The conservation of historic buildings has gained great importance in the building industry, both in the UK and overseas, leading to increased demand for specialist conservators.

These programmes can enable practising building conservators to improve their competence, and open new doors to other building professionals wanting to specialise or change career direction.

The **MSc Building Conservation** is fully recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), and successful completion of the MSc reduces the requirement for relevant experience for those seeking full membership of the IHBC from five years to two years. For further details see [www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)

Further information on the content of both programmes is available from the Museum’s website: [www.wealddown.co.uk/msc-degrees](http://www.wealddown.co.uk/msc-degrees)
COURSE STRUCTURE

Each course is run as a series of six study modules taken over eighteen months, followed by a period of six months to carry out a piece of research which is presented for examination as a dissertation. Each study module runs from Wednesday to Sunday, allowing students to continue working while taking the course. The MSc degree requires successful completion of the personal research project.

TEACHING

All taught units include contributions from leading practitioners in the field. Ample time is allowed for discussion with these experts, usually within the supportive and relaxed environment of the Museum.

FACILITIES

Facilities are second to none. The Museum’s teaching resources are enhanced by a specialist Museum library. Whilst students do not have access to physical resources at the University of York, access will be given to their electronic library resources. The Museum’s innovative Downland Gridshell workshop is the location for practical work, and its artefact collections are available for the study of tools and materials.

DELIVERY

Teaching is based on lectures and seminars, together with visits to historic buildings and sites, contractors’ workshops and specialist conservation studios. Where appropriate, modules provide hands-on experience of materials and processes. Most of the teaching is based at the Weald & Downland Living Museum, and is delivered by Museum staff and visiting lecturers employed by the Museum.
MSc TIMBER BUILDING CONSERVATION

Virtually every pre-modern building used timber in its construction, and there is a widespread need for conservators who have a specialist knowledge of timber and associated craft and repair techniques. This long-established course was set up by specialists in timber building conservation, and the module headings are:

- Development of timber structures
- Timber science and decay
- Timber-framing systems
- Site and workshop practice, and associated materials
- Repair of timber structures
- Consolidation and surface finishes: nonstructural repair
- Research project

The module headings are based on history and technology, while the broad themes of philosophy, policy, economics and practice are woven throughout the courses.
This course aims to develop the ability to work as an independent conservator, or within the regulatory agencies and other organisations concerned with building conservation. The course comprises the following units:

- Conservation of timber buildings
- Lime in conservation
- Conservation of masonry
- Conservation of metals
- Conservation of fixtures & finishes
- Conservation of 20th-century buildings
- Research project
ASSESSMENT

Assessment for the six taught units of each course is based entirely on coursework. Assignments will address problems and simulate tasks of the kind likely to be encountered in the professional environment. To gain an MSc students must successfully complete a dissertation based on their research into an approved topic.

ENTRY TO THE COURSES

Students will have a relevant first degree or equivalent qualifications, or relevant industrial experience. Past students have come from conservation repair specialists, building contractors wishing to undertake conservation contracts, planning departments and conservation organisations. For those applicants whose first language is not English, evidence of a minimum standard of written and spoken English will be required.

COURSE FEES

The fees for the 2018-20 intake are £6,200 (i.e. £3,100 payable each academic year). Fees do not include accommodation or meals, but the Museum can advise on suitable nearby accommodation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The courses will start in autumn 2018. For an informal discussion about either of the courses and the opportunities they present, please phone 01243 811931 or email courses@wealddown.co.uk.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email courses@wealddown.co.uk for an application form.
ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Weald & Downland Living Museum has established itself as a provider of specialist education and training in building conservation and historic building techniques. The fifty-two historic buildings reconstructed on its beautiful downland site give the Museum an unrivalled teaching resource in this specialised area. For further details, visit:

www.wealddown.co.uk

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The University of York was ranked eleventh in the World University Rankings 2017 and is renowned for its excellence in both research and teaching. It is ranked among the top ten universities for research impact and is a top ten university in the UK Archaeology league table 2018. In 2012, York joining the prestigious Russell Group of major research-intensive universities. Its Department of Archaeology won a Queen’s Anniversary Prize in 2011 for its leading-edge work in archaeology from pre-history to the modern age.
Set in 40 acres in the heart of the South Downs National Park, the Weald & Downland Living Museum has a collection of over fifty historic buildings which have been rescued from destruction, carefully restored and rebuilt. The buildings range from Anglo Saxon to 20th century and vividly demonstrate the homes, gardens and workplaces of the past. Visitors can also see traditional farming in action and heavy horses at work.

With education at the heart of our work we offer a stimulating and varied programme of courses with the very best researchers and craftspeople in their fields.