

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates and location

University of Neuchâtel
Main building
Avenue du 1er-Mars 26
2000 Neuchâtel

28, 29 August – 4, 5, 25, 26 September
2, 3 October 2026

Hybrid format: On-site at the University of
Neuchâtel & simultaneously via videoconference

Schedule

From 08:45: Welcome
09:15 - 17:15: Lessons, including lunch break (1.5 hours) and coffee breaks

Terms and conditions of registration

Please return the completed and signed registration form, along with a curriculum vitae and copies of diplomas, by e-mail to: caroline.ferrazzo@unine.ch

Registration deadline: Sunday August 9 2026

We will confirm whether the course will take place on Monday August 10 2026

- The number of participants is limited to 20.
- Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to prerequisites.
- The Art History and Museology Institute of the University of Neuchâtel reserves the right not to open the course if the number of participants is insufficient.

Fees retained in case of cancellation of registration

According to the terms and conditions of cancellation, available online at: www.cas-recherche-provenance.ch

Course management

Prof. Régine Bonnefoit, Dr. Claire Brizon, Dr. Carolin Lange, Dr. Thomas Schmutz

For further information, please contact

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Conditions and informations on:
www.cas-recherche-provenance.ch

Detailed programme of Module I on:
www.cas-recherche-provenance.ch/module-1

unine
Université de Neuchâtel
Institut d'histoire de l'art
et de muséologie



CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (CAS) IN PROVENANCE RESEARCH

Module I - Collections related to colonial contexts

28 and 29 August | 4, 5, 25 and 26 September | 2 and 3 October 2026

3rd edition



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CAS IN PROVENANCE RESEARCH

Provenance research has become one of the main disciplines in museum work. It refers to investigations designed to retrace the history of an object, whatever its nature, from its creation or discovery. More specifically, it aims to establish changes in ownership and to ensure that the object has not been wrongfully seized from its rightful owner.

Course objectives

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Provenance Research is intended to prepare museum and cultural professionals to meet the new challenges facing their fields of activity and to provide them with practical and theoretical knowledge and a global vision of the themes linked to colonial contexts and property looted during the National Socialist period.

Target audience

Professionals in the museum, cultural and heritage fields (historians, art historians, anthropologists, ethnologists, archivists, librarians, etc.), collection curators; provenance researchers; art galleries; foundations; associations; auction houses; legal, customs and police professionals; etc.

Prerequisites

Both recent graduates and professionals are eligible to apply. Candidates must hold a Licence/Master of Arts or equivalent qualification in one of the following disciplines (non-exhaustive list): art history, history, museology, anthropology, ethnology, history of religions, documentary information, information science, archival studies, library science, law, etc.

Teaching languages

French (FR) and English (EN) (cf. programme)

General structure of the course

The CAS in Provenance Research consists of two modules, ending with a final written assignment.

Each module can be taken independently, i.e. it is not obligatory to take the course 'in order' (module I followed by module II): direct access via module II is entirely possible. It is therefore necessary to register for each of the two modules.

Evaluations & obtaining the qualification

To obtain the title of Certificate of Advanced Studies in Provenance Research from the University of Neuchâtel (13 ECTS credits), it is necessary to pass the written exams for Module I and Module II, and then the final written assignment, which the candidate must complete within three months of completing the second module. The candidate then defends his/her work at an oral defence.

In addition, regular attendance at each of the two modules is required to obtain it.

Registration fees

CHF 2,800 per module + CHF 480 for supervision and defence of the final written assignment

Module fees are due as soon as confirmation of the module is given. Payment can be made in several instalments on written request at the time of registration.

Fees for the final written assignment are due once both modules have been successfully completed and ad hoc registration has been made.

MODULE I – COLLECTIONS RELATED TO COLONIAL CONTEXTS

While the Swiss Confederation was not a colonial power like France or Great Britain, individual Swiss citizens participated in Europe's colonial expansion, notably by joining foreign armies or by providing capital. In this context, items acquired by Swiss nationals in colonial contexts or bought later on the market are today dispersed in many Swiss museums.

PROGRAMME (subject to modification)

Moderation: Dr. Claire Brizon

28 August 2026 – Introduction to Provenance Research | Federal Office of Culture Projects

Dr. Thomas Schmutz (FR), co-founder of provenance research company Lange & Schmutz Provenienzrecherchen GmbH and full professor at the Art history and museology Institute of the University of Neuchâtel

Dr. Claire Brizon (FR), art historian and museologist, researcher at the MCAH (Lausanne) and project manager at provenance research company Lange & Schmutz Provenienzforschung GmbH

Patricia Simon (FR), provenance researcher at the Naturmuseum in Winterthur (CH)

29 August 2026 – The multidisciplinary nature of provenance research

Speaker to be confirmed (FR), Project « Proche », AfricaMuseum, Tervuren (Belgium)

Isabel Garcia Gomez (FR), conservator-restorer at the Geneva Museum of Ethnography (CH)

4 September 2026 – Contextualizing provenance research

Speaker to be confirmed (EN), « Sensitive datas », Völkerkundemuseum Zurich (CH)

Sébastien Magro (FR), consultant, journalist and lecturer, former editorial manager at the Musée du Quai Branly, Paris (CH)

5 September 2026 – Visit to the Museum of Ethnography of Neuchâtel (Projet Bis) and workshop

Dr. Julien Glauser (FR), curator, Museum of Ethnography, Neuchâtel

Dr. Claire Brizon (FR)

25 September 2026 – Illicit trafficking and legal issues

Dr. Béatrice Blandin (FR), curator of Archaeology, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva (CH)

Dr. Anne Laure Bandle (FR), partner at Borel & Barbey and director of the Foundation for Art Law, Geneva (CH)

26 September 2026 – Promoting provenance research projects

Acacio Alisto (FR), Archivist at the Archives cantonales vaudoises, Lausanne (CH)

Dr. Claire Brizon, Lisa Zanetti (University of Geneva), **Prof. Placide Mumbembele** and **Richard Ntaka** (University of Kinshasa) (FR) – Project « Contextualiser et visibiliser le patrimoine congolais dans les musées vaudois (1903-1938) »

2 October 2026 – Return, repatriation and human remains

Corinne Toka Devilliers (FR), President of the Moliko Alet +Po Association

Dr. Claire Brizon (FR)

3 October 2026 – Exam | Conclusion