

BA (HONS) CONSERVATION APPLICANTS

Thank you for your interest in this course, the attached letter provides you with information about the time, date and place of your interview. We recommend that you allow plenty of time and aim to be at the Art School at least 15 minutes before your interview to avoid delays caused by transport difficulties.

Conservation applicants come from a wide range of backgrounds and often do not have an art or craft portfolio. If you do have examples of work you have made, we ask you to bring anything you consider relevant such as examples of any art or craft based work, drawings, photography, sketchbooks or notebooks that may support your application. We are not expecting you to present a portfolio in any particular format – we want to see anything that you consider relevant that helps you to show us your enthusiasm for the subject and your experience in any related areas. If you do not have any material to bring with you we are still able to recognise your potential through the set exercises during the interview.

We encourage you to inform us in advance if the arrangements for your interview require adjustment due to an existing condition or disability. For example if you might require more time or specific access arrangements or other support. Our aim is to ensure that all eligible applicants are given a fair opportunity to demonstrate their potential to study on the course.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR BA (HONS) CONSERVATION

At interview we are seeking to determine the extent to which you can demonstrate:

- evidence of interest and knowledge of cultural objects and their historical context;
- commitment and motivation to the subject and the course;
- a range of hand skills and technical abilities;
- potential to gather, research and synthesise information;
- potential to plan and prioritise your own time and set achievable goals

We are also looking for your potential in the following areas:

- manual dexterity;
- observational skills;
- a rational and informed approach to problem solving;
- a curiosity about objects, materials and their behaviour;
- patience and attention to detail;
- an appetite for learning and an ability to focus.

INTERVIEW TASKS AND QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Interviews for BA (Hons) Conservation involve 4 elements and usually take **1.5 to 2 hours**. They are designed to support you to best demonstrate your abilities in relation to the selection criteria. We want you to feel comfortable and confident and to ensure fairness and help you to prepare for your interview and we have agreed upon a set of key questions for all interviews for BA (Hons) Conservation. These are set out below.

Conservation is a very rewarding subject, and it does require a range of skills – but please be aware that we are not expecting you to excel in any of these areas yet, we are looking for your potential to study on the course.

Meanwhile you should use your interview visit as an opportunity to get a good idea about the Art School: our values and ethos, the course, and what studying here would be like and we encourage you to ask questions and see the interview as a 2 way process.

Interview elements:

1. Firstly, you will have a short face-to-face interview with a set of key questions.
2. After the interview, you will be asked to look at and write a short description (approximately 500 words) of a specific object. This should include information such as what material you think it is made from and what condition you think it is in?
3. You will then be given a problem to solve, for example what would you do to assess the weight of the object without measuring it?
4. Finally, you will be asked to either make an observational drawing of an object or to make a small clay model of it. This will take around 30 minutes and provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate your observational and making skills.

Key questions:

1. What attracts you to study BA (Hons) Conservation at degree level and why did you decide to apply for this particular course?
2. What do you hope to achieve after completing the course, do you have any specific ambitions?
3. Please tell us about two cultural objects that you have found interesting? What was it about those objects that held your attention? Have you found out more about those objects and their historical context and how did you go about that?
4. Do you have any questions for us?

Supplementary questions may also be asked about the work you bring with you or to follow on from your answers to the key questions.



Should you have any further queries please check our [website](#) or email us directly at admissions@cityandguildsartschool.ac.uk.