

Postgraduate Certificate of Arts (Photographic Materials Conservation)

1 Background

This Post Graduate Certificate will provide a professional qualification in photographic conservation. The course will be the only one of its kind in Australia and the region, combining both the theory and practice of photographic conservation. The program will emphasise the scientific and technical aspects of photographic materials deterioration and conservation. The program will draw on the combined expertise of staff of the Centre and internationally recognised leaders in the field. In planning for its establishment the CCMC identified the development of a suite of vocational graduate courses, complementing the MA by Coursework and Minor Thesis, as a key aim. This proposal is for the first of such courses.

This course aligns with Growing Esteem's model of a triple helix of research, teaching and knowledge transfer, arising as it does from a key investigation by the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation of the conservation skills gaps and training needs in Australia. It leverages CCMC's research and teaching expertise and relationships with external partners in order to apply photographic conservation knowledge and methods in a broader, practical context within the conservation industry. CCMC has a distinctive contribution to make to the field of conservation in Australia, which sits easily within Growing Esteem's aim to "configure its programs around those disciplinary and societal problems in which the institution can make a difference". This course will be the only one of its kind in Australia and the Asian-Pacific region. The teaching of this course at a Postgraduate Certificate level fits with the Melbourne Model's goal of professional programs being offered at a graduate level (following on from a general undergraduate qualification).

2 Course/Program Objectives

Students who complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Arts (Photographic Conservation) should be able to:

- demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of photographic conservation principles, methodologies and best practice standards
- act as informed advocates for cultural material conservation, in particular photographic conservation, and play a leadership role within the sector, actively engaging in critical policy issues
- apply critical and analytical skills and methods, and a cross disciplinary understanding and approach, to the identification and resolution of photographic conservation issues

In addition to the above, graduates will attain specific professional skills so that when solving conservation problems or applying preventive conservation measures they:

- demonstrate a thorough understanding of conservation principles, ethics and methods
- have a high level of knowledge of the history, technology and deterioration processes of photographic material
- are able to accurately identify the causes of conservation problems
- can competently and independently develop, communicate and apply conservation methodologies that are scientifically and technically sound, ethical, and consistent with cultural contexts and community needs
- have a strongly developed sense of professional and ethical responsibility for cultural heritage and an awareness of the moral and legal responsibilities of professional practice

2 Entry Requirements

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criterion:

- an undergraduate degree in cultural material conservation, or equivalent, with at least an H2B (70%) average across relevant subjects.
2. The Selection Committee may conduct interviews for short-listed applicants and may call for referee reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

3 Course/Program Structure

The program will be run as four intensive subjects run over 4 semesters and each worth 12.5 points.

Winter Semester July 2007: Preventive Care of Photographs and Film

Summer Semester February 2008: Colour Photographic Materials and Techniques

Winter semester July 2008: Conservation of Photographs

Summer semester February 2009: Duplication, Archiving and Preservation

4 Availability of Course

The course is available on a full-time basis from semester 1, 2007. It will be available to fee-paying domestic and international students.