University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course codes MSc F091 & F108(PT)
GDip F041 & F050 (PT); GCert F040 & F049 (PT)

MSc/GradDip/GradCert World Heritage Conservation

Three Year Part-Time Online

Quebrada de Humahuaca, Argentina

Introduction

The World Heritage Convention is designed to encourage all countries to meet certain standards in protecting natural and cultural heritage, and is considered one of the most effective global instruments to protect heritage properties. With 196 states party to the World Heritage Convention and all heritage properties facing conservation challenges, there is a growing need for professionals who understand how the Convention operates in terms of nomination, monitoring, conservation reporting and mitigation of threats.

The MSc, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in World Heritage Conservation are part-time, online, distance learning courses designed to equip you with current thinking and professional understanding of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. You will acquire the knowledge base, skills and confidence to address World Heritage issues, and to advance your career.

The 30-credit 1-year Graduate Certificate will give you a competitive advantage as a heritage professional working on projects relating to World Heritage properties and heritage conservation in general.

The 60-credit 2-year Graduate Diploma and the 90-credit 3-year MSc build on knowledge and skills gained in the first year, developing more comprehensive understanding and further specialisation in World Heritage Conservation.

Course Content and Structure

year 1 **30 credits** graduate cert → year 2 **30 credits** graduate diploma → year 3 **30 credits** masters

Through independent learning, project work and discussion forums you will receive a comprehensive curriculum designed to provide you with knowledge and understanding of the following topics:

Graduate Certificate/ Diploma/Masters:

- The World Heritage Convention and international strategies for conservation
- Cultural heritage, sustainable development and diversity
- Global biodiversity and heritage

Graduate Diploma/ Masters:

- Management planning for cultural and natural sites
- Conservation strategies, best practices and case studies
- Climate change, policy and mitigation

Masters:

- Project management and marketing
- Develop a research proposal, apply a research methodology, examine a heritage conservation topic of your choice

Modules and topics shown are subject to change and are not guaranteed by UCD.

Why study at UCD?

Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs

Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland

QS World University Rankings by Subject Archaeology In the Top 100 2025

Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking

Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries

Athena Swan Ireland Bronze Award – Equality Charter

Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

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Career Opportunities

Reflecting the spirit of the Convention, to safeguard natural and cultural heritage through an integrated approach, this programme provides graduates with a unique multidisciplinary perspective addressing conservation issues of both natural and cultural heritage. We give you the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the working of the Convention and for decision making in areas related to the nomination and conservation of World Heritage properties.

Areas that graduates find work include the advancement in international conservation for managerial and policy positions in government, agencies, private practices and NGOs. The qualifications will contribute to career development for heritage custodians and stewards, ranging from national heritage and conservation officers to international conservation agencies.

Graduate Profile

Margaret Gowen
Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Consultant

Margaret is a member of ICAHM/ICOMOS and advisor to the WH Centre ICOMOS Paris.

"The Distance Learning offers any graduate with an interest in the world, its heritage, cultures and natural environment, the scope to engage in study of World Heritage at a variety of levels and from a range of perspectives.

The course documents are succinct and comprehensive, and are backed up by an extensive array of recommended and referenced reading and AV material. "Way-finding" to web resources and access to the treasury of online libraries is one of the great pleasures of the course, as is the discretion to read and record and reflect on one's discrete responses to the recommended reading in the Study Journal as the course progresses. I love it."

Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants from a diverse academic background, including but not limited to Archaeology, Architecture, Geography, Biology, Arts, Agriculture, Engineering, Environmental Science and Economics. We welcome a diverse group of participants with a wide range of experience in different areas of cultural and natural heritage, to provide for a dynamic forum for discussion and interaction.
- Applicants are normally expected to have a second class honours degree, or equivalent work experience.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or an equivalent.

Fees

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees.

Related Graduate Programmes

- MSc/GradDip Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip/GradCert Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture
- MSc/GradDip/GradCert Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip Mediterranean Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip World Heritage Management and Conservation

- PhD in Archaeology
- PhD in World Heritage

CONTACT US

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W: www.ucd.ie/global

SCHOOL INFORMATION ON FUNDING & SUPPORTS

W: www.ucd.ie/archaeology/study/graduateprogrammes

APPLY NOW

W: www.ucd.ie/global/apply