

# **POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN CONSERVATION OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS**

**University of Granada Business Foundation**

## **Course outline**

Given our geographical setting and the bearing that the Arabic manuscript tradition has had on the scientific development of our culture, it is essential to understand and study these materials in depth; not only to detect their provenance and understand their content, but also to understand their structure and the materials used in their composition. In this way, we can adopt appropriate conservation methods for their conservation and preservation.

The inheritance that the Arabic World has bequeathed to scientific history is directly linked to the innovations that were introduced both to paper manufacture and to the production of manuscripts – they were the guardians and transmitters of an entire cultural legacy.

Of the inks, pigments and dyes that were used in the making of these manuscripts, the lacquers and organic dyes are the most fragile. They are also the most susceptible to changes in pH, climate and light. By studying the colour and chemical elements involved we can deepen our knowledge and thus select the most appropriate approaches – to avoid or minimise damage. Correct usage and sound critical selection of materials will help to minimise deterioration and guarantee conservation.

Knowledge of the structure of manuscripts from this legacy, and of the various elements involved, will also help us to date, identify and understand the techniques used by calligraphers, scribes and binders. To achieve such a comprehensive study requires an interdisciplinary team of professionals - notably archivists, specialists in Arabic, chemists and conservators – from Spain and beyond. The participation in this programme of researchers and custodians of Arabic manuscript collections from the leading international institutions is especially important as it is hoped that this will enable us to agree and establish common criteria for the safekeeping and conservation of such materials, as well as establishing guidelines for creating appropriate protocols for preservation, conservation.

For these reasons, this type of research is becoming increasingly important. In order to expand our knowledge of these documents, a collaborative project between the University of Granada and the Superior Council of Scientific Researches (CSIC) Materials' Sciences Institute of Seville has been established. We seek in our joint research - using advanced technology previously unavailable- to develop a knowledge of the materials and techniques used in graphic documents and archive material, both to establish characteristics and specific structural models, and to understand their influence and impact on current methods of book work in neighbouring Arabic countries, as well as contemporary western documents.

In order to realise this goal, we are proposing a new model for the bringing together and the analysis of our documentary heritage. To date, this unique collection of documents has been studied from an archival perspective only, without any development of a codicological model, in the widest sense of the term. In that these documents were produced over a considerable time-span and that their geographic location and provenance is unique, they shed a special light on the study of the cultural interaction and exchange between the Islamic heritage and its impact on and reaction to Judo-Christian Spain

The conclusions reached through this study will help to contribute new data and understanding of the techniques and materials used in Arabic documentary heritage in Al-Andalus.

## Objectives

The overarching objective will be to provide participants with application-based content which will enable them to establish the necessary parameters – in line with agreed criteria – to deliver preservation, conservation and restoration programmes tailored to the type of collection concerned. More specifically the objectives are to:

- ✚ Develop in-depth knowledge of the nature of the materials it is made up of and how it is made.
- ✚ Educate participants in the codicological study of the Arabic manuscript in its many forms.
- ✚ Provide the necessary input to enable those with responsibility for the safekeeping of such materials to develop their knowledge of the different processes for material analysis of the elements concerned, and of the stages a document should undergo (and not undergo) in order to be best preserved.
- ✚ Explore the criteria for conservation and restoration currently applied by the different institutions, in order to reach a series of commonly-agreed criteria which might be applied internationally.
- ✚ Raise awareness, by understanding the structure of the documents, of various problems and their treatments, in order to making conservation treatments the last resort in the preservation process of each document.

## Organisers

**Fundación Empresa Universidad de Granada (University of Granada Business Foundation).**

**Research project New Technologies of Analysis for the Study of Materials and Techniques in Arabic Manuscripts from Al-Andalus (Ref. CTQ2005-07717).**

## **Academic Leadership**

**Dr. Teresa Espejo Arias. PhD in Fine Arts Conservation. University of Granada, Senior lecturer of Painting Department and head researcher on project CTQ2005-07717.**

## **Academic Coordination**

Juan Pablo Arias Torres. PhD in Philosophy and Arts. Senior lecturer in the Department of Translation, University of Malaga.

Javier Bueno Vargas. PhD in Fine Art Conservation. Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Painting and Conservation, University of Seville.

M<sup>a</sup> del Rosario Blanc García. PhD in Chemistry. Senior lecturer in the Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Granada.

Ana Beny BA in Conservation of Graphic Documents. Consultant and advisor specialized in Management of Document Conservation and Preservation.

Co-Head of Conservation for the Board of Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation.

## **Collaborators**

**Andalusia Regional Government, Ministry of Culture:**

Books and Bibliographical and Documents Heritage Management Agency. Archives Section.

Vice-Ministry, Cooperation and Special Programmes Service

**Royal Hospital Library, University of Granada**

**Granada Provincial Council**

**Superior Council of Scientific Research (CSIC), Materials' Sciences Institute, Seville.**

**Superior Council of Scientific Research (CSIC), Arabic Studies School, Granada.**

**Técnicas de Ensayo y Restauración (Testing and Restoration Techniques)**

## **Programme duration**

**Total duration: 229 hours**

Hours of theory: 132 hours

Hours of practice: 97 hours

## **Enrolment and workshop dates**

**Duration of full programme:**

18th September 2007 to 16th May 2008.

Enrolment period: from 10th May 2007 to 10 September 2007.

It is possible for participants to take individual modules, based on the following framework:

### **Module I: The Arabic Manuscript**

Dates: From 17th to 28th September 2007.

Number of hours: 74

Registration: From 10th May to 10th September 2007.

### **Module II: Materials and Techniques used in Arabic Manuscript Production**

Dates: From 12th to 21st November 2007.

Number of hours: 62

Registration: From 10th May to 5th November 2007.

### **Module III: Identification of Materials in Arabic Manuscripts**

Dates: From 11th to 19th February 2008.

Number of hours: 55

Registration: From 10th May 2007 to 4th February 2008.

### **Module IV: Preservation and Conservation of Arabic Manuscripts – Criteria and Techniques**

Dates From 12th to 16th May 2008.

Number of hours: 38

Registration: From 10th May 2007 to 5th May 2008.

## **Timetable**

Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 13.30pm and from 15.00pm to 19.30pm.

## **Languages**

Simultaneous interpretation Spanish/English and English/Spanish.

## **Target audience**

Graduates in the conservation of graphic documents.

Technicians and those in charge of archives, libraries and institutions with remits including the management, custody and safekeeping of this type of collection.

In exceptional cases, other interested professionals and users may also attend, assuming places are available.

## **Number of places**

20 places will be made available, with priority given to those participants wishing to take the entire programme.

## **Location**

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

Offering activities and practices in:

Conservation workshops, University of Granada

Chemistry and Optics laboratories, University of Granada

Centre for Scientific Instrumentation, University of Granada

CSIC Arabic Studies School, Granada

Archive of the Sacromonte Abbey, Granada

Hospital Real Library, University of Granada  
CSIC Institute of Materials Science, Seville.

## Prices

**FULL PROGRAMME:** 1965 €

**Module I:** 450 €

**Module II:** 600 €

**Module III:** 575 €

**Module IV:** 700 €

## Qualifications conferred

Certificate of Attendance in the Postgraduate Course In conservation of Arabic Manuscripts (if all modules attended)

Certificate of Attendance in each individual modules coursed.

## Programme contents

### **MODULE I: THE ARABIC MANUSCRIPT, GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

Coordinated by: **Dr Juan Pablo Arias Torres, Department of Arabic Translation, University of Malaga.**

**THE MANUSCRIPT AND THE WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES.** 6 hours.

**M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Fierro. Institute of Philology, CSIC, Madrid. Spain.**

The World of Knowledge in Islamic Societies: social structure and practice.

The Manuscript in the Islamic World of Knowledge: form and function. Resistance to the introduction of printing.

Arabic Manuscripts around the World and in Spain: collections, locations, catalogues, subject matter and chronology.

Instruments for the identification of works and their authors.

Guidelines for cataloguing Arabic manuscripts.

**INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC CODICOLOGY. 18**

hours.

**François Déroche. École Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris. France.**

Introduction and baseline knowledge.

Materials used in books: papyrus, parchment, paper, inks and dyes.

Gatherings.

The page.

Illumination and illustration.

Binding.

Towards a history of the book in the Islamic World.

**ARABIC WRITING. 20 hours.**

**Juan Pablo Arias. Department of Translation, University of Malaga, Spain.**

Introduction to reading and writing in Arabic.

The Arabic alphabet, alphabetic order, and numerical value of letters.

Numerical systems.

Guidelines for the transcription of the Arabic alphabet.

Practical sessions – reading and writing applied in the identification of manuscripts.

**ARABIC PALEOGRAPHY. 10 hours.**

**Amalia Zomeño, CSIC School of Arabic Studies, Granada. Spain.**

Introduction to Arabic Paleography. Andalusí, Maghribian and Nasji writing.

Practical sessions in paleography

**ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY. 20 hours.**

**Ricardo Vicente Placed. Specialist in Arabic Calligraphy. Zaragoza, Spain.**

Materials and techniques.

Styles.

Arabic calligraphy workshop

**Guided tour of the collection of Arabic manuscripts, School of Arabic Studies of Granada.** Superior Council of Scientific Researches, Spain.

## **MODULE II. MATERIALS AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES IN ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS**

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.

Coordinated by: **Javier Bueno Vargas, Department of Painting and Restoration, University of Seville.**

**THE MEDIUM.** 10 hours.

**Paul Hepworth. Textiles and Paper Conservator. Istanbul, Turkey.**

Key materials used in the making of Arabic manuscripts.  
General characteristics of the leather, parchment, paper and fabrics used.

Traditions and usage.

Conservation problems.

**COLOUR: INKS, PIGMENTS AND DYES.** 20 hours.

Cheryl Porter. Manuscripts Conservator. London. UK.

Secretary of TIMA Conservation sub-committee and Co-Head of Conservation for the Board of Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation.

History of the inks, pigments and dyes used in Arabic manuscripts.

Methods of production, binding media.

Conservation issues and possible solutions

Practical sessions in colour production using original recipes.

**ARABIC BOOKBINDING.** 30 hours.

**Teresa Espejo Arias, University of Granada, Spain.**

**Nil Baydar, Paper and leather conservator, Ankara, Turkey.**

**Ana Beny, Book and Paper Conservator, Madrid, Spain.**

Typology and characteristics in Arabic bookbinding. Materials, structures and production techniques.

Andalusian book binding.

From Arabic to Mudéjar bookbinding.

Practical bookbinding sessions.

**Guided tour of the Arabic manuscript collection of the Hospital Real Library, University of Granada.** 2 hours.

## **MODULE III. IDENTIFICATION OF MATERIALS IN ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS.**

From 11th to 19th February 2008.

Coordinated by: **M<sup>a</sup> del Rosario Blanc, Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Granada.**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APPLICATION OF DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUENT MATERIALS USED IN CULTURAL ARTEFACTS, FOR THEIR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION.** 2 hours.

**Teresa Espejo Arias. Department of Painting, Restoration of Documents, University of Granada, Spain.**

**LEATHER AND PARCHMENT. 6 hours.**

**René Larsen. School of Conservation. The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Copenhagen.**

Methods and techniques for the identification of parchment, leather and types of tanning. Principal causes of damage to leather and parchment.

**TEXTILE AND PAPER FIBRES. 6 hours.**

**Adrián Durán Benito. CSIC, Institute of Material Science. Seville.**

Chemical characteristics, methodology and techniques for their identification.

**SIZINGS AND ADHESIVES 6 hours.**

**Jose Luis Pérez Rodríguez. CSIC Institute of Material Science. Seville.**

Chemical characteristics, methodology and techniques for their identification

**INORGANIC PIGMENTS. 6 hours.**

**Ángel Justo Erbez. CSIC Institute of Material Science. Seville.**

Chemical characteristics, methodology and techniques for their identification.

**ORGANIC INKS AND DYES. 12 hours.**

**Jose Luis Vilchez Quero, M.Rosario Blanc and Ana M. López Montes. Department of Chemistry, University of Granada.**

Chemical characteristics, methodology and techniques for their identification.

Study of Liquid Chromatography and Capillary Electrophoresis techniques.

**INTRODUCTION TO COLORIMETRIC ANALYSIS IN MANUSCRIPTS. 10 hours.**

**Rafael Huerta Roas, Eva Valero Benito y Clara Plata Ríos. Department of Optics, University of Granada.**

General concepts, instrumentation and applications.

**Guided tour plus demonstration at the Centre for Scientific Instrumentation, University of Granada. 6 hours.**

**Isabel Guerra. Centre for Scientific Instrumentation, University of Granada.**

## **MODULE IV. PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION AND OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS – CRITERIA AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES**

From 12th to 16th May, 2008.

Coordinated by: **Ana Beny, Conservation and Restoration of Graphic Documents. Madrid, Spain.**

CONSERVATION CRITERIA, MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES IN ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS. PRESENTATION OF PRACTICAL EXAMPLES.

**Arsenio Sanchez Hernández**. National Library, Madrid. 6 hours.

**Yasmeen R. Khan**. Library of Congress. Washington, USA. 6 hours.

**Yana van Dyke**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA. 6 hours.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN ARABIC MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS.

CRITERIA FOR INTERVENTION.

**Marco di Bella**, Palermo, Italy. 4 hours.

**Davidson McLaren**, TIF-DAK Project, Cairo, Egypt, 4 hours.

**Alí Laghzioui**, Al-Qarawiyin Library, Fez, Morocco. 4 hours.

**Visit to view the Arabic manuscript collection of the Abbey of the Sacromonte, Granada, Spain.** 4 hours.

**ROUND TABLE:** DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR INTERVENTION. CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE OUTLOOK.

All lecturers to participate. 4 hours.

**Information, pre-registration and enrolment**

University of Granada Business Foundation.

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