



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

联合国教育、科学及文化组织



THE WORLD HERITAGE INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND
RESEARCH FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

亚太地区世界遗产培训与研究中心



Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management (WHCM)

Diploma or Certificate

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research

for the Asia and the Pacific Region

under the auspices of UNESCO

Introduction

Since it came into effect in 1975, the World Heritage Convention has rapidly grown to become one of the most successful and influential international instruments for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. It has currently been ratified by 186 countries, or States Parties, and as per July 2008 there are 878 sites inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage List. However, with pressures such as environmental degradation, fast economic development and urbanization, and the impacts of climate change, the challenges to the conservation and management of World Heritage sites are formidable. Due to various undermining factors, such as weak institutional, financial and policy support, and insufficient human resources, the nomination, conservation, management and presentation of World Heritage remains problematic, in particular for developing countries – improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention therefore means improving overall and individual capacities.

Professionals involved in World Heritage conservation and management come from different backgrounds and include site managers, government officials, craftsmen, scholars, as well as practitioners from independent interest groups. Even when equipped with professional knowledge and skills, decision making and practice in World Heritage conservation and management involves a multi-disciplinary approach and is greatly enhanced through a comprehensive understanding of broader conceptual and methodological frameworks that underlie the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. Thus receiving systematic theoretical and practical training in this area will contribute to a broader vision and integration of knowledge and skills for improved World Heritage conservation and management.

The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), the first-ever Category II Institute established in a developing country under the auspices of UNESCO, addresses the need for capacity building by providing specialized training to all professionals involved with World Heritage, with an emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, through education, research, information dissemination and network building.

WHITRAP has developed the Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management (WHCM) as one of several systematic education and training programmes in World Heritage. The Advanced Course in WHCM will be launched in the fall of 2009 and is targeted for professionals, decision makers and practitioners working with World Heritage – a mix that will allow for important exchanges of viewpoints and experiences among students. The modules will be lectured, elaborated and piloted in WHITRAP's two university-based centres, i.e. Beijing University and Tongji University. Further opportunities exist for practical work or joint research in other universities and World Heritage sites in China.

The Course Programme

(1) Objectives

The Advanced Course in WHCM aims to assist professionals, decision makers and practitioners working in World Heritage conservation and management to improve on their performance and advance their career goals. Specific objectives are to enhance individual capacities by:

- Broadening international vision, understanding and network in World Heritage;
- Providing the state-of-the-art in World Heritage conservation and management with training by internationally renowned experts in the field;
- Performing practical exercises in various aspects of the World Heritage process, such as the preparation of nomination dossiers and development of management plans, among others.

(2) Course Structure

The Advanced Course in WHCM can be undertaken either as certificate programme (half year) or diploma programme (full year). Students enrolled in this Advanced Course will spend the first 5 months together for intensive modules, with in-class training by internationally renowned experts, alternated with group work for practical exercises such as the preparation of a nomination dossier and development of a management plan. After 5 months the successful students will be awarded with a **Certificate of the Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management**.

Students will also have the opportunity to engage in fieldwork with research or management teams in China, if they enroll into a full-year programme. In addition to the first 5 months described above and after the break of the Chinese Spring Festival (in February), the students will further develop specific areas in light of their personal interest. Based on personal preferences and availability the student can choose a 5-month field project to participate in on-site research or management planning with professionals in one of the partner institutions of the programme or a chosen World Heritage site in China. After 10 months of combined study and fieldwork, closed off with a comprehensive field report, the students will be awarded with a **Diploma of the Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management**.

(3) Study Period

- Certificate Programme: Sept. 2009 – January 2010 (5 months)
- Diploma Programme: Sept. 2009 – July 2010 (10 months, excl. February)

| Advanced Course Structure – Certificate Programme (5 months) | | | |
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| Module | | Short Description | |
| | | In-class training | Practical work |
| 1 | The World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines | Introduction to the WH Convention, its theoretical and methodological framework, with systematic study of the updated <i>Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the WH Convention</i> | Preparation of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value |
| 2 | Nomination of sites to the World Heritage List of UNESCO | Elaboration on the process of nomination, with Tentative List, comparative study, chapters of the nomination dossier, and discussion of new trends and issues (Global Strategy, transboundary and serial nominations) | Preparation of a nomination dossier |
| 3 | Protection and Conservation of World Heritage | Legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements, conservation planning, assessment of state of conservation through indicators, conservation techniques and technologies | Preparation of a State of Conservation (SoC) Report |
| 4 | World Heritage Site Management | Site boundaries and buffer zones, management systems, management planning, assessment of significance, monitoring and evaluation, and operational aspects related to tourism | Preparation of a Management Plan |
| 5 | World Heritage Site Interpretation and Presentation | Site interpretation strategies and modalities, educational aspects of presentation, planning and design of visitor information centres, and introduction to museology | Preparation of World Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy |
| Advanced Course Structure – Diploma Programme (10 months) | | | |
| 5-month Field Project to participate in on-site research or management planning with professionals in one of the partner institutions or a World Heritage site of choice in China | | | |

2. Application Information

(1) Application Prerequisites

- A. This Advanced Course is intended for professionals, decision makers and practitioners (among others government officials, site managers, scholars in academia and independent consultants) with a background in World Heritage conservation and management. Applicants should have attained at least a bachelor degree in a related field of expertise and have a minimum of two years of related working experience.
- B. Applicants should be proficient in English, including reading, writing, making presentations and participating in academic discussions. Those who are not native English-speaking should provide the necessary certificates of their linguistic competence. Basic Chinese will be an asset for staying in China.

(2) Number of Students

Due to the intensive nature of the course programme, the number of students will be limited to 25 only. Early application therefore is recommended.

(3) Tuition Fee and Estimated Costs of Living

The tuition fee per student is (1 USD = 6.8 RMB as per March 2009):

- Certificate Programme: 30,000 RMB
- Diploma Programme: 40,000 RMB

The estimated costs of living are:

- Accommodation: approximately 30,000 RMB/year
- Board (meals): approximately 10,000 RMB/year
- Medical insurance: 600 RMB/year
- Transportation and other miscellaneous costs: approximately 5,000 RMB/year

(4) Fellowships

The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China will make available WHITRAP Fellowships to provide financial support for the most qualified candidates, who must be: 1) under the age of thirty-five; 2) from a developing country; 3) in the Asia-Pacific region. The fellowship shall cover tuition fee and basic costs of living (but not the international travel to China). **The 2009 fellowship quota is 10.**

(5) When to Apply

The final date for application submission is **May 25, 2009**, and any application materials received later than this date will not be considered for admission into the Advanced Course. Applicants wanting to apply for the WHITRAP Fellowship

(Chinese Government Scholarship) must submit their application materials with qualification documents (see below) before **April 25, 2009**. Early application is encouraged.

(6) How to Apply

Applicants should submit the following application materials to the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP):

- a. Application Form for the Advanced Course on WHCM with a photograph attached.
- b. Certification of highest degree attained, and official certificate of employment (original documents with certified copies in English).
- c. Letters from two referees. At least one of the referees should have knowledge of the applicant's recent academic or practical work and indicating the standard attained (original documents and certified copies in English).
- d. One photocopy of your valid passport (passport type must be ordinary).
- e. Statement of study/research plan.
- f. Financial support form: all applicants should fill in a financial support form, and 2 options according to the sources of funding: i) Application Form for Chinese Government Scholarship, if applicants want to apply for the WHITRAP Fellowship; or ii) Application Form for Self-Financing, if the applicants finance their own or with other financial sponsors.
- g. Application fee: 50 USD. It should be transferred to the following account:
Bank: BANK OF CHINA BEIJING HAIDIAN BEIDA SUB-OFFICE
Address: 1st FL Beijing Ziyuan Yanyuan Hotel, No.1, the Summer Palace Road, Handian District, Beijing
A/C holder's name: LIU Jing
A/C No: 4080 7020 1880 7109 78
SWIFT Code: BKCH CN BJ 110

Note:

- *Two sets of the above application materials are required, one original and one duplicate. The application documents will not be returned.*
- *Applications with incomplete materials or without the application fee will not be considered.*
- *The application fee is not refundable.*

(7) Admission

Admission and scholarship will be determined by the applicants' academic and professional competence and completeness of the application materials. The applicants may be required to take a telephone interview or requested additional materials according to the application process during this period. If the applicant

is accepted, WHITRAP will send him/her the Letter of Admission and all relevant documents by the end of July.

(8) Registration

September 2009 (precise date will be specified in the Letter of Admission)

(9) Accommodation

There are different types of housing facilities for international students at each participating university. The concerned office in the university will provide details and support.

(10) Medical Insurance

The students should be medically insured throughout their entire planned period of stay in China. Students are required to purchase the Comprehensive Insurance Plan of Foreign Students provided by Ping An Insurance Company on the day of registration, which has been recognized and recommended by the Ministry of Education of China. Students who do not have valid medical insurance are not allowed to register.

3. Contact Information

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