M.HC

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MASTER OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Los Angeles provides a unique laboratory in which to learn and challenge conservation issues. As a relatively young and diverse global city, it is the ideal place to explore a relatively young and diverse global discipline. Our wealth of recent past resources raise a new set of research challenges, and the city’s richly diverse communities woven throughout the tapestry of the built environment push us to acknowledge the many layers of history and meaning revealed in the city. It is also a place forever seeking the new, providing opportunities to protect the best of the past while embracing the landmarks of the future.
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**MASTER OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

The MHC degree consists of 48 units of study and the completion of a master’s thesis. The creation of a graduate thesis enables students to stretch themselves in the direction of their choice. Topics are chosen based on the interests of the student and vary from architectural and landscape history to policy analysis, to materials-based inquiry, to industrial archaeology, and beyond. A current list of theses completed by our program graduates is available on the program website. The typical program length is two years, although students may apply for advanced standing and/or pursue their studies part-time.

Students may choose to focus their electives by pursuing a Graduate Certificate in a related field—Architecture, Building Science, GIS, Landscape Architecture, Non-Profit Management, Public Policy, Real Estate Development, Sustainable Cities, or Sustainable Design.

**DUAL DEGREE: MASTER OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION/MASTER OF PLANNING**

The Master of Heritage Conservation/Master of Planning dual degree program facilitates highly related cross-disciplinary studies in heritage conservation and in urban planning at the master’s level. The primary objective of the dual degree curriculum is to impart to students a basic familiarity with the origins and development of the philosophies, theories, and practices of planning and heritage conservation. This curriculum has been developed so that students will graduate from this program with a broad practical knowledge of the laws, regulations, and policies that apply to planning and conservation practice in the United States and internationally. This expertise will include knowledge of urban design, public policy, and architectural and planning history and theory. Students will be expected to understand the critical, methodological tools necessary for a professional engaged in the investigation, interpretation, and evaluation of the urban built environment.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION**

Ideal for professionals who wish to augment their academic credentials in order to facilitate their work on heritage conservation projects, the 16-unit certificate program includes four core classes that impart the fundamentals of the discipline. The certificate is an ideal complement to a degree in architecture, landscape architecture, building science, planning, public art administration, geography, anthropology, or other related disciplines.

**SUMMER SHORT COURSE IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION**

The Summer Short Course in Heritage Conservation offer clusters of lecture and field-based learning sessions about the fundamentals of the discipline in an intensive three-week format. Taught by a team of practicing professionals in fields ranging from conservation and engineering to economics and law, the course also includes visits to historic sites, such as the Gamble and Freeman Houses, the laboratories of the Getty Conservation Institute, and current rehabilitation projects. Designed for those interested in a career change, city officials needing to brush up on the basics, or students interested in learning more about the field, the Summer Short Course can be taken in sections or as a complete for-credit course.

Embedded in the School of Architecture at USC, heritage conservation students are instantly part of a multidisciplinary environment, linking landscape architecture, building science, architecture, and conservation.

As such, the program curriculum is designed to expose students to a broad range of topics including materials conservation, policy and planning, conservation theory, global conservation efforts, architectural and landscape history, best practices in resource documentation and evaluation, sustainability, and historic site management. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the rich academic resources in the broader university, including taking courses in real estate, regional history, urban planning, and spatial sciences. Program faculty are leaders in the field, a blend of academics and practitioners that grapple with conservation in real time, seeking creative solutions that balance the integrity of the past with a sustainable future. Through this broad exposure, students begin to formulate their professional path within the discipline.
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