

## WHAT IS SAHRA?

The South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) is a statutory organisation established under the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999, as the national administrative body responsible for the protection of South Africa's cultural heritage.

## VISION

A nation united through heritage.

## MISSION

SAHRA's mission, in fulfilling its mandate, is to promote social cohesion in South Africa by:

Identifying, conserving and managing heritage resources in South Africa so that these resources can contribute to socio-economic development and nation building;

Developing norms, standards and charters for the management of heritage resources in South Africa and codes of international best practices; and

Contributing to skills, knowledge production and transformation in heritage resources management in South Africa and beyond.

## OBJECTIVES

SAHRA realised that in South Africa, not many youths from previously disadvantaged communities are exposed to and have knowledge about careers in the heritage sector, and that South Africa has less than twenty (20) black women qualified as professional archaeologists.

This prompted SAHRA to start an awareness campaign to promote and raise public awareness regarding careers in the heritage sector, such as archaeology, anthropology, palaeontology, architecture, maritime archaeology, etc.



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

## ENQUIRIES

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

**Address:** 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town

**Postal Address:** PO Box 4637, Cape Town, 8001

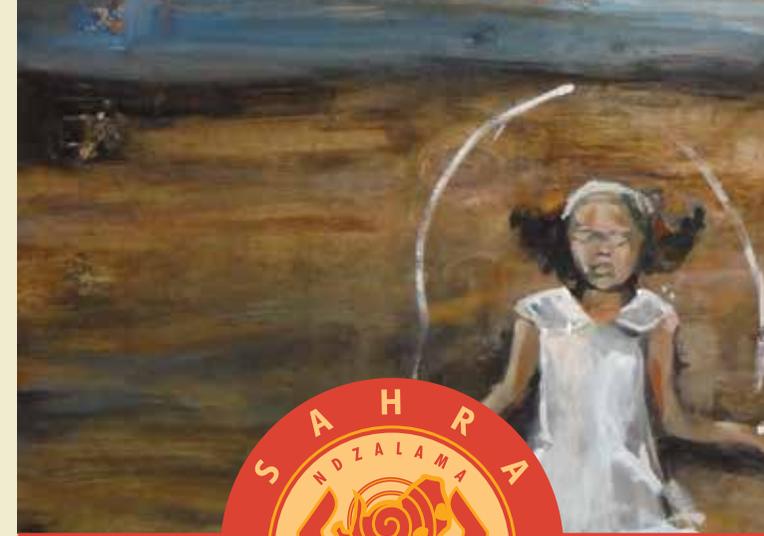
**Tel:** +27 21 202 8653 **Fax:** +27 21 462 4509

**E-Mail:** [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/sahheritageresourcesagency](https://www.facebook.com/sahheritageresourcesagency)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/sahraonline](https://twitter.com/sahraonline)

[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

## GUIDE TO DEVELOPING YOUR CAREER WITHIN THE HERITAGE SECTOR

### WHAT IS A CAREER?

A career is the totality of a person's work activity extending throughout the person's lifetime. It is not static, but reflects changes in the world of work.



## SOME OF THE HERITAGE SECTOR STUDIES

### Higher Certificate in Heritage Studies

The purpose of this Higher Certificate is to equip students with the entry-level skills and knowledge needed to perform key tasks in heritage-related environments by providing a good grounding in the natural, pure and applied sciences, as related to the sub-discipline.

**Advancement options:** Upon completion of the Higher Certificate in Heritage Studies the student can further his/her studies to a Diploma in Heritage Management and then to a Bachelor's degree in the Humanities, Bachelor of Arts (history, anthropology, archaeology, geography) and Bachelor of Science (in earth or life sciences).

**Minimum requirements are:** NSC pass with Certificate requirement, English HL: level 4 or English 1st Additional Language level 5, Mathematics level 2 (30%) or Mathematics Literacy level 3 (40%) and APS of 25. A provider currently accredited to offer this qualification is the Sol Plaatje University. For more information visit: <http://www.spu.ac.za>.

### Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage and Museum Studies

The purpose of this qualification is to provide South African heritage sites and museums with museum professionals trained in the management and marketing of these institutions. Qualifiers will have a sound knowledge of cultural and natural resource management. The University of Pretoria is currently accredited to offer this qualification.

### Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of human history and prehistory in order to reconstruct the past, the tools used by these humans, rock art, structures and all other material traces they left behind. Archaeologists use professional methods to excavate ('dig out') and study these remnants of the past. This work and the related recording, analysing and interpreting of archaeological remains, are only part of what some archaeologists do. They may also work in a range of other settings, including museums (assisting with the preservation, conservation, display and interpretation of artefacts); heritage agencies and local authorities (assisting and advising on the identification and management of archaeological resources); and universities and research organisations (carrying out research and educational work).

**Educational requirements:** To qualify to study archaeology, students should have an undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Arts (BA), but preferably a Bachelor of Science (BSc)) majoring in archaeology. Providers currently accredited to offer this qualification from bachelor to doctoral level, are UNISA, UCT, Wits and the University of Pretoria.

### Palaeontology

Palaeontology is the study of plant and animal fossils and trace fossils. A palaeontologist studies these fossils and trace fossils in order to tell us the story of the development of plants and animals on earth. Palaeontologists use scientific methods to identify, collect and study these fossils. Like archaeologists, they may also work in a range of other settings, including museums (assisting with the preservation, conservation, display and interpretation of fossil material); heritage agencies (assisting and advising on the identification and management

of paleontological resources); and universities and research organisations (carrying out research and educational work). Providers currently accredited to offer this qualification are UNISA, UCT, Wits, Rhodes University and the University of Stellenbosch.

**Educational requirements:** To qualify to study the above profession, a student should have an undergraduate degree (general Bachelor of Arts (BA), but preferably a Bachelor of Science (BSc) majoring in biological sciences, archaeology or geology. Providers currently accredited to offer this qualification from bachelor to doctoral level, are UNISA, UCT, Wits and the University of Pretoria.

### Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of the cultural behaviours and practices of societies. They study how people adapted to their environment (or adapted their environment to them), how they organised their societies, and the shared systems of meaning and belief that they developed.

**Educational requirements:** Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA)

### Maritime Archaeology

Maritime Archaeology, also known as marine, nautical, shipwreck and underwater archaeology, is the branch of the archaeological field concerned with people's relationship with the sea and water in the past and/or archaeological material is located underwater. The sea has enabled contact between different societies for thousands of years. This resulted in the exchange of material wealth, knowledge and ideas, but also the spreading of disease, slavery and colonialism. Ships played a major role in these processes. Most maritime archaeologists will need to be able to swim and ideally to dive. This in itself adds an exciting element to a career in maritime archaeology.

**Educational requirements:** To work in this field in South Africa, one must first obtain a bachelor's degree with a major in archaeology, after which one would specialise at masters or doctoral level in maritime archaeology.

**Providers currently accredited to offer this qualification:** There are presently no South African tertiary institutions which offer undergraduate courses in maritime archaeology. Those wishing to make a career in this field thus need to obtain a bachelor's degree from one of the institutions which offer them around the country. Thereafter they will need to negotiate with UNISA, UCT, Wits and, potentially, the University of Pretoria to specialise with a maritime archaeological master's or doctoral degree.

### Archivist

Archivists acquire, manage and maintain public and non-public records and other materials that have historical importance for individuals, organisations and the nation. They have an important role as custodians of the memories and records that shape the identity of various communities.

**Educational requirements:** To work as an archivist, one must generally have a master's degree in history, library science, archival science or records management with coursework in archival techniques.

### Museum Curator

Curators are in charge of collections within institutions such as museums, government facilities and universities, e.g. historical artefacts, sports memorabilia and art.

**Educational requirements:** Art museum curators generally need to have a bachelor's degree in fine art, art history, or a related field. A master's degree in a more specialised field is also usually required. On top of those degrees, many museum curators earn their doctoral degrees as well. Individuals interested in a museum curator career should also consider earning a degree in museum studies.

### Museum / Gallery Conservator

Museum / Gallery Conservators care for cultural collections by applying scientific methods to preserve and restore artefacts. Their work mainly involves monitoring and controlling the environment in which collections are stored or displayed to prevent deterioration. They may also restore individual objects directly.

**Educational requirements:** Courses are offered at the South African Institute for Objects Conservation. See <http://www.sainst.org/> for detailed information and scholarship options.

### Museum Education Officer

Museum Education Officers develop, deliver and evaluate programmes and events for classes, groups or individuals, often designed to engage those who may not normally use the museum or gallery, such as hard-to-reach young people, young children, older people and families. They work both within galleries or museums and also in a community context.

### Historian

Historians research, analyse, interpret, and present the past by studying a variety of historical documents and sources. Historians work in government agencies, museums, archives, historical societies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, and consulting firms. Some must travel to carry out research.

**Education requirements:** Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA)

### Historic Buildings Inspector/ Heritage Practitioner

Conservation Officers advise on and promote the conservation of the historic environment, particularly in the areas of long-term care, preservation and enhancement. Their roles include helping to protect and enhance all forms of buildings, including churches, windmills, lighthouses and residential properties. They report and advise on buildings, structures and areas of special historic, architectural or artistic interest. They guide new developments in order to maintain the distinctive character of an area.

**Education requirements:** A relevant Bachelor's, Master's or equivalent qualification in a spatial field, i.e. architectural technology, architecture, urban design, etc.