

Bachelor of Arts HES-SO in Conservation, 180 ECTS, 2025-2028

All courses are evaluated on a regular basis (written or oral examinations, written documentations, exercises and laboratories, presence).

conservation-restauration@he-arc.ch, +41 (0)32 930 19 19

						ECTS pro Semester					
						180					
						24	36	24	36	33	30
						S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
Module	SWH ¹ Coef unit	Module / Unit titel	Courses description	Teacher	Course hours ²						
AC1	180	Conservation 1			84	6					
AC1.1	0.4	Managing collections and their environment 1	Physics of buildings Environmental basics: Relative Humidity, Temperature. Measurements and tools	TJA	12						
			Principles of preventive conservation. Interaction of objects with their environment.	NDU	16						
			Processus, documentation and terminology in CR	RBE	4						
				ACU	2						
AC1.2	0.4	Visual documentation 1	Computer tools	TJA	8						
			Photography - studio and on site, and computer graphics 1	VAB	20						
			Introduction to microscopy for conservators	AME	12						
AC1.3	0.2	Introduction to materials used for artifacts 1	Ceramic, glass 1 - material, technology and degradation processes	CMA	10						
AH1	180	Humanities 1			85	6					
AH1.1	0.4	Objects and Societies 1	Antiquity	HDE	14						
			From the "big bang" to our days, geographical survey, Paleolithic, neolithic, protohistory	Jammet	19						
AH1.2	0.3	Written documentation and methodology 1	Method of documentation, assessment of the conditions of conservation, establishment of a repository and choice of indicator	NDU	28						
AH1.3	0.3	Objects, heritage and museums 1	Ethnographic object and Society	Bodenmann	12						
			Technological objects and history 1	JBO	12						
AN1	180	Natural sciences 1			84	6					
AN1.1	0.4	Basics in Chemistry 1	Composition and binding in materials ; Stoichiometry Thermodynamic and kinetic of chemical reactions ; Chemical equilibrium	ADO	36						
AN1.2	0.3	Basics in Physics 1	Applied physics to conservation 1	LBR	24						
AN1.3	0.1	Introduction to properties of materials 1	Inorganic material	ADO	12						
AN1.4	0.2	Health and safety 1	Occupational health and safety prevention: legal bases and statistics, chemical, physical, biological, mechanical and fall hazards, ergonomics, personal protective equipment, prevention methods.	Gerber	8						
			Introduction to Basic Life Support and First aid (two separate groups, each for 4 hours)	Domaine SAN	4						
AN1.5	sans éval.		Basics in Maths : support course open to every CR students (organized if questions are asked)	LBR	8						
AW1	180	Conservation workshop 1			172	6					
AW1.1	0.3	Collections conservation survey and monitoring 1	Monitoring and monitoring tools, data capture with Excel.	TJA	44						
AW1.2	0.5	Ceramic	Project management : examination, diagnostic, propositions, documentation Cleaning Adhesives and coating Labelling Visits : handworkers, workshops, museum collections, laboratories	CMA	70						
AW1.3	pass/fail	Moulds and copies		Hug	36						
AW1.4	0.2	Basic tools and documentation in CR	Basic tools in CR (two separate groups, each for 8 hours)	CAE	8						
			Computer tools for collections management system and CR-documentation 1	VAB	14						

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Module	SWH ¹ Coef unit	Module / Unit titel	Courses description	Teacher	Course hours ²						
AC2	180	Conservation 2			80		6				
AC2.1	0.2	Managing collections and their environment 2	Environmental basics: light and pollutants. Measurements and tools	TJA	16						
AC2.2	0.2	Visual documentation 2	Drawing : vector drawing and image processing 1	RJE	20						
AC2.3	0.6	Introduction to materials used for artifacts 2	Vegetal, animal and composite materials - materials, technology and degradation processes	Goron	20						
			Paleoecology. Introduction to geology.	AME	12						
			Polymers and resins 1 - material and degradation processes	ADO	8						
			Mosaics 1 - material and degradation processes	à définir	4						
AH2	180	Humanities 2			67		6				
AH2.1	0.2	Objects and Societies 2	Early Middle Ages, Late Middle Ages	Laurenti	15						
AH2.2	0.4	History, ethics and theory of conservation	Method of documentation, assessment of the conditions of conservation, establishment of a repository and choice of indicator	NDU	28						
AH2.3	0.4	Objects, heritage and museums 2	Ethnographic object and Society	Bodenmann	12						
			Technological objects and history 2	JBO	12						
AN2	180	Natural sciences 2			72		6				
AN2.1	0.5	Basics in Chemistry 2	Acids and bases; redox reactions, oxydation and reduction, electrochemistry.	ADO	36						
AN2.2	0.3	Basics in Physics 2	Applied physics to conservation 2	LBR	24						
AN2.3	0.2	Introduction to properties of materials 2	Organic materials	ADO	12						
AW3	180	Conservation workshop 3			148		6				
AW3.1	0.6	Collections conservation survey and monitoring 2	Climate studies. Collections conservation assessment. Long term storage materials. Handling and transportation.	TJA	80						
			Object labelling or marking. Inventory number	Leuenberger	4						
AW3.2	0.3	Packing 1 : Conservation storage materials and	Packing system, material working (synthetic	Boulangé	48						
AW3.3	0.1	Materials identification tests	Oddy test and material identification tests.	ADO	16						
AW2	180	Conservation workshop 2 - external					6				
AW2		Preventive conservation for heritage collections 1. Traineeship.	Collections conservation assessment. Handling, transportation, storage, packing	TJA	4.5 weeks						
AW4	180	Conservation workshop 4 - external					6				
AW4		Preventive conservation for heritage collections 2. Traineeship.	Collections conservation assessment. Handling, transportation, storage, packing	TJA	4.5 weeks						

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BC1	180	Conservation 3				86			6		
BC1.1	0.6	Managing the collection and its environment 1	Compatibility of storage and exhibition materials		ADO	12					
			Origin and sensitiveness (interactions)		NDU	8					
			Photography - studio and on site, and computer graphics 2		VAB	16					
			Cultural values, authenticity and conservation principles		? (RBE)	12					
BC1.2	0.2	Technology of artifacts 1	Identification of traces of manufacturing and use		TSC	4					
			Metal and alloys 1 - materials and technology		VBO	8					
			Metal and alloys 2 - structure and degradation processes		VBO	8					
BC1.3	0.2	Introduction to degradation processes 1	Architecture, stone, mortar, wall paintings 2 - Materials, technology and degradation processes		Guyot	12					
			Polymers (artificial and synthetic materials) - Materials and degradation processes		Ramel	6					
BH1	180	Humanities 3				56			6		
BH1.1	0.3	Objects and Societies 3	Renaissance, 17th		Laurenti	18					
BH1.2	0.3	Written documentation and methodology 2	Terms and language of conservation (8h). Aims, documentation forms, permanence of information (6h).		GRA	14					
BH1.3	0.4	Objects, heritage and museums 3	Heritage objects : the Ethnologist point of view		Bodenmann	12					
			Scientific and technological heritage in History		JBO	12					
BN1	180	Natural sciences 3				66			6		
BN1.1	0.4	Chemistry for conservation 1	Organic chemistry; Organic Nomenclature		ADO	24					
			Laboratory techniques: weighting and laboratory		ADO	4					
BN1.2	0.4	Basics in Biology 1	The living : plant and animal cells, protozootes,		AME	24					
BN1.3	0.2	Introduction to instrumental analysis	Photo, UV, NIR, X-Ray, Radiography, IR-		CDE	12					
BN1.4	pass/fail	Health and safety 2	Introduction to Basic Life Support and First aid (Reminder) - two groups, each group 2 hours		Domaine SAN	2					
BW1	180	Conservation workshop 5				190			6		
BW1.1	0.3	Composites : dismantling 1	Dismantling and reassembling methods		TSC	64					
BW1.2	0.5	Basics in wood and metal working	Basics in woodworking		Grall Burst	40					
			Material working, wood working, metal working, mounting, boxes, packing, working with synthetic polymers		GRA	56					
BW1.3	0.1	Documentation	Collections management systems and documentation in CR (advanced)		VAB	14					
BW1.4	0.1	Polymers: artificial and synthetic materials - identification and condition assessment			Ramel	16					

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BC2	180	Conservation 4				67				6		
BC2.1	0.2	Visual documentation 3	Photography - studio and on site, and computer graphics 3		VAB	12						
BC2.2	0.6	Technology of artifacts 2	Sculpture and painting - Materials, technology and degradation processes		ANG	20						
			Paper, Photography - materials, technology and degradation processes		Dobruskin	8						
			Textiles 1 - materials and degradation processes		Vogt	8						
			Textiles 2 - technology		Schorta	4						
			Pigments and dyes		EJO	3						
BC2.3	0.2	Introduction to degradation processes 2	Collection assesment : Storage plans and management, calcul of space and volume		TJA	12						
BH2	180	Humanities 4				76				6		
BH2.1	0.4	Objects and Societies 4	18th Century, 19th Century and 20th Century		HDE	18						
			20th and 21st Centuries		Bodenmann	10						
BH2.2	0.3	Legal aspects, business and work managment in conservation	Business and work management in conservation ; Organisation and legal forms of a company; Taxes, financing, administration, contracts, accounting		Lefebvre	16						
			Legal aspects		Fischer	8						
BH2.3	0.3	Objects, heritage and museums 4	Ethnographic objects in museums		Bodenmann	12						
			Scientific and technological Heritage in Museography		JBO	12						
BN2	180	Natural sciences 4				80				6		
BN2.1	0.6	Chemistry for conservation 2	Atomic and molecular orbitals; Hybridization;		ADO	36						
			Linseed oil polymerisation workshop & FTIR analysis		LBR	8						
BN2.2	0.3	Basics in Biology 2	Interpretation of cultures, preparation and		AME	12						
			Identification of micro-organisms		EJO	12						
BN2.3	0.1	Basic concepts of scientific analysis	An elementary approach to analytical techniques		? (CDE)	12						
BW3	180	Conservation workshop 7				210				6		
BW3.1	0.4	Metal and wood working applied to objects mounting.	Introduction to wood-turning. Coloring and painting. Conception of objects mounting and application.		TSC	82						
BW3.2	0.3	Packing 2 : Conservation systems for transport	Packing for storage and transport. Introduction to shock tests.		Boulangé	60						
BW3.3	0.2	Collections conservation survey and monitoring 3	Collection assesment. Storage plans and management. Showcases conception project		TJA	36						
BW3.4	0.1	Colour and retouching	Colour and retouching		ANG	32						
BW2	180	Conservation workshop 6 - external								6		
BW2		Preventive conservation for heritage collections 3. Traineeship.	Climate control, storage and display conditions, packing and transportation. Survey, assessment and management. Evaluation of storage and display conditions.		VBO	4.5 weeks						
BW4	180	Conservation workshop 8 - external								6		
BW4		Preventive conservation for heritage collections 4. Traineeship.	Climate control, storage and display conditions, packing and transportation. Survey, assessment and management. Evaluation of storage and display conditions.		VBO/TJA	4.5 weeks						

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CC1	270	Conservation 5			104					9	
CC1.1	0.2	Advanced studies in technology, degradation and conservation of cultural heritage objects - metal and alloys	Archaeological and historic metals	VBO	14						
			Modern metal alloys	TSC	8						
CC1.2	0.2	Advanced studies in technology, degradation and conservation of cultural heritage objects - ceramic and glass	Ceramic, glass	CMA	16						
CC1.3	0.1	Advanced studies in technology, degradation and conservation of cultural heritage objects - organic materials	Organic materials	Goron	14						
CC1.4	0.1	Advanced course in physics	Applied physics to conservation 3	LBR	12						
CC1.5	0.4	Managing collections and their environment 4	Risk analysis	TJA	8						
				von Lerber	16						
				Sauvagnargues	16						
CH1-AE	90	Humanities 5-AE³			28					3	
CH1.1-AE	0.4	Objects, heritage and museums 5	Ethnology and its methods	Dubosson	12						
CH1.2-AE	0.6	Archaeology	Archaeological artefacts	Jammet	16						
CH1-STH	90	Humanities 5-STH³			44					3	
CH1.1-STH	0.3	Objects, heritage and museums 5	Scientific and technological objects in museums 2	JBO	12						
CH1.2-STH	0.7	Scientific revolution and experimental science	History of sciences and techniques	JBO	32						
CW1	180	Conservation workshop 9			78					6	
CW1.1	0.8	Glasses	Glasses	CMA	64						
CW1.2	0.2	Security and safety, risk assessment	Security and safety : management, control, equipment	TJA	14						
CW2	180	Conservation workshop 10			128					6	
CW2		Metal and alloys	Metal and alloys	VBO	92						
			Heat treatments of steel. Introduction to mechanical cleaning.	TSC	36						
CW4	180	Conservation workshop 12			120					6	
CW4		Approach of technical objects	Project management on technical objects conservation. Team working. Dismantling and cleaning treatments.	TSC + ?	120						
CW3	180	Conservation workshop 11								6	
CW3		Basics in cleaning of organic materials	Basics in cleaning of organic materials	CAL	112						
CW5	180	Conservation workshop 13								6	
CW5		Disaster response		NDU, Cauliez, Vaudant, Desplanches, Künzi, etc.	128						
CW6	180	Bachelor thesis preparation								6	
CW6		Bachelor thesis preparation		TSC, TJA, LBR, Boulangé, Meier	128						
CC2	360	Bachelor thesis								12	
CC2		Bachelor thesis		TSC, TJA, LBR, Boulangé, Meier	9 weeks						

¹SWH = Student Working Hours²Une heure de cours = 60 minutes³Option à choix selon orientation