

CORES - Ph.D. Course in the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

The mission of DCR is to carry out teaching and research that contributes to the restoration and preservation of cultural property (both ancient and modern). By creating better access, through an increase in knowledge, and through preservation, Portuguese cultural heritage has the potential for stimulating jobs and economic growth, [and] improving social and territorial cohesion. Improved conservation and access will be only possible by promoting a fully interdisciplinary approach with state-of-the-art equipment and expertise. The existing laboratories and studios provide facilities for high quality research in conservation science as well as for practical restoration. Years of national and international collaboration have resulted in a network of cross-disciplinary partnerships and collaborations producing exciting research projects, which in turn create unique opportunities for the training of doctoral level students.

Interdisciplinary research at the DCR ranges across a broad spectrum, including the techniques of artistic production (historic through to contemporary), art history, chemistry, biology and conservation materials and processes. Amongst current staff are researchers in REQUIMTE, VICARTE, IICT and the IHA. These research units are classified by FCT as Excellent or Very Good. Researchers from IEM and ITN are called upon to participate in their field of expertise where needed: in seminars or in the form PhD supervision. The DCR doctoral course results in highly qualified professionals who will promote and contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage, thus ensuring its availability to future generations.

ABOUT

"Cultural property constitutes one of the basic elements of civilization and national culture" (UNESCO, 1970).

In recognition of the fundamental societal and economic role played by cultural heritage, the Department of Conservation and Restoration (DCR) is dedicated to training professionals in this discipline to the highest standards. In a field where science, practice and history are completely interdependent, it is critical that PhD level research, while deeply embedded in science, is truly cross-disciplinary.

The doctoral course in The Conservation of Cultural Heritage provides students with training across disciplines, which range from the natural and exact sciences to the social and human sciences and encourages them to pursue inter-disciplinary research which exposes them to different methodologies. The primary purpose of the PhD programme is to prepare and support the student in undertaking and presenting a substantial piece of original research.

PhD proposals are designed such that they can be completed within four years. The awarding of the degree is decided on the basis of the research as presented in the PhD dissertation and on the candidate's performance in the oral examination.

The PhD Programme

After a 30 ECTS curricular programme, the PhD course is taught primarily by individual supervision. The curriculum is designed for each students' specific topic, to provide them with a set of core and advanced courses. The core course, *The Preparation of the Dissertation Project*, can include courses in modern methods of analysis, technical art history, and/or art history depending on the background of the student. This provides them with a selection of tools for their research that conforms to their interests and strengths. In addition, students are expected to undertake training in generic skills appropriate for conservators and conservation scientists, and to attend research seminars and workshops. Training periods (variable in length) in European or international laboratories are also encouraged. Within the NOVA Doctoral School there is substantial professional training available in transferable skills such as entrepreneurship, self-awareness and teambuilding, which is optional for all PhD students. In addition, there is an excellent range of opportunities for teacher-training at the bachelor and masters level in conservation.

Curricular structure

Upon acceptance into the Programme, students meet with their tutors to formalise their curricula. They choose the courses relevant to their proposed research (see below) and identify supervisors. Since the dissertation is the focal point of this research-oriented degree, the majority of the student's time will be focused on research and preparation of the dissertation. The total number of credits (ECTS) after completion of the PhD degree will be 240 ECTS (four years).

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMME (30 ECTS)

Thirty credits of coursework are required, graded in a scale from 1 to 20, covering the following topics: *Preparation of the Dissertation Project* (17 ECTS), *Research Seminars* (3 ECTS), *Free Choice* (5 ECTS), and *Advanced Studies* (5 ECTS). The credits are designed to build on students' previous coursework and to enhance their research capabilities. Courses can be taken both on and off campus to promote a cross-disciplinary focus.

The core course, *The Preparation of the Dissertation Project*, is designed according to each students' research topic and background. The evaluation of this course is made by the candidate's advisory committee (AC), see section 6.1 below, and is based on an oral presentation of the research project followed by a discussion with the examiners (in this case two of the AC external members). Depending on their background, for this core course, students may also be required to take graduate level courses in Modern Methods of Analysis, Technical Art History and Art History. This ensures that all students are familiar with basic procedures for research design, data handling and analysis needed to conduct dissertation research in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage.

Research Seminars is a course offered in two contiguous semesters, and is composed of seminars to present research in-progress and also includes lectures by invited expert scientists/conservators in relevant fields. The focus is cross-disciplinary with lectures on cutting-edge research in conservation or relevant fields. The course evaluation is made in combination with *The Preparation of the Dissertation Project*. The Research Seminars unit is designed according to each candidate's interests and needs and can include the

following categories: 1) In-focus (topics selected and presented by the student); 2) Core subjects in the field of conservation and restoration; and 3) Classical studies. As well, students may choose from a wide range of seminars and topics offered on-campus at UNL, or by partner institutions.

Free Choice is a 5-credit course selected by the student, which can take place on or off campus or in any other faculty or university. The selection is made in consultation with the students' supervisors.

Finally, *Advanced Studies* (5 credits) is offered as a two-week summer course, adjusted to the students' individual needs. It is an important part of the curricula, in which international and national experts will be asked to coordinate summer workshops in cutting-edge and/or core subjects in conservation. These experts and the subjects will be selected based on relevant topics for the students' projects. And for that reason, they will be organized at the end of the first year or during the second semester.

After the successful completion of the 30 credits of course work, and the acceptance of the dissertation proposal by the advisory committee, the student registers for a minimum of 30 credits of PhD research for each semester (this consists of full time dissertation research).

DISSERTATION (210 ECTS)

The dissertation is expected to reflect the results of original and high quality research of significance to the preservation and conservation of cultural property, written in a scholarly manner at a literary standard worthy of publication. Three of the chapters should have been published in appropriate journals. Oral or poster presentations in national and international conferences are also encouraged.

Language

The faculty at the DCR can evaluate dissertations in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian or English. This wide range of expertise in European languages allows applicants from many countries, greatly enriching the learning environment at the DCR.

English is rapidly becoming the accepted international language for cultural heritage/property studies, just as it has been the language of international science for many years. Strong support for work in English at the DCR means that the selection of students can be made from a wide pool of high quality candidates with a variety of different backgrounds. This enhances the cross-disciplinary approach which is encouraged within the DCR.

The DCR's ability to supervise and support students in English not only broadens the scope of candidates, but also broadens the field for the candidate's research experiences. Furthermore, since the bulk of publications in the conservation of cultural property are now in English, it is important for PhD candidates to have proficiency in reading, if not speaking English.

Most importantly proficiency in the international language of science and cultural heritage ensures PhD graduates from the DCR programme have a broader selection of post-doc positions and employment opportunities.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Applications must be made online via the Faculty of Sciences and Technology/UNL and within the dates indicated on the website.

The usual minimum requirement for admission to the PhD programme is a Master's degree or a five-year diploma (*licenciatura* degree) from a Portuguese university, or a qualification or combination of qualifications considered to be equivalent. Admission to the programme is selective and competitive based on the scoring system established by the Selection Committee (please see ranking criteria).

The Selection Committee requires the applicant to provide academic transcripts and references and, where applicable, employer references, to confirm the eligibility of the candidate. An on-campus interview with members of the pre-admissions advisory committee (see Governance) may be also be required while the application is in progress.

Applicants require a high proficiency in one of the following languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, or Italian.

SELECTION AND RANKING CRITERIA

A final mark in the range 1 to 5 will be attributed to each applicant, and a ranking established. A cut-off mark will be set, and it can vary from one year to the other. Only candidates considered to be of high quality will be admitted into the programme with a maximum of 10-12 PhD students per year.

The Selection Committee grades the candidates, taking into account two possible situations:

A) A supervisor has been identified, and the candidate is presenting a working plan for their research programme. In this case the ranking will be made considering the merit of the candidate (5 points), the merit of the work programme (3 points), and the merit of the host institutions and supervisors (2 points). All candidates will be ranked according to the weighted average of these three criteria.

For the merit of the candidate please see table 1 for the classification based on the master degree score and table 2 for the guide-lines for the bonus based on the CV, particularly publications.

For the merit of the work programme, the items to be graded are: the advancement of knowledge, innovation, the team, the infrastructure, and overall clarity of design. Bonus: international involvement, the initiation of new research area and/or the revival of important research.

The merit of the host institutions and supervisors, weight factors of 50% for the supervisor, 50% for the host institutions, (classification made according with the FCT ranking)

B) A supervisor has yet to be identified and the working plan is not in place. In this case the rank will consider the merit of the candidate (50%), the recommendation letters, a motivation letter and an interview (50%).

Table 1: Ranking according to final marks achieved for undergraduate and graduate courses or equivalent (bonus marks may be added, see below)

4,5 - 17/20 for the diplomas: Master, Bachelor+Master, "Mestrado integrado", 5 years "Licenciatura"

4,2 i- 16/20 for the diplomas: Master, Bachelor+Master, "Mestrado integrado", 5 years "Licenciatura"

4,0 - 15/20 for the diplomas: Master, Bachelor+Master, "Mestrado integrado", 5 years "Licenciatura"

3,5 - 14/20 for the diplomas: Master, Bachelor+Master, "Mestrado integrado", 5 years "Licenciatura"

3,0 - <14/20 for the diplomas: Master, Bachelor+Master, "Mestrado integrado", 5 years "Licenciatura"

Table 2: Guide-lines for bonus marks

0,5 is attributed to 1 paper (oral communication) in the Proceedings of the ICOM-CC Working Groups, or to a book or catalogue chapter; published or accepted

1 is attributed to 1 paper (SCI); or to 1 paper (oral communication) in the Proceedings of the General Meetings of ICOM-CC, ICROM, IIC; or to 2 papers (oral communication) in the Proceedings of the ICOM-CC Working Groups; published or accepted

1,5 is attributed to 2 papers (SCI) published or accepted

2 is attributed to 3 or more papers (SCI) published or accepted

note: these are guidelines for the bonus classification, the Selection Committee may choose otherwise based on the candidate's CV, but the maximum bonus points are 2.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

please see table Selection Committee

PARTNERS

All research projects include joint ventures with national and international museums, research institutes and universities as follows below.

DCR has protocols with "Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação and Rede Portuguesa de Museus" for the promotion of research and training. Long-term collaborations have been established, in particular, with

NATIONAL MUSEUMS: Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Museu do Chiado, Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, Museu Nacional Arqueologia, Museu Arqueológico do Carmo, Museu Nacional do Azulejo, Casa Museu Anastácio Gonçalves, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Culturgest, Museu de Serralves, MUDE - Museu do Design.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS: Palácio Nacional da Pena, Palácio Nacional de Sintra, Palácio Nacional de Queluz, Palácio Nacional da Ajuda, Mosteiro da Batalha, Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha, Convento de Mafra, Igreja de São Roque.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & LIBRARIES: Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Biblioteca Nacional, Biblioteca Municipal do Porto.

MUNICIPALITIES & DIOCESES: Lisboa, Almada, Seixal, Beja, Porto, Santarém

EUROPE

Universities: Amsterdam, Maastricht, Cologne, Pisa, Viterbo, Perugia, Sevilla, Valencia, Toulouse II, Liège, Imperial College, Antwerp, Tuscia, Venice, Glasgow.

Museums/Galleries: Tate, Royal Academy of Arts, Louvre (C2RMF), Museo de Novecento, Van Gogh Museum.

SOUTH AND NORTH AMERICA

Brazil: Univ Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Univ Federal de Minas Gerais, Pinacoteca de S. Paulo

México: Univ Nacional Autónoma de México

USA: The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY) and Museum of Fine Arts (Boston).

Canada: The Canadian Conservation Institute

AFRICA

INIDA in Cape Vert, CNIC and Univ Agostinho Neto in Angola, IIAM and Univ Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique.

OTHER IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS and networks are also associated with the pioneering work of Leslie Carlyle in the field of historically accurate reconstructions of artists' materials: Univ of Amsterdam; Van Gogh Museum; the Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg, Maastricht; Tate, UK; and the Ghent Altarpiece Restoration Project, Belgium; as well as work with the ProPaint project (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), and with Jaap Boon in association with the Swiss Institute for Art Research, Zurich.