This MA provides training in the documentation and interpretation of artefacts from archaeological sites and museum collections. Students benefit from a placement within a museum or an archaeological unit where experience will be gained in the practice of finds analysis.

Degree summary

Students are introduced to the skills of finds specialists. They develop the ability to identify, describe, document, catalogue and analyse artefacts and artefact assemblages. Subjects covered include the description of ceramic, lithic and metal objects. In practical sessions, we cover drawing, photography and work with databases. Many sessions make use of the institute's extensive collections. The programme will also raise awareness of different approaches to artefact analysis and introduce recent discussions on the subject.

Whether you plan a career as a finds assistant, museum curator or plan a materials-based PhD, this programme provides you with the skills you need to successfully identify, describe and document artefacts and analyse assemblages. The emphasis is very much on practical application, so there will be numerous handling sessions and praxis-related tasks.

The UCL Institute of Archaeology is the largest and most diverse department of archaeology in the UK, and provides a stimulating environment for postgraduate study. Its outstanding archaeological library is complemented by UCL's Main Library, University of London Senate House and other specialist libraries. UCL is located in central London, within walking distance of the British Museum and the British Library.

UCL's own museums and collections form a resource of international importance for academic research. Students will work on material from the institute's collection as part of their assessment. Past students on this programme have made effective use of the resources at the British Museum, the Museum of London and the Museum of London archives, the Petrie Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum and other British and international museums. The Wolfson Labs provide a unique facility for scientific analyses of materials and have been used by numerous artefact students for their dissertations after the required training.

The programme is delivered through formal lectures, seminars and practical sessions. It can include a placement at a relevant museum or archaeological unit where students gain experience in the practical study and the recording of an artefact assemblage. Assessment of the core course is by weekly pieces of short work, a portfolio and the dissertation. The Technology within Society module is assessed by a project proposal and an essay.

Students have the option to undertake a 20-day voluntary placement at a relevant museum or archaeological unit. The placement itself is not formally assessed other than through its contribution to the student's dissertation work. Tier 4 students are permitted to undertake a work placement during their programme, however they must not exceed 20 hours per week (unless the placement is an intergral and assessed part of the programme). This applies whether that work placement takes place at UCL or at an external institution. If you choose to undertake a placement at an external institution, you will be required to report to the department on a weekly basis so that you can continue to comply with your visa.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury
Part-time students will usually attend two to two and a half days a week depending on the timetable.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of two core module (30 credits), four optional modules (60 credits), an optional work placement and a research project (90 credits).

CORE MODULES
- All students are required to take the following:
  - Working with Artefacts and Assemblages
  - Technology within Society

OPTIONAL MODULES
- Students choose to follow further optional modules up to the value of 60 credits from an outstanding range of Master's options available at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. For this degree, some of the most popular choices include:
  - Antiquities and the Law
  - Archaeological Ceramic Analysis
  - Archaeological Glass and Glazes
  - Archaeometallurgy
  - British and European Prehistory: Neolithic to Iron Age
  - Experimental Archaeology
  - Funerary Archaeology
  - Geoarchaeology
  - Intangible Dimensions of Museum Objects from Egypt
  - Interpreting Pottery
  - Issues in Conservation: Understanding Objects
  - Key Topics in the Archaeology of the Americas
  - Laboratory and Instrumental Skills in Archaeological Science
  - Making and Meaning in Ancient Greek Art

DISSERTATION/REPORT
- The 15,000-word dissertation can cover any artefact-based subject matter. It normally combines a professional standard finds report with an analysis and an academic overview.
Your career

Some recent graduates of the programme have gone on to PhD studies while others have pursued a very wide range of professional careers both within and beyond archaeology. The main career path is working as assistants, museum curators or working in the antiquities service recording and analysing finds.

Recent career destinations* include:

- Armoury Co-ordinator, Warner Brothers
- Activity Support Officer, English Heritage
- Trainee Archaeologist, Border Archaeology
- Archaeologist, Museum of London Archaeology
- Research Assistant, National University of Mexico

Employability

The degree is tailored to give graduates a solid grounding in systematically recording and documenting artefacts as well as analysing artefact assemblage. They will also have a basic understanding of creating graphs and diagrams, and analysing and assembling finds-catalogues. Without concentrating on any specific epoch, we give students the tools for understanding and systematically analysing any artefact assemblages.

* Careers data is taken from the 'Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education' survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor's degree in archaeology or related subject from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Artefact Studies at UCL
- why you want to study Artefact Studies at graduate level
- what you expect to get out of this programme
- what is your general archaeological background
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging academic environment
- what your undergraduate degree is in and how much practical work with artefacts does the degree include
- what previous experience you have in working with artefacts
- if you have any experience in working as a finds assistant or in a museum
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Application fee: There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. More details about the application fee can be found at
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.