

Call for Applications

International Course on *First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis*



Culture cannot wait

Dates: May 23, 2016 – June 24, 2016

Place: Washington, DC USA

Application deadline: 9 November 2015

Organizers:

- [ICCROM](#)
- [The Smithsonian Institution, USA](#)

In cooperation with

- [Prince Claus Fund](#), Cultural Emergency Response Programme (CER)

Why this course?

When a disaster impacts a community, it is the members within that community that are first to respond. Once their welfare is safeguarded, they immediately begin to assess and attempt to recover their cultural heritage. Their efforts are often strengthened by on the ground humanitarian agencies and members of the military, as witnessed in the aftermath of the catastrophic events in Haiti, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, and Nepal. First Aid in Times of Crisis (FAC) is aimed at strengthening such local responses and actors that can have the greatest immediate impact in the recovery and rehabilitation of an affected community. The overall goal is to ensure crisis-affected communities have the ability to participate in their own cultural recovery.

Many different types of professionals respond to an unfolding crisis. This course provides strategies for interlocking humanitarian specialists with cultural ones in order to better integrate cultural responses during an emergency situation and aims to unify these sometimes conflicting perspectives. The course imparts practical skills and knowledge for taking simple measures to secure and stabilize endangered cultural heritage during a complex emergency situation, which in turn can become a driver for peace

and holistic development. The recovery and stabilization of such material can be a strategy that allows people to cope in a crisis.

Post-training

After the course, participants will be invited to submit proposals to carry out first aid projects or organize first aid training courses in their respective countries. Selected proposals will receive seed grants from the Cultural Emergency Response Programme of the Prince Claus Fund, the Netherlands (over 15 projects submitted by past participants have been awarded grants). The aim will be to use knowledge obtained from this course to strengthen disaster response to cultural heritage at a national or regional level.

FAC 2016

After four international, and more than nine regional and national editions in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, FAC will now be hosted in Washington D.C, USA, by the Smithsonian Institution. The course content will be enriched through case examples on safeguarding cultural heritage in the aftermath of national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and most recently, Hurricane Sandy.

Developing cost effective strategies for risk reduction and disaster preparedness of cultural heritage will form a core component of the course. The hands-on approach to topics such as damage assessment, salvage and first aid measures for sites and collections will help participants in making informed decisions under pressure. Overall, the course will rely on participants' experience and knowledge for building a sensitive and inclusive approach to cultural protection during emergency situations.

In the stress and chaos of a complex emergency, the ability to calmly assess, communicate and work with people is crucial for success. Therefore, skills such as effective teamwork, leadership or negotiation for protecting cultural heritage in tense situations will be progressively enhanced using simulated emergency situations throughout the course.

Expected outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Explore the values associated with cultural heritage and the impact that disasters (natural and man-made) have on these values
- Train and manage a team for implementing response during crises that affect cultural heritage
- Assess and manage risks to cultural heritage in emergency situations
- Secure, salvage and stabilize a variety of cultural materials
- Take preventive actions to reduce the disaster risk and improve response
- Identify the relevant legal instruments which are applicable to disaster risk management of cultural heritage at the international, national and regional scale
- Understand how first aid for cultural heritage aids recovery for affected communities and how it fits into a broader humanitarian response
- Communicate successfully with the various actors involved, and work in teams

Who should apply?

The course will be of particular interest to those who would like to proactively safeguard cultural heritage during an emergency situation while being sensitive to the local context and emergent human needs. We seek heritage professionals—both practitioners and researchers—that have previous experience of facing an emergency situation that called for an immediate response to safeguard

cultural heritage, or those who live/work in a risk-prone region that has an associated impact on cultural heritage. Humanitarian response specialists are also encouraged to apply in order to bolster their own understanding of how cultural heritage helps communities to recover, and how their work can be included of the response effort.

Working language: English

Course fee: € 900 (Euro)

Travel, accommodation and living expenses

Participants are responsible for their round-trip travel costs to and from Washington, DC, and for all living expenses. To cover the cost of living, including accommodation, participants should plan for a minimum allowance of approximately 1600 Euro for the entire duration of the course. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek financial support from sources such as governmental institutions, employers and funding agencies. A limited number of scholarships covering accommodation and living expenses will be available to those who are unable to secure funding from other sources.

Application

In order to apply:

1. Please fill out the [application form](#) and send it together with your personal statement by e-mail.
2. Personal Statement: applicants are requested to provide a text (no more than 700 words) including a brief description of:
 - Previous experience, if any, of facing an emergency situation that called for an immediate response to safeguard cultural heritage / OR / if you live in a risk-prone region, describe the risks that your cultural heritage is exposed to;
 - Reasons for applying to the course: what the applicant hopes to learn from it and how it will benefit the applicant as well as her/his institution and country.

FAC 2016

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More Information

1. [Download Course Framework Document](#)
2. [Info-graphic on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis](#)
3. [Simulation: FAC 2015](#)