



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Unit code: F4N1 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the properties and nature of traditional plasterwork. It will provide an introduction to the skills, techniques and expertise of those involved in the plastering craft. Candidates will develop an appreciation of this traditional building craft which will inform further studies in Architectural Conservation craft. Candidates will experience some hands-on activity in order to appreciate the nature of plastering activities, however is not designed to develop candidates as professional craftspeople.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe the construction techniques of traditional plasterwork.
- 2 Explain the construction techniques of traditional external lime renders.
- 3 Prepare substrate and apply lime render.
- 4 Explain the method used to run plaster mouldings in-situ and produce a piece of plaster moulding.
- 5 Produce a flood mould.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It would be beneficial if candidates had a basic knowledge and understanding of the building industry.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skill components.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: The assessment of Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be integrated. This could take the form of a case/design study consisting of a practical task supported by questions or a report. Outcomes 4 and 5 should be assessed by practical tasks with supporting evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe the construction techniques of traditional plasterwork

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Construction process
- ◆ Use of lime as a binding agent
- ◆ Lath and plaster system
- ◆ Three coat plasterwork
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by describing the construction techniques of traditional plasterwork. This description must include:

- ◆ the process of applying traditional plasterwork
- ◆ the different stages of the construction process
- ◆ list of component parts of the plaster system and explanation of their function
- ◆ relevant health and safety requirements

Evidence should be generated through an integrated assessment covering Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment instrument for Outcomes 1 and 2 could consist of one of the following:

- ◆ a report of approximately 750–1,000 words or equivalent
- ◆ 8 to 10 restricted answer questions
- ◆ a mixture of short and restricted answer questions

This will support the practical assignment for Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Outcome 2

Explain the construction techniques of traditional external lime renders

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Tools
- ◆ Materials
- ◆ Two coat work
- ◆ Types of render finishes
- ◆ Weather considerations
- ◆ Benefits and weaknesses of lime based render system

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the background preparation for external substrate, including the tools, materials and processes used
- ◆ explain the application stages of two coat work and render finishes
- ◆ explain two benefits and two weaknesses of lime based render system
- ◆ explain how weather conditions can affect the work process of a lime based render system

Evidence should be generated through an integrated assessment covering Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment instrument for Outcomes 1 and 2 could consist of one of the following:

- ◆ a report of approximately 750–1,000 words or equivalent
- ◆ 8 to 10 restricted answer questions
- ◆ a mixture of short and restricted answer questions

This will support the practical assignment for Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Outcome 3

Prepare substrate and apply lime render

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Substrate constructions
- ◆ Curing considerations
- ◆ Application techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing they can:

- ◆ demonstrate the key stages of the process required to achieve lime render coat.
- ◆ apply 2m² of lime render to walling. The lime render must comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements.

Evidence should be generated through an integrated assessment covering Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome should consist of a practical exercise to lime render two square metres of walling. The assessor may record practical evidence on an assessment checklist. Evidence for Outcomes 1 and 2 may be generated through:

- ◆ a report of approximately 750–1,000 words or equivalent
- ◆ 8 to 10 restricted answer questions
- ◆ a mixture of short and restricted answer questions

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Outcome 4

Explain the method used to run plaster mouldings in-situ and produce a piece of plaster moulding

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Running mould construction stages
- ◆ Gypsum and lime based moulding materials
- ◆ Running rods fixing skills
- ◆ Coring out and finishing mouldings

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing they can:

- ◆ explain the function of all parts of the running mould.
- ◆ explain the process of fixing running rods.
- ◆ correctly use gypsum and lime based moulding materials, complying with health and safety requirements.
- ◆ produce and fit 600 mm linear of plaster moulding in-situ. Candidates must follow the correct techniques for coring out and finishing mouldings in-situ.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by:

- ◆ a practical exercise to run a moulding in-situ. Evidence may be recorded on an observational checklist.

and

- ◆ six to eight restricted answer questions covering the knowledge

The in-situ moulding could be in the form of a cornice or panel moulding.

Oral questioning could also be used during the practical exercise to ensure all Evidence Requirements are met.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Outcome 5

Produce a flood mould

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Plaster ornament
- ◆ Model preparation
- ◆ Mould construction
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing they can:

- ◆ describe with the aid of sketches a flood mould.
- ◆ prepare a piece of moulding. This preparation must include cleaning and repair.
- ◆ produce a flood mould, following all the correct procedures. Health and safety requirements must be complied with.
- ◆ list correctly all appropriate materials required.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by:

- ◆ a practical exercise to produce a flood mould
- ◆ two to four restricted answer questions covering the knowledge and an annotated sketch of a flood mould

Administrative Information

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Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the skills required by craft persons, working in the construction industry, carrying out conservation work to historic buildings. The Unit will focus on basic skills and associated tasks involved in the application of traditional plaster and render systems to a plumb, straight, flat and uniform smooth finish together with the basic skills involved with setting out and maintaining a clean and safe working environment. It is envisaged that many candidates will have little or no experience of working with the range of tools, materials and equipment.

Underpinning the practical skills is the need to ensure the candidate appreciates the reasons for carrying out the tasks in the manner directed and the reasons for using specific tools, materials, equipment and personal protective equipment.

This Unit is at SCQF level 7 and is a mandatory Unit within the HNC and HND Architectural Conservation Group Award frameworks.

Candidates will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:

- ◆ methods to complete plaster repairs for conservation work to existing historic buildings
- ◆ methods to complete repairs for conservation to external render of existing historic buildings
- ◆ methods to apply lime render to existing historic buildings
- ◆ produce ornamental plaster moulding in-situ
- ◆ production of moulds to produce plaster ornament for inclusion into a cornice within existing historic buildings

Corresponding to Outcomes 1 to 5

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Outcome 1

This Outcome requires candidates to select tools, and to handle, transport, use, maintain and store tools, materials and equipment. It should inform the candidates on the importance of working in an organised and systematic manner while giving due consideration to others. Prior preparation of background areas in terms of candidates' assessment of key and suction together with the positioning and plumbing of screeds are of vital importance to the success of the operation. The maintenance of a clean and tidy work area including the positioning of tools, materials and equipment before, during and after use is paramount in complying with relevant health and safety regulations. Tools are likely to include hawk, trowel, gauger, spirit level, float, scrub/splash brush, and plasterer's hammer. Materials are likely to be sand/lime based. Equipment to include board and stance, straight edge, wheel barrow and shovel.

Outcome 2

This Outcome should enable candidates to develop practical skills in using hand tools during the application of two coat work. Prior preparation of background areas in terms of candidates' assessment of key and suction together with the positioning and plumbing of screeds are of vital importance to the success of the operation. Tools are likely to be as required for Outcome 1 with the addition of string line, ashlar key and small (25 cm) brush.

Outcome 3

This Outcome should enable the candidates to develop their practical skills further during the application of lime render. Prior preparation of background areas in terms of candidates' assessment of key and suction together with an appreciation of drying times are of vital importance to the success of the operation.

Outcome 4

This Outcome should enable candidates to develop practical skills further while at the same time allowing them the opportunity to fully explain the many intricate steps involved in the process of repairing or replacing traditional ornamental plasterwork. The in-situ moulding can be in the form of a cornice or more simply panel moulding. It is recommended that candidates should be able to produce two linear metres of moulding. Candidate will be expected to core out the moulding and apply a finishing coat, allowing them the opportunity to work with different materials. The running mould will be constructed for use by the candidate but the muffle will be constructed by each candidate for their running mould.

Outcome 5

This Outcome will allow candidates the opportunity to understand the processes involved in preparing and reproducing plaster ornament for use in decorative work. Candidates will be expected to clean, bed down and prepare a sample of ornament, and produce a flood mould of plasterboard construction. The type and size of ornament used may be at the discretion of the centre.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award designed to provide candidates with the technical and professional knowledge and skills for employment within an Architectural Conservation environment.

Where this Unit is incorporated into other Group Awards it is recommended that it be delivered in the context of the specific occupational area(s) that the award is designed to cover.

This Unit should be delivered in a workshop environment with candidates having access to appropriate equipment, tools and materials.

Tolerances to be employed in the assessment of practical elements of this Unit have been aligned to the tolerances required by vocational (VQ) standards for plasterers, ie:

Straightness: +/-5 mm over 1.8 m

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be assessed by an integrated instrument of assessment. This may be in the form of a case/design study with a practical assessment being supported by questions/report.

Outcomes 4 and 5 may be assessed by practical tasks with supporting questions.

Throughout the Unit emphasis will be placed, where appropriate, on the application of health and safety and sustainability. Safe working practices should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit provides opportunities for the development of Core Skills in *Communication, Numeracy* and *Working with Others*. The following grid provides a general guide to opportunities for the development of Core Skills in this Unit.

Opportunities for the development of Core Skills at the output level are more fully identified in the Core Skills Sign Posting Grid.

Core Skill		Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
1. Communication						
Written Communication	(Reading)	SCQF level 5				
	(Writing)	SCQF level 5				
Oral Communication						
2. Numeracy						
Using Number				SCQF level 5		
Using Graphical Information					SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5
3. Information Technology						
Using Information Technology		SCQF level 5				
4. Problem Solving						
Critical Thinking		SCQF level 5				
Planning and Organising				SCQF level 5		SCQF level 5
Reviewing and Evaluating		SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5		SCQF level 5	
5. Working with Others						
Working with Others				SCQF level 5		SCQF level 5

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Open learning

It may be possible to deliver parts of this Unit by distance learning, which may incorporate some degree of on-line support. Due to the practical elements involved in delivery and assessment of some of the Outcomes, attendance at the delivering centre would be recommended. However, with regard to assessment, planning would be required by the centre concerned to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Conservation Crafts: Plastering

This Unit will introduce you to the complexities involved in conserving, repairing and replacing traditional plasterwork. You will be introduced to some building materials, which you are unlikely to have encountered before, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding of traditional building methods.

Outcome 1 looks at the construction techniques to traditional plasterwork.

Outcome 2 looks at the construction techniques of traditional external lime renders.

In Outcome 3 you will prepare substrate and apply lime render.

In Outcome 4 you will look at the methods used to run plaster mouldings and produce a piece of plaster moulding.

Outcome 5 is also a practical Outcome requiring you to produce a flood mould.

On the completion of this Unit you will be able to identify plaster defects, recommend repair strategies and be capable of overseeing the repair and replacement processes, having had some practical experience in the workshop.

The assessment for this Unit may consist of a combination of knowledge-based evidence and practical tasks.

Core Skills may be developed during this Unit.