



E.C.C.O. - ENCoRE Paper on Education and Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession

Approved by the General Assembly of E.C.C.O. (Brussels 7. March 2003) and by the General Assembly of ENCoRE (Torun 9. May 2003)

1.
Access to education in conservation-restoration shall be dependent on the possession of a diploma or certificate qualifying for entrance to a university (or equivalent institution). The cross-disciplinary nature of the conservation-restoration profession requires that applicants undertake specific additional entrance appraisals¹.
2.
Conservation-restoration education shall comprise a total of at least 5 years of full-time study or 5500 contact hours of theoretical and practical education and training provided by, or under the supervision of, a university or recognised equivalent and graduating at Master's Level.² Master's graduates are expected to be specialised in one particular field of conservation-restoration of cultural heritage.
3.
A graduate of conservation-restoration at Bachelor's Level (Level 4³) will be qualified to enter Master's studies, but can only work in the conservation-restoration of cultural heritage in the public or private sectors under the direction and supervision of a professional conservator-restorer as defined in point 4.
4.
A graduate of conservation-restoration at Master's Level (Level 5⁴) will be qualified to register for PhD studies. To become a professional conservator-restorer, sufficient years of post qualification experience may be required, dependent on the national provisions set up by the respective conservator-restorer's organisation(s), to confirm the ability to work ethically and competently and with full professional responsibility within the chosen specialism.
5.
Continuous professional development shall ensure, in accordance with the procedures specific in each member state, that persons who have completed their studies are able to keep abreast of progress in the field of conservation-restoration of cultural heritage.
6.
The Doctorate Level in conservation-restoration of cultural heritage is the basis from which to recruit researchers and educators to develop future practice and research in this field.⁵

¹ CON.BE.FOR (Associazione Giovanni Secco Suardo (2000) CONBEFOR ricerca comparata)

² CON.BE.FOR And ECCO Professional- Guidelines III

³ The Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications 2002/0061 (COD). Chapter 1 General system for the recognition of evidence of training.

⁴ idem as 3

⁵ Clarification of Conservation /Restoration Education at University Level or Recognised Equivalent. Adopted by the Members and Partners of ENCoRE at the 3rd General Assembly 19-22 June 2001, Munich, Germany.

Background paper

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Cultural Heritage contributes to the definition of European identity. It constitutes a fundamental expression of the richness and diversity of European culture. The protection of cultural heritage, an irreplaceable witness of the past, represents a common interest to all European States, who must ensure the transmission of that heritage to future generations. Therefore, the care and conservation of cultural heritage and the requirements of its use and access in both the public and private sectors are matters of public interest. Conservation-restoration respects the aesthetic, historic and spiritual significance of our cultural heritage as well as its physical integrity and context.

Mutual recognition of qualifications must therefore be based on qualitative and quantitative criteria which ensure that the holders of recognised qualifications are in a position to understand and translate the needs of individuals, social groups and authorities as regards the conservation-restoration requirements of cultural heritage, its use and protection. Regard should be made to the cultural, economic and emotional values of heritage in both its preventive and interventive care and conservation.

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National regulations in the field of conservation-restoration of cultural heritage and on access to and the exercise of the professional activities of a conservator-restorer vary widely in scope. In most Member States activities in the field of conservation-restoration are exercised, *de jure* or *de facto*, by persons bearing the title of Conservator-Restorer alone or accompanied by another title, without those persons having a monopoly on the exercise of such activities, unless there are legislative provisions to the contrary. Currently these activities, or some of them, are sometimes carried out by other professionals, in particular by craftsmen or artists who may not have undergone training in the field of conservation-restoration of cultural heritage. Clear acknowledgement and reference should be made to the concept of "conservator-restorer" in order to protect cultural heritage from treatments by untrained personnel.