Heritage and Museology

The field of heritage comprises, among other things, historic monuments and collections conserved in museums, libraries, and archives; protected buildings; rare professional knowledge; cinema; and photography. The status of historic monument is also accorded to certain rural areas, industrial and technical structures, and architectural constructions of the 20th century.

Having become a major political and economic issue, heritage in all its forms is perceived as a matter of the identity of peoples. As a political instrument, recognition of heritage can satisfy territorial, political, and cultural demands. It can play a significant role in the development of economic resources, professions, and new sources of employment, mobilizing all actors in local and national life.

The teaching of museology involves theoretical teaching of history, general principles of organization, presentation, administration, management, operations and advancement of museums and collections. Museum archaeologists reconstruct the history of humanity, from its origins to today, based on surviving vestiges.

Certain heritage-related professions (art historians, presenters, guides) are tied to knowledge of heritage. Others (architects of historical buildings, conservators, restorers, craftsmen) are related to preservation. The science and techniques of the conservation, classification, and presentation of collections form one part of the activities of a museologist, complemented by museum management and operations.

International

The Foreign Ministry’s activities on behalf of French heritage are based on three axes of intervention: cooperation with state partners in protecting and promoting sites and physical and nonphysical cultural assets, combating the trafficking of cultural assets, and promoting France’s cultural heritage as an instrument for economic and social development. France exports its expertise in heritage, museology, and archaeology to many countries, including Albania, China, Egypt, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates. Under construction on the island of Saadiyat, in Abu Dhabi’s cultural district, is the Universal Museum of the Louvre Abu Dhabi (designed by French architect Jean Nouvel).

France plays a double role in this endeavor, offering advice regarding the conception and realization of the building and elaborating the museum’s scientific and cultural project. Several international networks share their resources and expertise. They include HEREIN (a European network), e-patrimoines.org (which provides continuing distance education in francophone countries), Europae Archaeologiae Consilium, EPV (Ecole du patrimoine africain), ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), ICOM-International Council of Museums, European Heritage Days.

• More than 550,000 archaeological sites identified (2021)
• 8,000 museums, including 61 national and 1216 labeled Museums of France, 28,5 million visitors (2022)
• A hundred national monuments, nearly 46,000 classified or registered monuments, and more than 10 million annual visits to national monuments (2022)
• 3,800 parks and gardens (2022)

Sources : INSEE - MC - MESR

Useful links

• Archaeological research: www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/archaeological-research-in-france
• Architecture: www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/architecture
• Architecture and heritage database: http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine
• Art images, platform, and photo gallery of museum collections: www.art.mnnp.fr
• CampusArt: art, design and architecture degrees online: application: www.campusart.org
• Center of National Monuments: www.monuments-nationaux.fr
• Centre for Research and Restoration of French Museums: www.c2rmf.fr
• CRC (Centre de recherche sur la conservation): http://crc.mnhn.fr
• Culturethèque - Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
• Directory of French archaeology: www.archeopile.com
• FFCR (Fédération française des professionnels de la conservation-restauration): www.ffcr.fr
• INRAP (National Institute of Preventive Archaeology): www.inrap.fr
• European Heritage Days: https://joueensdupatrimoine.culture.gouv.fr
• Labeled museums «Musées de France»: www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/liste-et-localisation-des-musees-de-france
• Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
• Musées de France: www.les-musees-de-france.fr
• RNCP (National Repertory of Professional Certifications): www.francecompetences.fr
• UNESCO, World Heritage Center: www.unesco.org
DIPÔME NATIONAL DES MÉTIERS D’ART ET DU DESIGN (DNMADE)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> DNMADE certifies the 1st cycle in ESAA over 3 years and confers the Degree of Licence. Seven institutions offer habitat art concentrations in
decoration and furniture and furniture restoration. One institution
offers the graphic arts concentration in gilded bindings.

DIPÔME NATIONAL D’ART (DNA)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> DNA is awarded at the end of a three-year program of study.
The Avignon and Tours ESAD offer a concentration in Conservation
and restoration. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/549

LICENCE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> Licence, national diploma in three years, is offered in twenty universities,
with degrees granted in arts, letters, languages, humanities, and social
sciences. Heritage-related majors include art history, archeology.
> A dual degree in Art history/archeology and law is offered by the
Sorbonne Panthéon (Paris 1).

PROFESSIONAL LICENCE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> Licence professionnelle, national diploma, is offered by some 30
universities, with degrees granted in arts, letters, languages, humanities,
and social sciences on development and protection of cultural heritage,
land management, book and heritage professions.
Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/467
Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/434

Institutional diplomas or Titles registered at RNCP level II (bac + 3):
> First cycle at the École du Louvre in 3 years:
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/130
> Restorer/conservator of cultural assets, at the Écoles de Condé:
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/279

To apply online:
www.campusart.org > Find your program

DIPÔME DE MUSÉOLOGIE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 4 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M1
> Diploma in Museology from the École du Louvre is awarded after
a one-year course of graduate study.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/127

MASTER
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> Master’s is offered by more than 100 universities in the fields of
Arts, letters, languages, and Human and social sciences, with
concentrations in Archaeology, Architecture, archives, Art history and
heritage, Conservation and restoration of cultural assets, Culture and
society, and Museology.
Université Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne): www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1218
Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour:
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/432
Université de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/446

DU Recherche de provenances des œuvres d’art : circulations,
spoliations, trafics illicites et restitutions, at the Université Paris-Nanterre:
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1218
> The National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) offers a two-year master’s
of science program with concentrations in Evolution and national
heritage and societies (specialization in museology). www.mnhn.fr

DIPÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D’EXPRESSIION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> DNSEP is awarded after two years of graduate study. Based on individual
projects, it confers the appellation of Master. Two ESAD offer the
concentration in Conservation/restoration:
- The ESA in Avignon offers a concentration in the Conservation/restoration
of paintings. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/412
- The ESAD in Tours offers a concentration in the Conservation/restoration
sculptures. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/551

DIPLOMA IN THE MANAGEMENT OF AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA): www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/66

GRADUATE LEVEL DIPLOMA FROM THE ÉCOLE DU LOUVRE
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The second cycle of the program at the École du Louvre is a two-year
master’s degree program. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/128

DIPLOMA OF RESTORER OF HERITAGE
(CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL)
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
Restorer of Heritage program of the Institut National du Patrimoine
(INP), seven concentrations: arts of fire (metal, class, ceramic, enamel);
graphic arts, textiles; furniture; painting (easel, mural); photography;
and sculpture. www.inp.fr

DIPLOMA IN ART HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> History of Art and Museum Professions, École du Louvre - University of
Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV) - University of Paris-Sorbonne Abu Dhabi
> Comparative History and Civilizations, with a concentration in Cities,
architecture, and heritage, offered by the Université Paris Cité and the
University of Bologna (Italy). www.u-paris.fr

INSTITUTION DIPLOMA IN PALEOGRAPHIC ARCHIVAL STUDIES
5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
The Ecole Nationale des Chartes (ENC) offers a program in paleographic
archival studies. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/683

MASTÈRE SPÉCIALISÉ® (MS)
INSTITUTION DIPLOMA – 1 YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> Management of natural, history, and cultural touristic
heritage (accredited by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles)
is a one-year program offered by the Conservatoire national
des arts et métiers (CNAM) and the Institut National du
Patrimoine (INP).

INSTITUTION DIPLOMA
1, 2 OU 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> The Diplôme de Spécialisation et d’Approfondissement en
Architecture (DSA), is awarded by three Écoles Nationales
Supérieures d’Architectures (ENSAs) and the École de Chaillot.
> The Diplôme d’Amélioration des Études d’Architecture
(IDEA), a three-year course of study. Concentrations
include preservation and archaeology of electronic media and
digital art and conservation/ restauration.
> The Diplôme de Spécialisation et d’Approfondissement en
Architecture (DSA), is awarded by three Écoles Nationales
Supérieures d’Architectures (ENSAs) and the École de Chaillot.
> Diplôme Propre aux Écoles d’Architecture (DPEA), in
urban projects, heritage, and sustainable development is
awarded by the ENSA of Toulouse after two years of study.
> The Diploma of the third cycle of the École du Louvre is
awarded after a three year course of study.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/129

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