



# MODULE: PAPER CONSERVATION - FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL (BLENDED LEARNING MODE)

PC03PGD (8 Credits)

**Recommended duration for completion:  
5 WEEKS Theory (distance learning) + 1 WEEK Resident, Practical Contact session**

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE & CONSERVATION**

*Provisionally registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Act.  
Registration certificate No. 2018/HE07/007 - valid until 31/12/2022*

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## PAPER CONSERVATION - FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL

Enrollment category: Special Student (*retaining potential for transition to programme standing, and graduation*)  
8-credit module

### Content & Themes

Video tutorials, guidance & mentorship, demonstrations and practical sessions:

- Material characterisation, damage and condition assessment, and proposed treatment options
- Remedial interventive treatments:
  - surface cleaning and humidification
  - basic aqueous washing and deacidification treatments, employing paper-based sample material.
  - chemical stain removal systems, executed on selected sample material.
  - resizing after chemical treatment, employing paper-based sample material.
  - tear repairs and reinforcement on paper-based sample material.
  - drying and flattening of paper-based sample material upon completion of aqueous treatments and repairs.
  - pressure sensitive tape removal and the separation / delamination of auxiliary supports.
  - retouching of media and design areas in order to achieve an aesthetically pleasing end result.
- Treatment specifications and COSHH sheets.

### Module Purpose

The module, *Introduction to Paper Conservation*, is designed to provide students with the foundational skills and ethical background required for the analysis and treatment of damaged paper artefacts. These skills will equip the student with the capacity to identify causes of damage and deterioration as well as sufficient knowledge to identify the paper types and mediums. The students will receive instruction regarding ideal storage and display environments for paper documents in order to prevent or delay deterioration of intact as well as fragile material. These attainments are required to aid treatment decisions and implementation as well as recommendations regarding the storage and handling of the material.

Demonstrations and practical sessions will provide the necessary training in interventive practices. Students will learn how to employ tools, materials and equipment safely as well as receive instruction in the safe disposal of hazardous materials.

Further to the treatment of paper artefacts the students will acquire skills in the compilation of instructive and helpful reports which record the results of trials, analysis and specify treatment. Additional information regarding storage environments, handling, display, health and safety is also to be included in the report.

The module(s) specifically linked to this subject are *Conservation Theory & Skills and Advanced Paper Conservation*

### Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. have a firm understanding of the Code of Ethics and be able to perform all conservation interventions in accordance with this code.
2. investigate and analyse paper based material substrate in order to specify appropriate remedial treatment.
3. execute all treatment required to conserve the paper material substrate without causing physical or aesthetic damage, or obscuring/removing historically significant information, on an object of suitable complexity.
4. intelligibly document and record all findings and proposed treatment in order to produce an instructive and comprehensive, illustrated condition and treatment specification.
5. be informed and compliant of health & safety requirements of tools and materials employed.

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### PREScribed MODULE STUDY MATERIAL (provided):

Banik, G. and Brückle, I. (2011) *Paper and Water - A Guide for Conservators*. Oxon: Routledge.

### RECOMMENDED READING:

- The Restoration of Engravings, Drawings, Books and other works on paper by M. Schweidler.
- Conservation and Restoration of Pictorial Art by N. Brommelle and P. Smith.
- Conservation & Restoration of Works of Art & Antiquities. Volume 1, by H Kühn.
- Paper bleaching: Its simple chemistry and working procedures by M. Hey.
- Book and Paper Speciality Group – Paper Conservation Wiki
- Relaxing and flattening paper by humidification. In: Preservation of library & archival materials by M.T. Gaser.
- Pressure sensitive tape & techniques for its removal from paper by M.A. Smith et al.

### TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS:

On-line: Synchronous online video conference meetings shall feature, during which lectures and tutorials shall be presented, resulting in interaction between tutors and student. Ongoing direction and instruction shall follow, requiring reading, self-study and assignments to be submitted. The formative coursework shall account for 40% of the total mark.

Contact block session: Presented on-campus at the Institute's conservation laboratory, these sessions shall provide for practical execution and implementation of all remedial, interventive treatments emerging from the theoretical content.

A final summative assessment shall conclude this *Introduction to Paper Conservation* module. The summative coursework shall account for 60% of the total mark.

The pass mark for Introduction to Paper Conservation is 55%

In the case of candidates meeting the enrolment prerequisites for the Postgraduate Diploma "*Technical Conservation Studies*", credits achieved upon completion of Introduction to Paper Conservation may, upon application, successfully transfer towards attainment of a future graduation.

## COURSE DETAILS

Enrolment prerequisites

- Chemistry, at least on 1st year level OR an approved Chemistry bridging course, successfully completed.
- Successful registration for the following module: Conservation Theory & Skills (CTS01PGD)

Course fee

**R9 228.62** (VAT Exempt)

Prescribed textbooks

R2 066.00 (excl. VAT) (excl. shipping)

Tuition Tool-kit

R230.00 (excl. VAT, packaging, and shipping)

**Certificate of attainment & scored Course Report follow completion.**

*(International logistics permitting, both digital and hard copy versions are typically furnished)*