University of Bern
Institute of Art History

Master’s Program in Art History with
special qualification in Architectural History
and Heritage Preservation

For individual advice:
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Study plan and further information is available at:
ikg.unibe.ch
Architectural and artistic monuments are unique and irreplaceable historical objects. They are the material manifestations of craftsmanship and technical expertise from the past and are thus archives of information in the broadest sense of the word. They therefore hold great significance as objects that create identity on the regional, national and international level. Monument preservation is a part of the public service whose mission is to collect information on cultural heritage objects, assess and appraise them, and ensure that they are handled and managed properly. Because activities here also include research into the history of such objects, their significance in the present and their preservation for the future, monument preservation also plays an important role in the design of the environments we live in; that means it involves a certain amount of social responsibility as well.

**Courses**

- Practicing Preservation I: Insight into the Work of the Cantonal Monument Preservation
  Tatiana Lori
  (conservator of the Canton of Bern)

- Practicing Preservation II: Insight into the Work of the Municipal Monument Preservation
  Dr. Jean-Daniel Gross
  (conservator of the City of Bern)

- Ethics and Methods of Monument Preservation
  Reto Nussbaumer
  (conservator of the Canton of Aargau)

- Preservation of Historical Monuments in Switzerland. History and Structures
  Dr. Nina Mekacher
  (head of the conservation and restoration department, Bern Academy of the Arts/HKB)

- Management of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Monument Preservation and Marketing at the Klassik Stiftung Weimar
  Dr. Annette Ludwig
  (director of museums at Klassik Stiftung Weimar)

- Theory and History of Monument Preservation in the German-Speaking World
  Dr.-Ing. Eva Schäfer
  (independent conservator; head of the preservation office Architekturgeschichten, Bern)

**Educational Targets**

- To acquire basic theoretical and practical knowledge of the preservation of architectural and artistic monuments. The qualification is offered through additional courses within the framework of the art history program
- To raise awareness of the social significance of the historical record and the contemporary conditions of conceptualizing monuments
- To prepare students for the professional field of historic preservation and in the field of construction research and inventorisation of historical monuments
- To gain insight into the activities of institutions through the completion of an obligatory internship (min. four weeks)
- To acquire contacts and establish a network amongst professionals working in monument preservation
Further Information

The Master’s program in “Art History with special qualification in Architectural History and Heritage Preservation” at the Institute of Art History at the University of Bern incorporates the field of built heritage preservation as a part of art history studies. The objective is to offer a study program that is both theoretically grounded and practice-oriented, and that leads to promising career opportunities in Switzerland and beyond. This unique program offers students the opportunity to combine the study of monument preservation heritage preservation in the context of the history of architecture as a minor (30 credits) with a regular Art History major (90 credits) in the Master’s program. In this manner, monument preservation is not only addressed in its practical form, but also and especially within the context of its cultural and historical dimension and meaning.

Mostly external professionals, who are active in the field of the preservation, management, and research of monuments, teach the respective courses.

Program Director

Prof. Dr. Laura Hindelang
University of Bern, Institute of Art History, Chair of Architectural History and Heritage Preservation

Contact

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