

MSc Cultural Heritage Studies Programme

Module summaries

Core Modules

Core 1 – Heritage Issues (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM11

This initial module will introduce students to the contemporary issues facing heritage organisations. This is important as students on the programme are likely to be from a range of backgrounds with differing levels of prior knowledge of the sector. Taking a broad sweep of the historical underpinning to current themes, the module will provide an intellectual framework for understanding the social, economic, cultural and political contexts within which heritage organisations operate.

F/T: Semester A P/T: Year 1

Core 2 – Communication and Interpretation (20 credits)

Ref SOCHM12

Complementing the introductory and integrative dimension of Heritage Issues, this module will provide an introduction to the theories and processes of communication and interpretation as they apply to heritage. This course will offer students the opportunity to consider the various audience groups accessing heritage and will examine methods to meet their needs. Students will be introduced to new technologies as a means to enhance communication for visitor groups within the heritage sector.

F/T: Semester A P/T: Year 2

Core 3 – Heritage Policy Development (20 Credits)

Ref MANTM20

A critical core module, this will introduce students to the analysis of policy and strategy developed in the heritage sector at both UK and international levels. The notion of policy will be explored, examining the contexts for strategic thinking by different organisations with diverse and sometimes competing goals. External regulatory and policy impacts will be assessed in different real-life scenarios.

F/T: Semester A P/T: Year 1

Core 4 – Heritage Management (20 Credits)

Ref MANTM11

The 'partner' core module to Heritage Policy, this module will introduce students to the regulatory context of heritage management and the key frameworks of management through the context of heritage, focusing on issues specific to heritage organisations.

F/T: Semester B P/T: Year 1

Core 5 – Designing Research 1 (10 Credits)

Ref SOCHM13

This introductory module focuses on enabling students to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to design research projects in a range of styles and to make an informed evaluation of the design of other people's published research. Students will be introduced to both quantitative and qualitative methods and will consider research

drawing on existing quantitative and qualitative data sets as well as on primary data collection. For MSc Cultural Heritage students the use and appropriateness of various methodologies in a cultural heritage context will be particularly drawn out.

F/T: Semester A P/T: Year 1

Core 6 – Designing Research 2 (10 Credits)

Ref SOCHM24

Building on Designing Research 1, this module will deepen and broaden students' critical engagement with the research process. It explores considerations of importance at the beginning of a research project and covers the writing of a research proposal. The full range of methods used by social and cultural researchers are considered, ranging from statistical and survey work to a variety of qualitative approaches. Practical guidance is given on applying these methods, coupled with a continual awareness of the theoretical implications of methodological decisions. As in the introductory module, a key feature of the module will be the ethical, social and political contexts of research.

F/T: Semester B P/T: Year 2

Core 7 – Dissertation (60 Credits)

Ref SOCHM31

The dissertation will consolidate and develop analytical and research skills acquired at the certificate end diploma levels of the programme. The final Master's dissertation will normally involve the presentation of substantial written findings based on the systematic collection of empirical data. This will require the student in evaluating previous theoretical literature and methodological strategies, and to consider the policy and management implications of their investigation. The module will thus involve the development of a detailed knowledge of a specific area of cultural heritage studies.

F/T: Summer P/T: Year 3

Core-8 –Professional Practice (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM18

This module will allow students to develop their intellectual and technical skills in a practical context. It complements and extends the knowledge developed during the programme and further involves the students in undertaking a 'real life' practical and management exercise that will prepare them for work in the heritage sector. This module provides students with the opportunity to undertake a period of practical work in Semester B preceded by a preparatory period of occasional lectures, seminars and practicals in Semester A. Reflective learning is a core element which will allow students to analyse critically both the roles and functions of the department/organisation as well as their own role within it.

F/T Semester B P/T Year 1

Option Modules

Option 1 – The Archaeological Resource: Holistic Approaches (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM15

This course will provide an introduction to archaeology as a resource for heritage management and interpretation of the historic environment. Students will be introduced to a variety of historical perspectives and philosophical approaches to landscape and the

environment. A key focus of this module will be the impact and interaction of humans with their environment in a variety of theoretical contexts. A chronology and thematic consideration of landscape and material culture will be offered.

Option 2 – Collections Management (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM22

This module will introduce students to the theories of material culture. It will familiarise students with the management issues which relate to the formation, curation, documentation and exhibition of collections in heritage organisations. It will provide an understanding of good practice in preventative conservation, of exhibition design, and the storage and transport of collections. The module will draw strongly on the specialist expertise in the GCU Research Collections staff.

Option 3 – History, Memory and Identity (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM23

The module's focus is on the role of history and memory in the making and re-making of national identity. Starting from the vantage point of European nation building in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century, the module shifts its focus to the specific case of Scotland. Iconography, memory and popular culture are each brought under critical scrutiny, examining how the historical record has been repeatedly used and shaped by various collectivities and individuals. Finally, the implications of this contested process of defining image and identity are discussed for policy makers and practitioners in the field of cultural heritage.

Option 4 – Voice of the Past: Oral History, Theory and Practice (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM14

By drawing upon the expanding expertise in the field, this module will provide students with an invaluable grounding in the theory and utility of oral history, the history of the oral history approach, oral interviewing techniques, the ethical implications of oral history, oral history archives, the nature of memory, and the uses and abuses of oral interviewing. It will critically examine the perspectives often hidden from the historical record; museums, galleries, and heritage displays and consider how oral interviewing can be used to bring displays to life.

Option 5 – Digital Media – Title to be confirmed (10 Credits)

Ref COMP554

This module provides an introduction to a number of key aspects of the design and development of contemporary interactive digital media applications that are relevant to heritage communication and interpretation in the digital domain. The module aims to provide students on with an understanding of: the core issues involved in Human-Computer Interaction and the design of User Interfaces; design principles and development processes for digital interactive media applications; Internet (Web) fundamentals; and fundamental design processes for modern video games.

Not offered 2007/08

Option 6 – Scotland in Statistics (10 Credits)

Ref SOCGM17

This module will assist students who require to undertake the analysis of secondary statistical data in their dissertation, but is also of wider relevance for those using statistics in their working and daily lives. It provides a comprehensive review of the role of statistics

in Scottish society. It considers: the availability of statistical resources which inform the understanding of the fabric of Scottish society and economy; the social production of statistics in Scotland; how statistics can be used as evidence in social scientific enquiry. The focus is on active learning, which is student-centred and resource-based. Contextualised case studies for Cultural Heritage students include the Scottish Visitor Attractions Monitor, the Scottish Statistical Accounts and the Historic Environment Reporting Project (Scotland).

Option 7 – Expressing Heritage Through the Arts (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM17

Heritage as expressed through the arts has been taught from the perspective of the arts—particularly visual arts (painting, sculpture and architecture)—within elite institutions. This will examine heritage and its relationship with a variety of arts: visual, audio, permanent and impermanent and as it exists outwith the museum or gallery. The module will focus on an examination of the idea of the ‘the arts’ as promoted by governments and other national agencies and more importantly, as an expression of identity by individuals and groups—both majority and minority. This module will be set firmly within a Scottish context with a particular focus on Glasgow.

Option 8 – Module by Negotiated Study (10 credits)

Ref SOCHM16

This module is intended for situations where for any reason a particular option does not run and where it is suitable to be taken by an independent study route, or where there are significant areas of professional interest not included in the options. The content of the module will be negotiated between the student and module leader in the form of a negotiated learning contract - the Module Learning Plan. The student will prepare an action plan which will include: title; aims; learning outcomes; nature and scope of work to be undertaken; Learning resources required and available; detailed operational timetable; assessment structure.