Dual Master's in Heritage Studies

Heritage and Memory Studies

uva.nl/ma-heritage-and-memory-studies
We are witnessing the musealisation of buildings, urban and rural landscapes, and even immaterial expressions of popular culture, taking place around the world. As a result, our living environment is at risk of becoming increasingly stage-managed and nostalgic, a trend that is strengthened by the growth of heritage tourism.

Heritage is also a field of conflict, with rival identity claims and property disputes at the local and (inter)national level. The programme will teach you to analyse heritage from a cultural-historic, discursive and spatial perspective, combining critical reflection with practical experience acquired during the mandatory five-month internship.

'We "read" cities and landscapes with the help of clues derived from film and fiction. Amsterdam is the perfect location for academic research into heritage and memory.'

Prof. Rob van der Laarse
Career prospects

As a Heritage and Memory Studies graduate, you will have developed unique skills relevant to a career in the world of cultural heritage in the broadest possible sense, including a range of employment opportunities where a critical, curious, and academically-trained mind is essential. Graduates are able to connect insights from multiple disciplines and professional fields and apply them to practical situations. They possess the right qualifications for policy-making, research or coordinating positions in areas such as:

- governmental or private organisations in the field of urban heritage, cultural landscapes and industrial heritage;
- presentation of museum collections or heritage sites;
- conservation and (re-)use of monuments and historic buildings;
- media and communication on heritage;
- academic research.

Who Owns the Past?

In this core module (12 ECTS), you will gain insight into various heritage disputes (both current and past) and the political character of heritage sites and objects. Questions we will discuss are: Who appropriates heritage and why? With which symbolic and material aims? On whose initiative are memorials created? What distinguishes different memorial practices? Can heritage express multivocality and promote reconciliation? And which academic theories and research methods enable us to explore and explain these issues?
Entry requirements
The Master's in Heritage and Memory Studies is open for application to students with a university Bachelor’s degree in:
• Cultural Studies
• History of Art and Architecture
• Archaeology
• History
• Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning
• Other relevant university Bachelor's degrees from the UvA or another (foreign) university. For more information, please check: uva.nl/ma-heritage-and-memory-studies > Application and admission