



## Master Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage

Selection Procedure for the 2025-2026 academic year

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SPECIALISATIONS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2025, WHICH ARE:

- **Technical Art History (TAH)**

AND OUR CONSERVATION SPECIALISATIONS:

- **Contemporary Art (CA)**
- **Glass and Ceramics (GC)**
- **Paintings (PA)**
- **Textiles (TE)**

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE 2025-2026

1. Apply for the Master Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage through the Graduate School of Humanities (GSH) and upload the required documents in MyInfo **before 1 February 2025** (see A).
2. Complete our C&R Canvas tests and assignments **between 21 and 27 February 2025** (Fri-Thu) (see B).
3. After the Canvas tests and assignments, a PRE-SELECTION of candidates will be made for each specialisation. Pre-selection is based on the contents of your motivation form, your CV, your test results and in most cases your portfolio, and your academic/educational level as determined by the Admissions Office. You will be notified **by 11 March 2025** whether you are admitted to the second phase of the selection process (see C).
4. Pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in an interview and / or further online selection activities that will take place **between 24 March and 2 April 2025** (see D).
5. We will inform the GSH Admissions Office **no later than 23 April 2025** which candidates we do or do not wish to admit and who we wish to put on a waiting list. You will be notified of your conditional acceptance or rejection by the Admissions Office, who will further inform you and assist you in completing the admission process (see E).

#### A. Application documents in MyInfo (to be processed by the GSH Admissions Office)

After registering for the programme in Studielink, you will automatically receive an email with a link to your MyInfo UvA application form. **Complete your application before 1 February 2025.**

Upload all required documents in MyInfo before submitting your MyInfo application form.

You are asked to upload the following documents:

- curriculum vitae;
- proof of language proficiency (if required, see [language requirements](#));
- transcript of records, up-to-date and issued by your home institution (if you are already a student at the UvA, a screenshot from SIS is sufficient);
- diploma (if already obtained) or list of courses yet to complete;
- translation of your diploma and transcript of records (if they are not in English, Dutch, German or French);
- [motivation form](#) (PDF);
  - **Note:** the motivation form is one of our selection criteria and must be completed in English.



In question 1 (*What study programme are you applying for?*), please state for which MA Conservation and Restoration specialisation you wish to apply:

**Technical Art History, Contemporary Art, Glass and Ceramics, Paintings, or Textiles.**

If you have a clear second preference, we recommend that in question 1 you also mention **what your second specialisation choice would be.**

It may occur that certain specialisations are over-subscribed while others are under-subscribed. If you are turned down for the specialisation of your first choice but are considered a suitable candidate for our programme, you may be approached to see if you are interested in another specialisation.

**NOTE: The Graduate School of Humanities will only forward applications to us that are complete. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the GSH requirements will not be taken into consideration.**

## **B. Completion of Canvas tests and assignments, 21 - 27 February 2025**

Canvas is the digital learning environment of the UvA. On Canvas, we have set up the following tests and assignments, that need to be completed between 21-27 February 2025. **For the relevant study materials and some practice tests, see step 3: Check entry requirements: selection criteria - Literature and practice tests on the [GSH website](#).**

1. **Online test Basic Chemistry for Conservation and Restoration**<sup>1</sup>  
This test has 20 multiple choice questions and 4 open questions.
2. **Online test Principles of Conservation and Restoration**<sup>2</sup>  
This test has 25 multiple choice questions.
3. **Online test Preventive Conservation**<sup>3</sup>  
This test has 20 multiple choice questions.
4. **Analytical / Written assignment**  
This assignment requires you to upload a 500-word essay linking your own observations to the conservation literature we provide. You will be assessed on the quality of your visual observation and the academic quality and structure of your argument.
5. **Online Colour recognition test**  
This test is to assess whether you are able to see subtle variations in colour.
6. **Portfolio**  
This assignment asks you to upload a personal portfolio in a format of your choice. The portfolio should consist of 5 works showing the level of your manual skills that you think are relevant to the specialisation of your choice. To convince the C&R Admissions Board, select examples of works that you find illustrative of your interests, skills and competences in a certain area. The programme does not require previous conservation experience. Should you have such experience, we appreciate one or two examples of this in your portfolio. Each work must be accompanied by a small written motivation as to why you chose to include it in the portfolio. **Note that all 5 works should be digitally uploaded as one file.**

**NOTE 1:** In case you only want to apply for the Technical Art History specialisation and do not wish to be considered for any of the conservation specialisations should you be turned down for TAH, you only need to complete tests 1 and 4.

**NOTE 2:** If you took part in the English-language UvA BA minor Conservation and Restoration in or after academic year 2020-2021, in most cases you do not need to take tests 1, 2 and 3. This is because you are automatically exempt for tests 1, 2 and 3 if you:

1. have passed the 'Chemistry' component of the English-language UvA minor course *Chemistry, Materials and Techniques of Cultural Historical Objects I* (114221262Y). Candidates with **considerable prior education in Chemistry** may apply for an exemption (by sending an email to [r.krijgsman@uva.nl](mailto:r.krijgsman@uva.nl), with proof of their degree or transcript attached). Other candidates are not eligible for an exemption.
2. have passed the English-language UvA minor course *Basic Principles of Conservation and Restoration: History, Ethics and Approaches* (114221256Y). Other candidates are not eligible for an exemption.
3. have passed the English-language UvA minor course *Preventive Conservation* (114221276Y) **before 31 August 2024**. This means that candidates taking the UvA minor course *Preventive Conservation* (114221276Y) **in academic year 2024-2025** MUST take test 3. Other candidates are not eligible for an exemption.

The above also means that if you took the Dutch-language UvA BA minor (i.e. before the 2020-2021 academic year), you MUST take test 1, 2 and 3.

### C. Pre-selection

Pre-selected candidates are invited to participate in an online interview and/or online selection activities during the second and final phase of the selection process taking place at the **end of March / beginning of April 2025** (see D). Pre-selection is not only based on the online Canvas tests and assignments and/or results of the UvA minor courses, but also on the information you have uploaded in MyInfo. We would like to emphasise the importance of the UvA Motivation Form.

Pre-selected candidates will receive an invitation **by 11 March 2025** at the latest with further instructions regarding the online interview and/or online activities.

### D. Second phase of the selection process, 24 March - 2 April 2025

All pre-selected candidates will have an **online interview with the C&R Admissions Board** via Zoom. The interview panel will consist of the lecturer(s) of the chosen specialisation and an independent member not associated with the specialisation who will attend all interviews to ensure consistency in the procedure.

Prior to the start of the second phase, candidates who are invited for the **Contemporary Art, Glass and Ceramics, Paintings or Textiles specialisations** (i.e. TAH candidates excluded), will also receive instructions for a **practical assignment** to be performed at home. Instructions consist of a list of materials that you will need to have at hand while executing the practical assignment during a live

Zoom session. Important criteria that are assessed in connection with the practical assignment are your problem-solving skills, the decision-making process and your ability to reflect on these decisions.



### The interview

For candidates applying to the **Technical Art History specialisation**, the interview panel will want to know more about your motivation, insight into what it means to follow our programme at UvA, understanding the nature of the profession, and they will briefly discuss your CV and the Canvas tests you took.

The same procedure is followed for candidates applying for the **conservation specialisations**, but in addition, the above-mentioned practical assignment and portfolio will also be discussed. If possible, please have the works from your portfolio within reach during the interview.

Of course there will also be room for questions that you may have about the programme, the selection procedure, about studying in Amsterdam, or future prospectives.

### E. Selection

As a pre-selected candidate, you will be assessed on the basis of your educational level and academic skills, your motivation, CV and command of the English language, all of which will be addressed during the interview with the C&R Admissions Board. For some, in addition, you are also assessed based on your portfolio and skills demonstrated during the practical assignment and your reflection on how it went (i.e. manual skills, resource management, communication skills, attitude) and your understanding of the nature of the profession.

About six candidates will be selected per specialisation. We will inform the GSH Admissions Office **no later than 23 April 2025** which candidates we do or do not wish to admit.

The Admissions Office will inform you officially and help you through the steps you need to take in order to become fully enrolled as a UvA student.

Candidates with a Dutch prior education, or candidates with a non-Dutch prior education who do not need an entry visa, may be wait-listed in case they are not accepted. If a conditionally accepted candidate does not start, wait-listed candidates can be conditionally admitted and invited to submit proof of graduation until their deadline to do this expires.

Bear in mind that you will be asked to submit a **Certificate of Moral Conduct** (in Dutch: Verklaring Omtrent het Gedrag - VOG) before the start of the programme, which will give you access to the UvA's training studios in the Atelier Building. The "Ateliergebouw" also houses the restoration studios of the Rijksmuseum and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE).

**SELECTION PROCEDURE 2025-2026 IMPORTANT DATES**

1 February 2025	Deadline for registration via the GSH Admissions Office.
21 – 27 February 2025	Completion of Canvas tests for Basic Chemistry, Principles of Conservation, Preventive Conservation and Essay Questions test, plus colour recognition test and uploading portfolio.
11 March 2025	Deadline by which you will be informed whether you have been pre-selected for the second phase. Applicants will be notified by email.
24 March – 2 April 2025	Second phase of selection process for pre-selected candidates, consisting of online practical skill testing and an interview.
23 April 2025	Deadline by which the Admissions Office receives our admission decisions for further processing. Candidates may be (conditionally) admitted, rejected or placed on a waiting list. Candidates will be notified of the final decision by the Admissions Office.  If a place becomes available in their chosen specialisation, candidates who are wait-listed can be conditionally admitted until their deadline to submit proof of graduation expires.
15 August 2025	Deadline for submission of Certificate of Moral Conduct (VOG).