv. for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
- (c) Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provision of General Regulation G12 if they have:
  - i. failed to satisfy the examiners at a first attempt in three courses or more in any semester if they are full-time, or in any two consecutive semesters if they are part-time; or
  - ii. failed to satisfy the examiners in any one course at the second attempt; or
  - iii. exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in regulation CONS4 of the degree.

**CONS7**

There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

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**Grading system****CONS8**

Individual courses shall be graded according to letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follow:

Grade	Standard	Grade Point
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

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**Assessment results****CONS9**

On successful completion of the MSc(Cons) curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION  
[MScCons]**

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

*(These syllabuses are applicable to candidates who are admitted to the Master of Science in Conservation in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter)*

## **1. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE**

The Master of Science in Conservation [MSc(Cons)] curriculum shall normally require one academic year of full-time study, or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study, or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

The MSc(Cons) curriculum offers two streams of specialization that focus on different expertise of the conservation profession: 1) Conservation Planning and Management, 2) Design for Conservation. Applicants to the programme will choose one of the two streams as their specialization in their application.

To qualify for the MSc(Cons) degree, all candidates are required to complete a total of 72 credits of courses with a combination of core courses, stream courses, and electives. Candidates are required to follow courses of instruction and satisfy the examiners in each course.

**Core courses** (required to be taken by all candidates):

CONS8120	Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)
CONS8103	Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8124	Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)
CONS8117	Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)
CONS8216	Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8215	Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)

**Stream courses** (required courses for each stream of study):

Stream 1: Conservation Planning and Management

CONS8220	Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)
CONS8222	Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)

Stream 2: Design for Conservation

CONS8221	Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)
CONS8223	Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)

As part of the requirements of the two studio courses, CONS8220 and CONS8221, students will join a self-funded international field trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The field trip may take place at the end of the fall semester or during reading week of the spring semester.

**Elective courses:**

Candidates are required to select and complete two 6-credit elective courses to be chosen from a set of cross-listed courses offered by other programmes in the Faculty of Architecture. Candidates' selection of elective courses shall be approved by the Programme Director.

Suggested electives offered by the Division of Landscape Architecture include the following:

CONS8109	Cultural Landscapes (6)
CONS8224	Digital Heritage: Theory and Application (6)
CONS8222	Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6) <i>(for students in the Design for Conservation stream)</i>
CONS8223	Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6) <i>(for students in the Conservation Planning &amp; Management stream)</i>

**2. ASSESSMENT**

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy all the assessments and the relevant requirements prescribed in the Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science in Conservation.

**3. COURSE LIST****Full-time mode**

The first semester is dedicated to the establishment of a common theoretical framework for candidates of both streams to acquire foundation knowledge in conservation. The second semester focuses on advanced skills fundamental to the development of expertise in the chosen stream of specialization. The summer semester is dedicated to a piece of independent and original research work.

**Part-time mode**

The curriculum of part-time mode is spread over a normative period of two academic years. The first year and first semester of the second year of study aims to prepare candidates with the foundation knowledge before they enter the chosen stream of specialization in the second semester of year two. The summer semester of the second year is dedicated to a piece of independent and original research. Candidates are required to follow the course taking pattern outlined below. Alternatively, candidates may select their courses in a different schedule, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

- i. Take the following core courses and one elective course in the first semester of the first and second years:

CONS8120	Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)
CONS8103	Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)
CONS8124	Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)
CONS8117	Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)
	Elective One (6 credits)

- ii. Take the following core course and one elective course in the second semester of the first year:

CONS8216 Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)  
Elective Two (6 credits)

- iii. Take the stream courses in the second semester of the second year:

Stream 1: Conservation Planning and Management

CONS8220 Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)  
CONS8222 Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)

Stream 2: Design for Conservation

CONS8221 Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)  
CONS8223 Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)

- iv. Take the thesis course in the summer semester of the second year:

CONS8215 Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)

**Core Courses:**

**CONS8120 Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theories and practices of built heritage conservation. Students learn about the histories of the conservation movement in the local and global contexts and become familiar with terminologies and key concepts, such as conservation, restoration, historicity, authenticity, integrity, world heritage, shared heritage, intangible heritage, adaptive reuse, etc. Attention is paid to cross-cultural comparisons of different types and scales of built heritage and their associated social, cultural and economic values, with a particular focus on Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Case studies are used to illustrate the processes of understanding tangible and intangible values of heritage buildings, sites and landscapes, the relationship between natural and cultural heritage, as well as the growing importance of community engagement and heritage stewardship. Students are required to prepare a Statement of Significance as part of a conservation plan using a values-based assessment approach.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**CONS8103 Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)**

This course introduces the guiding principles and legal framework for heritage conservation. Through lectures and case studies, students become familiar with the doctrines and terminologies of international charters and regional legislation and examine and assess their relevance and application in the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Students learn how policies and legislation may support, assist and constrain the conservation of heritage and to critique the laws and their enforcement. The course also introduces the professional responsibilities and duties embedded in legal and policy frameworks and discusses ethical standards and codes of conduct related to cultural heritage management.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8124 Conservation and Assessment Techniques (6 credits)**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the techniques of documentation and assessment in heritage conservation. Students gain knowledge and experience in documenting a number of built heritage sites of different scales, typologies, and construction technologies. Through multiple visits, they learn how to produce records and communicate accurate observations in a precise format and repeatable method. The course also introduces the basic principles of material science and construction techniques, enabling students to determine the conditions of built heritage and make recommendations for their conservation. Students learn to produce a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report as part of course requirements. (Note: this course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8117 Methods of Heritage Research and Interpretation (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the principles and methods of heritage research and interpretation. The course is organized around a series of intensive workshops over the semester. Each workshop is dedicated to the learning of a specific methodology, including cultural mapping, heritage interpretation, and the use of archival sources and materials. Through individual and group assignments and presentations, students acquire the necessary skills to carry out their studio projects and conservation thesis later on in the programme. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8216 Critical Issues in Heritage Conservation (6 credits)**

This course explores contemporary issues in the field of heritage and conservation. Through reading discussion, students engage in debates about emergent global challenges to heritage conservation, such as climate change, pandemics, accelerating urbanization and tourism development, and consider the different ways in which heritage may contribute to achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students are encouraged to reflect critically on the concepts of sustainable development, heritage stewardship, the roles of science and technologies in conservation, and the incorporation of rights-based approaches and integration of traditional knowledge into conservation processes. The course offers students the opportunity to identify and develop a topic in preparation for their Conservation Thesis.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8220 Conservation Planning and Management Studio (12 credits)**

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a full conservation management plan for a specific heritage site focusing on management techniques and issues unique to conservation projects in Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. The course explores the responsibilities of heritage practitioners in carrying out conservation work from project planning

and implementation to post-project management and maintenance. Emphasis is placed on ensuring the realization of the rights of local communities and incorporation of traditional knowledge systems in the management of heritage. Through individual and team-based projects, students consolidate their understanding of the entire conservation process and learn how to apply a values-based approach to conservation planning and management. For each assignment, students are asked to support their decisions with arguments, develop their analytical and advocacy skills through milestone presentations to a panel of invited reviewers that include professional experts and community stakeholders. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits and a self-funded international field trip to an outstanding heritage site in the region).

Prerequisites: CONS8120, CONS8103, CONS8124

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8221 Design for Conservation Studio (12 credits)**

Students of this course engage with practical problem-solving exercises in the design and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, sites, settlements, and landscapes in the context of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Building on the knowledge acquired in earlier core courses (i.e. preservation, restoration, adaptive reuse, new additions to a historic site, community engagement and heritage stewardship, etc.), students research and analyse a specific study area, define major problems and opportunities in conservation planning, and formulate contextually and culturally-sensitive design propositions. Supporting the main design project, several training sessions are organized to equip students with a range of technical skills, including aerial photography, photogrammetry, and GIS mapping techniques. For each assignment, students are asked to support their decisions with arguments, develop their analytical and advocacy skills through milestone presentations to a panel of invited reviewers that include professional experts and community stakeholders. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits and a self-funded international field trip to an outstanding heritage site in the region).

Prerequisites: CONS8120, CONS8103, CONS8124

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8222 Heritage Economics and Sustainable Development (6 credits)**

This course introduces basic economic and social theories that are relevant to heritage conservation, including property rights, cultural and social capital, the governance of common-pool resources, and urban development processes that are relevant in assessing the interrelated values of built heritage assets. It examines how conservation, as an increasingly important component of economic and cultural policy in different parts of the world, may be harnessed to achieve sustainable development and resource management. Students acquire techniques to assess the economic viability and the costs and benefits of different types of conservation initiatives.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8223 Materials and Technologies in Conservation (6 credits)**

This course allows students to gain insights into the scientific and construction principles used in conservation and restoration techniques. Students acquire fundamental knowledge of the processes of material deterioration and structural performance of historic buildings. They learn how to assess

their conditions, diagnose defects and common problems, and to make suitable recommendations for their conservation. Through visits to local heritage sites and factories, the course also introduces different types of historical construction techniques and traditional building crafts. As part of the requirements of this course, student produce their own restoration and maintenance specifications for a chosen heritage site. (Note: This course includes multiple site visits).

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8215 Conservation Thesis (Capstone experience) (12 credits)**

This capstone course enables students to demonstrate competency in a chosen area of specialization through independent research. The thesis may take the form of an original piece of research, an original design work, or a laboratory experiment with theoretical or practical applications within the framework of conservation. Topics are chosen according to their relevance to students' interests and capabilities and their contribution to an intellectual debate in the field. Each student works under the supervision of a teaching faculty and meets with his/her supervisor at least once a week throughout the course for consultation and guidance. To complete the course, students are required to present their findings to a panel of reviewers that include professional experts and members of community stakeholders in a formal presentation, which allows students to demonstrate their capacity to advocate for conservation whilst providing a transparent platform for collegial debates that enable ongoing progress of the profession. Completed theses will be made available to the public as a repository of knowledge on heritage conservation in Hong Kong, Greater China, and East and Southeast Asia (Note: This course includes a practical training component relevant to the students' chosen thesis projects).

Prerequisites: CONS8220 *or* CONS8221

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **Elective Courses:**

#### **CONS8109 Cultural Landscapes (6 credits)**

This course introduces the concept of cultural landscapes and its relevance to heritage conservation. The course examines cultural landscapes as defined in multiple disciplines such as cultural geography, environmental history, and landscape archaeology, as well as its practical implications within international heritage frameworks. Students learn to identify and assess different types of cultural landscapes and explore new ways of mapping landscape sites within the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. The course also enables students to address concerns for the protection of the natural environment and conceive strategies for achieving sustainable development through the conservation of cultural landscapes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **CONS8224 Digital Heritage: Theory and Application (6 credits)**

This course introduces the common tools for the digitization of heritage assets. Students become familiar with the requirements, processes and comparable advantages of different 2D and 3D digitization techniques for built heritage such as surveying, laser scanning, and photogrammetry. Through readings and in-class discussions, the course also enables students to reflect critically

on the recent 'digital turn' in heritage studies and the ethical implications of 'heritage digitization' and 'digital heritagization'.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

28 December 2021