



STUDIO  
ARTS  
COLLEGE  
INTERNATIONAL

# POST-BAC IN CONSERVATION FLORENCE, ITALY



[saci-florence.edu](http://saci-florence.edu)

## MISSION

THE POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN CONSERVATION program at Studio Arts College International (SACI) is designed for US college or university graduates and international students at a similar level who wish to pursue one year of intensive conservation graduate study in Florence, Italy. Students gain practical training in, and extensive knowledge of, historical and contemporary diagnostic and conservation practices. This highly focused program of study—a full immersion in conservation theory and practice—provides an essential foundation for those intending to pursue careers as conservators and diagnosticians.

COVER: MADONNA IN GLORY (UNKNOWN ARTIST), 17TH CENTURY, OIL ON CANVAS, 132 X 96 CM  
SOPRINTENDENZA DELLE BELLE ARTI E DEL PAESAGGIO PER LE PROVINCE DI PISA E LIVORNO  
BELOW: CONSERVATION STUDENT IN A SACI STUDIO



## INTRODUCTION

The Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program requires, encourages, and fosters a high degree of commitment, dedication, and self-discipline. It is especially well-suited to those who:

- are beginners in conservation or have had some prior training in studio art or art history but decided either too late in their undergraduate careers or after completing their bachelor's degree that they wanted to focus more intensively on conservation;
- would like to continue their education and eventually earn a master's or doctorate degree in conservation, and want to create a portfolio of work as a basis for application to a graduate degree program in conservation;
- are mature students with prior experience in conservation or a related area who want to return to school to pursue their conservation education formally;
- believe that the educational resources of SACI and opportunities available through study in Florence would aid them in becoming practicing conservators.

Students in the program will be expected to:

- Make technical, conceptual, and aesthetic decisions based on a thorough understanding of historical and contemporary conservation practices.
- Achieve a basic understanding of conservation law and conservation business and management practices as they relate to contemporary practices of conservators.
- Demonstrate practical knowledge of the fundamentals of painting conservation, conservation of archaeological artifacts, and diagnostic techniques for conservators.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of contemporary conservation practices applicable to painting conservation, conservation of archaeological artifacts, paper conservation, or diagnostic techniques for conservators.
- Develop their ability to speak and write clearly about the conservation of art works or artifacts, both generally

and specifically as regards their own conservation projects.

- Create a portfolio, which can be used for career advancement, documenting conservation work undertaken by them in the program.
- Achieve an understanding of contemporary conservation networks, including organizations for professionals and career opportunities for diagnosticians and conservators.

Graduates of the program have gone on to earn diplomas and advanced degrees in top-ranked Conservation programs at New York University, Winterthur/University of Delaware, UCLA/Getty Museum, and SUNY, Buffalo State College in the USA; Queens University in Canada; Northumbria University, Courtauld Institute of Art, and Hamilton Kerr Institute in the UK; Scuola Universitaria Professionale dell Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI) in Switzerland; and the University of Bologna in Italy.

They have worked as conservators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City; the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco; the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the Von der Heydt Museum in Wuppertal, Germany; and the Royal Library in Copenhagen, Denmark.

They have taught at University College London and worked at conservation studios and headed conservation firms throughout the USA.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Students must earn 30 credits of course work within one academic year. They enroll for 15 credits in both the Fall and Spring semesters and complete a total of 300-350 hours of practical training.

To maintain satisfactory academic progress and earn the Post-Bac Certificate, students must complete all course work in the program at SACI within one academic year with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 (based upon a scale in which A = 4.0). A letter grade (A-F) is given in each class. Students in the program are not permitted to take courses Pass/Fail.

Students who require more than one academic year to complete the program

must receive approval to do so from both the Dean and their Graduate Review Board, which consists of the Major Professor, the Program Director/Conservation Area Head, and another Conservation area instructor. If the Program Director/Conservation Area Head is also the Major Professor, two other Conservation area instructors serve with the Program Director/Conservation Area Head on the Graduate Review Board. Such requests are normally approved only in the case of documented medical emergencies, and the period of approved extended study does not normally exceed one academic year.

Credit from other institutions is not transferable to the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program, nor is credit earned at SACI prior to matriculation in the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program. Students who, prior to matriculation in the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program, have completed at SACI courses required in the program may be permitted, subject to approval by the Program Director/Conservation Area Head, to enroll in other SACI courses, in the appropriate area and at the appropriate level, to substitute for the required course work that had been completed previously at SACI.

SACI has an agreement with the Ministero dei Beni Culturali (Soprintendenza di Firenze) giving permission to advanced conservation students, under the supervision of SACI instructors, to restore and conserve a number of major art works at sites in Florence. Thus students in our Post-Bac Certificate program in Conservation have a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in conservation and restoration of art works by participating in SACI conservation projects at churches, archaeological sites, museums, and specialist studios and laboratories throughout Tuscany.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum for the Post-Bac Certificate program in Conservation is founded on the belief that advanced conservation students should specialize in study in conservation and restoration areas such as the following:

- Paintings on wood panels and canvases
- Wood (sculptures and frames)
- Paper
- Murals
- Textiles
- Archaeological artifacts (Etruscan, Picenian, and Roman)

During the year of study, the following aspects of conservation are explored:

- **Academic:** Art history; history of techniques and materials; museum care; ethical issues in conservation; international laws governing work in the field of conservation; preventative conservation; health and safety regulations; professional writing.
- **Practical:** Hands-on conservation and restoration by students of Renaissance and Baroque art works and archaeological pieces from antiquity; painting techniques as applied to restoration; studio courses in the major area of specialization.
- **Technical:** Elementary principles of chemistry, physics, biology, and diagnostics; basic principles of computer science; photography as applied to conservation.
- **Business:** The economics of conservation; practical aspects of managing a conservation studio; insurance and liability concerns; legal and financial issues related to museum conservation; career choices; international rights in the field of tutelage, safeguarding, circulation, and exhibition of art works.

Students in the Post-Bac Certificate program in Art Conservation are required to take the following courses:

#### FALL SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- Graduate Seminar in Conservation I (3 credits)
- Beginning Painting Conservation I (3 credits)
- Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts (3 credits)
- Conservation Law, Business, and Management (3 credits)
- Mural Conservation (3 credits)

#### SPRING SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- Graduate Seminar in Conservation II (3 credits)
- Beginning Painting Conservation II (3 credits)
- Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts\* (3 credits)
- Diagnostic Techniques for Conservators (3 credits)
- Mural Conservation\* (3 credits)

\*During the Spring term, a Directed Independent Study (DIS) in a Conservation area may be substituted for either Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts or Mural Conservation.

Descriptions and syllabi for all SACI courses can be found on the SACI web site: [www.saci-florence.edu](http://www.saci-florence.edu)

### The Major Discipline

The Major Discipline is the area in which the student chooses to concentrate and is at the heart of a program of study. It can be selected from the following:

- Painting Conservation
- Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts
- Mural Conservation

### The Study Proposal

At the beginning of each semester, students write a Study Proposal. The Study Proposal must include: a clear statement defining the student's focus within his or her Major Discipline; proposed goals for the semester; problems that the student is seeking to resolve and questions he or she is proposing to answer; themes or subjects to investigate; the means and resources that will be used to realize these goals (courses, museums, libraries, materials, techniques, and other resources); and a statement about how all the above relate to prior work the student has done.

The Study Proposal must be typed and submitted for review and approval to the Program Director/Conservation Area Head by the end of the first week of classes; it may be returned to the student for rewriting and clarification. Once approved, the

Study Proposal must be submitted by the student to the Major Professor for further suggestions and comments (unless the Program Director/Conservation Area Head is the Major Professor).

The two Study Proposals (one each semester) serve to define and redefine the student's goals and provide as major points of reference throughout his or her course of study. It is a good idea to think about and draft a Study Proposal before arriving at SACI.

### Post-Bac Graduate Seminar in Conservation I & II

The Post-Bac Graduate Seminar in Conservation, in which students must enroll during each of their two semesters of study, emphasizes how to utilize the many unique facilities that Florence offers for serious study and research in conservation, archaeology, and art history. During field trips and lectures, students visit private and state conservation laboratories and diagnostics firms and learn how to undertake research in libraries, foundations, and conservation centers. Key conservation topics are addressed, including the challenges that conservators face in preserving and restoring art works exhibited both indoors and outdoors or stored in venues ranging from churches to museums, auction houses to galleries, antique dealerships to artisan workshops.

SACI CONSERVATION STUDENTS RESTORING A LUNETTE BY BAROQUE ARTIST FRANCESCO CURRADI AT SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI





CONSERVATION STUDENTS IN A SACI STUDIO

### Directed Independent Study

Students have the option of working at an advanced level with a SACI instructor in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) course on Paper Conservation, Painting Reproduction, Wood Conservation, or another Conservation area topic. The DIS format enables a student to propose a study plan to meet a specific educational need pertinent to individual artistic or scholarly development. The DIS is an intensive and individually designed tutorial in which the student meets weekly with the instructor to examine and discuss studio or academic work. At the beginning of the semester, a DIS form in which the project is fully described in detail must be submitted by the student to the instructor supervising the DIS and the Program Director/Conservation Area Head for their signed approval. All DIS arrangements follow the same add/drop schedule as regular classes.

### The Journal and Portfolio

Students in the program are required to keep a journal in which they record what they have absorbed and learned, setbacks and discoveries, problems and solutions, and changes in perception and direction. This journal serves as a means of recording and synthesizing experiences for present and future reference. Students are encouraged to record in it their thoughts,

feelings, ideas, work experiences and processes, and reactions to the various techniques learned, concepts explored, and stimuli encountered. It must include images and texts, both of one's own and of others. The journal, which is submitted to the Graduate Review Board at the end of the Fall semester, can be of critical value to the student and his or her principal advisors in suggesting productive directions for future work.

Work on the journal leads directly to compilation of a portfolio, which must be submitted to the Graduate Review Board at the end of the Spring semester. The portfolio includes images and descriptions of conservation work undertaken by students during their period of study in the program. Students are advised about how to prepare a curriculum vitae and compile a professional portfolio that can serve to advance their career goals upon graduation from the program.

### Reviews

Reviews occur twice each semester, once at midterm and again during the last week of classes. Over the course of a year, a student has four reviews. These are forums developed to serve the student with constructive criticism and discussion of his or her work with members of the faculty.

Criticism is geared to helping students develop their own technical and critical faculties.

Reviews are attended by the Graduate Review Board, which, as has been noted, consists of the Major Professor, the Program Director/Conservation Area Head, and another Conservation area instructor. If the Program Director/Conservation Area Head is also the Major Professor, two other Conservation area instructors serve with the Program Director/Conservation Area Head on the Graduate Review Board. Committee members' comments are both spoken and written. A copy of written comments is given to each student for his or her permanent reference.

### Final Papers/Presentations

A research paper is prepared by the student for each Spring semester course and presented at the end of the semester. It is based upon an area of research related to actual work done by the student and should serve as a final summary of the year's exploration. Students in the Post-Bac Certificate program in Studio Art are required to submit one digital copy of all papers and all photographs taken during the academic year.

Students in the Post-Bac Certificate program in Conservation make a Final Presentation. Final Presentations, which are scheduled at the end of the Spring semester, should demonstrate that the student has found themes, problems, and concepts relevant to his or her own visual, conceptual, and art-historical concerns.

All work must be submitted in a professional format. Prints must be labeled (name, date, title, medium, dimensions), cropped, and mounted.

Final Presentations are usually scheduled for the last week of the semester (exam week), including Friday, which is the last day of the term. Students should not make travel plans for that Friday until the final review has been officially scheduled.

### Thesis

The thesis is based upon substantive research undertaken throughout the academic year by the student on a topic related to the Major Discipline and approved by the Program Director/Conservation Area Head. The student begins planning and researching the thesis during the Fall semester and completes

researching and writing the thesis during the Spring semester.

Students are required to submit one digital copy and one printed copy of a thesis of approximately 30 pages in length (in addition to images and a bibliography). The thesis must be typed, double-spaced, and formatted in accordance with the *SACI Guidelines for Preparation of a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program Thesis in Conservation*, which is posted on SACI's web site ([www.saci-florence.edu](http://www.saci-florence.edu)) and distributed to all students in the program.

At the end of the Spring semester, the thesis is presented to the Graduate Review Board and the student meets with the review board to give an oral presentation on the thesis and answer board members' questions about the thesis. The thesis and oral presentation must be approved by the Graduate Review Board prior to conferral of the Post-Bac Certificate. A copy of the approved thesis is retained in the SACI Worthington Library.

### Documentation

As part of the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program, students are instructed in presentation and documentation methods.

Documentation, submitted in a professional manner, must be presented to the student's Graduate Review Board at the end of the Spring semester for retention by SACI. This documentation consists of (1) the student's curriculum vitae; (2) the Study Proposals; (3) the journal; and (4) the thesis.

### Grades, Transcripts, and Certificates

A letter grade (A-F) is given in each class. Students in the Post-Bac Certificate program are not permitted to take courses Pass/Fail. At the end of each semester, an official SACI transcript is issued to all students in the program. For the certificate to be awarded, all program requirements must be fulfilled.

## FACULTY

### The Major Professor

By the second week of each semester, students select a Major Professor. The Major Professor is normally chosen from SACI's faculty and must have expertise in the Major Discipline. The Major Professor serves as the student's principal advisor and is a member of the student's Graduate

Review Board. This relationship must be formalized by completing a written agreement signed by the student and the Major Professor. A form for this purpose is distributed at the outset of each semester.

### The Program Director/Conservation Area Head

The Program Director/Conservation Area Head is responsible for reviewing and approving Study Proposals and DIS Proposals; advising students about registering for their classes; scheduling reviews and Final Presentations; aiding students in scheduling and planning graduate student exhibitions; and disseminating information pertinent to Post-Bac study. The Program Director/Conservation Area Head is a member of the Graduate Review Board and is available to advise students on all aspects of their work and life at SACI. In addition, the Program Director/Conservation Area Head helps students meet and work with faculty who can aid the students in their chosen areas of study.

### SACI's Faculty

Students in the program are encouraged to view the faculty at large as a resource to further their study goals. Students should therefore feel free to consult any member of the SACI faculty about areas of special interest. Prospective students can acquaint themselves with SACI's faculty by looking at the *Faculty* section on SACI's web site: [www.saci-florence.edu](http://www.saci-florence.edu)

## RESOURCES

Students in the program are permitted special access to part of the Painting Conservation studio when classes are not meeting there so that they can study and use the Internet-capable PC in that classroom to conduct research. This studio, along with the Archaeological Artifacts studio, is in SACI's main building, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni, a landmark Renaissance palazzo located in Florence's historic center at Via Sant'Antonino 11.

The palazzo is just steps away from Piazza Santa Maria Novella and the Medici Chapel and a short distance from such famous sites as the Duomo and Brunelleschi's Ospedale degli Innocenti, and in close proximity to Florence's four other great *piazze*—Piazza Santa Croce, Piazza della Signoria, Piazza della Repubblica, and Piazza della Santissima Annunziata. It includes the SACI Worthington Library, the Clayton Hubbs Lecture Hall, classrooms, a student lounge with computers, administrative offices, and a large garden.

The palazzo is open seven days a week: Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 10:00 pm; Friday from 8:30 am 7:00 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Of particular importance to students in the program is the SACI Worthington Library, which is a few steps down the hall from the

SACI CONSERVATION STUDENT RESTORING A TABERNACLE AN ON-SITE IN FLORENCE





CONSERVATION STUDENT IN SACI'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS STUDIO

Painting Conservation studio. This library includes over 13,000 volumes and one of the largest English-language art periodical collections in Florence. Library users have access to *ARTstor* (an online database of more than 1,500,000 art, architecture, humanities, and social science digital images) and *JSTOR* (an online database of articles from more than 1,500 academic journals). *ARTstor* and *JSTOR* can be accessed from any computer in SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni or Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts. SACI also offers online access to the *Questia* library of over 9,000,000 books and articles. Online access is also available to *Art Bulletin*, *Art Forum*, *Art Journal*, *Film Quarterly*, *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, *October*, *Oxford Art Journal*, *Sculpture Review*, and *Sight & Sound*.

SACI students also have access to a remarkable range of unique libraries in or near Florence, including: Academy of Fine Arts Library; Alfonso Spadoni Library; British Institute Harold Acton Library; City of Florence Historical Archive; Dutch Institute Library; French Institute Library; Gabinetto Viessesux Library; Galileo Museum Library; Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz Library; Luigi Pecci Contemporary Art Center Library; Marucelliana Library; Mediceo-Laurenziana Library; National Institute for Renaissance Studies; National Library; Oblate Library; Opificio delle pietre dure Library; Roberto

Longhi Foundation Library; Stibbert Museum Library; Uffizi Gallery Library; University of Florence Department of Art History Library; University of Florence Humanities Library; and University of Florence North American History and Literature Library.

#### SACI'S LECTURE SERIES

Each semester, a number of lectures are scheduled that are open to all students. These lectures feature visiting painters, sculptors, filmmakers, art historians, and other art professionals, as well as speakers who address subjects relevant to Italian culture and politics.

#### FIELD TRIPS

SACI emphasizes on-site learning and sponsors many field trips for its students, both as part of its classes and as optional additions to its programs. Post-Bac students participate in field trips that are part of their Conservation classes such as visits to the laboratories of the Opificio delle pietre dure and the Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Artistico in Florence, the Vatican and Central Institute for Restoration in Rome, and the CNR Opere d'arte in Sesto Fiorentino.

Students in the program are also encouraged to take advantage of other

SACI class field trips. Even when not enrolled in a given class, they are welcome to accompany field trips when space is available.

SACI classes regularly visit incomparable collections in museums such as the Uffizi, Bargello, Accademia, Pitti, Marino Marini, Horne, Primo Conti, Specola, San Marco, Stibbert, Bardini, and Alinari. Field trips are usually led by a SACI instructor.

SACI field trips outside of Florence normally include visits to Rome; Ravenna; Pisa and Lucca; Siena and San Gimignano; Fiesole; Vinci and the Medici Villas; Bologna; the monastery of La Certosa; and Arezzo, Urbino, Monterchi, and San Sepolcro. SACI also offers optional field trips to enrich students' overseas art and cultural experience. Each year there is a trip to Venice and another to Naples, Pompeii, and Herculaneum.

These travel opportunities allow students to explore areas outside Florence, and are a wonderful way to become aware of Europe's art, history, and culture. Optional trips require modest fees.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

##### Eligibility

US and international students who have earned, or will have earned, a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, prior to beginning graduate study at SACI may apply for admission to the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program. Applicants who attend, or attended, a US college or university must have earned a minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 (based upon a scale in which A = 4.0). The required minimum undergraduate grade point average in studio art and conservation course work if the applicant has had no previous graduate experience is 3.00. The required minimum grade point average in previous graduate work in studio art and conservation is also 3.00.

Those whose native language is not English who have not demonstrated English-language proficiency through prior study in the English language at an institution of higher learning will be required to demonstrate English-language proficiency through one of the methods indicated in the *Non-US Student Admissions* section of the SACI web site.

All proficiencies required for entrance to the program must be achieved prior to

admittance. No credit toward the degree is permitted for study directed toward completion of these proficiencies.

### Application Process

Students may begin study in the Post-Bac Certificate in Conservation program in the Fall semester only.

Completed applications should be received no later than **June 15**. Applications received after June 15 will be considered only if space is available.

Applicants for scholarships must apply by **March 15**.

Applicants should complete and submit the online application form through the SACI web site, including a \$70 non-refundable processing fee. In addition, the following materials should be sent directly to the **New York Admissions Office of Studio Arts College International** (see address below):

- Short essay describing the applicant's area of specialization, objectives, and reasons for wishing to enter the program.
- **One** set of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **One** letter of recommendation from instructors or other artists familiar with the applicant's work.
- Curriculum vitae (required of those who have been out of school for 3 or more years).

### Submitting Your ePortfolio

For admission, an ePortfolio of 15 images or two original papers demonstrating your

scholarship (or a combination of both) must be submitted. This ePortfolio must be posted online via SACI's electronic portfolio provider. SACI does not require a payment for submitting an ePortfolio. Upon submission of your SACI application, you will receive an email with a link for your ePortfolio submission. Acceptable file formats and sizes for ePortfolios are: *Images*: JPEG at a resolution of 72 dpi which must be no larger than 600 pixels in the longest direction. *Videos*: .flv, .wmv, .mov—up to 60 MB each and no longer than five minutes. *Text documents*: PDF format up to 10 MB each. All submissions must include an inventory list with title, medium, size, date, and description.

### Scheduling a Conversation with a SACI Faculty Member

Applicants who submit all required documents and materials will receive via e-mail an invitation and instructions from the New York SACI Admissions Office to schedule a phone or Skype conversation with a SACI faculty member to discuss their application and interest in the program.

Please see the SACI web site for full details on the application procedure.

### Notification

Decisions are rolling beginning in January and students are notified as soon as possible.

### Financial Information, Tuition, Fees, & Scholarships

For full information, please see the *Dates and Fees* and *Scholarships* sections on the SACI web site. As noted above, applicants for scholarships must apply by **March 15**.



3D SCAN OF NOVILARA DOUBLE GRAVE BEFORE RESTORATION OF ARTIFACTS BY SACI STUDENTS

#### SACI IS

A United States non-profit 501(c)(3) educational entity incorporated in 1976

A directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Affiliated with Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

Recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry of Universities as a foreign non-profit university-level program

*Students who would like to receive a copy of SACI's accreditation, licensure, and/or approval should send a signed request for such material to SACI's Dean.*

#### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Studio Arts College International (SACI) and Bowling Green State University (BGSU) that no person shall be subject to discrimination in whatever relationship with SACI or BGSU because of disability, age, race, religion, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin.

#### GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURE:

<http://www.saci-florence.edu/gedt-conservation/>

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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**Studio Arts College International (Florence)**

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