Bioarchaeological and Forensic Anthropology
MSc /

This MSc provides students with a foundation in the analysis of human remains, both in archaeological and modern forensic settings. With a solid grounding in skeletal and dental anatomy, students learn about morphological variation, development, methods for biological profiling, human disease and forensic approaches to trauma and taphonomy.

Degree summary

Students will learn procedures for interpretation and analysis of human skeletal remains - considering both archaeological and modern forensic contexts. There is a unique opportunity to analyse recently excavated human remains, utilising methods and techniques learned during the programme. While the focus of this programme is primarily on modern humans, late Pleistocene hominids are also considered.

The UCL Institute of Archaeology is the largest and most diverse archaeology department in the UK, offering students a range of opportunities.

This particular MSc is unique, offering a combination of bioarchaeological and forensic principles for the study of human remains unlike anything else available in the UK. Students further benefit from access to a large collection of skeletal material for study, including dental and palaeopathology reference collections. Access to sophisticated equipment and techniques (laser scanner, SEM, thin sectioning, CT) is also available.

Some lectures will take place at the Royal College of Surgeons and students have access to their teaching collections and museums, including the Wellcome Museum of Anatomy and Pathology.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical classes. This MSc has strong links with the Forensic Archaeological Science MSc which gives individual programmes an interesting mix of participants and provides many opportunities for discussion. Assessment is through essays, class tests, reports and the dissertation.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of five core modules (75 credits), one optional module (15 credits) and a research dissertation (90 credits).

CORE MODULES
- Dental Anthropology
- Forensic Anthropology
- Methodology and Issues in Bioarchaeology and Palaeoepidemiology
- Morphology and Palaeopathology of the Human Skeleton
- Variation and Evolution of the Human Skull

OPTIONAL MODULES
- Anthropological and Archaeological Genetics
- Archaeology of Early Modern Humans
- Forensic Archaeology
- Forensic Geoscience (by arrangement with the Jill Dando Centre for Forensic Sciences)
- Funerary Archaeology
- Human Evolution (by arrangement with the Department of Anthropology)
- Palaeoanthropology (by arrangement with the Department of Anthropology)
- Zooarchaeology in Practice
- Other Master's options available at the Institute of Archaeology.

DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 15,000 words.
Your career

Some graduates of the programme go on to PhD studies, while others go on to work in a range of archaeological and non-archaeological organisations as osteoarchaeological specialists, the police, curators and political researchers.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in a relevant 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 Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology at graduate level
// why you want to study Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging academic environment
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

FEES AND FUNDING 2017/18 ENTRY

// UK: £10,110 (FT), £5,085 (PT)
// EU: £10,110 (FT), £5,085 (PT)
// Overseas: £20,540 (FT), £10,430 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

Institute of Archaeology Master’s Awards: A small number of grants of £1,000 are available for the academic year 2017/18. All UK/EU and Overseas fee paying students with an offer to start any Master’s degree offered by the IoA are eligible to apply. For an application form please email Lisa Daniel. The deadline for applications is 1 March 2017.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 1 April 2017

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Miss Lisa Daniel, Graduate Admissions Administrator
Email: ioa-gradadmissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 7499

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK's decision to leave the EU, please refer to
www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum