Research Methods for Archaeology MA

This MA offers a tailor-made programme of study designed as a preparation for an MPhil or PhD research project. Students develop a detailed understanding of archaeological data and its interpretation to serve as a basis for independent research, and the ability to develop original research questions and explore them effectively.

Degree summary

This MA offers a wide-ranging and challenging introduction to theoretical issues involved in modern archaeology as a comparative, anthropologically-informed, and socially-situated discipline. Students develop critically aware perspectives on archaeological practice and research processes, and gain an in-depth understanding of approaches to the collection, analysis and interpretation of archaeological data.

The UCL Institute of Archaeology is the largest and one of the most highly regarded centres for archaeology, archaeological science, cultural heritage and museum studies in Britain, as evidenced by its top position in university league tables and National Student Survey results. It is one of the very few departments of archaeology in the world actively pursuing research on a truly global scale. Its degree programmes offer an unrivalled variety of modules on a diverse range of topics. The institute hosts events on many different aspects of archaeology and is linked to heritage organisations, museums and archaeological societies, providing an outstanding research environment for staff, students and visitors. It is truly international in outlook and membership, with students and staff from over 40 countries, and involvement in field research projects around the world.

Its outstanding archaeological library is complemented by University College London’s main library, University of London Senate House and other specialist libraries.

UCL is located in central London, within walking distance to the British Museum and the British Library. UCL’s own museums and collections form a resource of international importance for academic research.

The core programme is taught within a seminar framework based on set readings. A tailor-made programme of other work is designed in consultation with the student's research supervisor. Student performance is assessed on the basis of the core module assessments, a research proposal and a piece of research writing (dissertation).

Degree structure

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

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. There are two core modules (40 credits), a research proposal (60 credits) and research writing (90 credits).

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<th>CORE MODULES</th>
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<td>- Students are required to take the following and a Graduate School Skills Development module (optional)</td>
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<td>- Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations</td>
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<td>- Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Current Issues</td>
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<th>OPTIONAL MODULES</th>
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<td>- Research Proposal</td>
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<td>- Students are asked to prepare a fully documented research proposal for a planned MPhil or PhD, together with a literature survey and a bibliography. A seminar presentation on the proposal must be given.</td>
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<td>- Research Writing</td>
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<td>- Students also produce a piece of research writing of c.15,000 words, which is preliminary to the intended PhD or MPhil degree.</td>
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<th>DISSERTATION/REPORT</th>
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<td>- Students prepare a fully documented research proposal of 12,000 words, and complete a piece of research writing of approximately 15,000 words.</td>
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Your career

Most graduates of the programme go on to MPhil or PhD studies. Others pursue a wide range of professional careers both within and beyond archaeology.

Employability

This programme is designed specifically to develop research skills to enable students to design and carry through an independent archaeological research project. In addition to general research skills, more specific experience and skills identified as essential for the proposed research will be developed through optional modules and training. In addition, students acquire a detailed understanding of recent theoretical debates and the critical skills to evaluate existing arguments and interpretations and to develop their own.
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 Research Methods for Archaeology at graduate level
// why you want to study Research Methods for Archaeology at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging academic environment
// your proposed area of research

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: £9,840 (FT), £4,970 (PT)
// EU: £9,840 (FT), £4,970 (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: 28 July 2017

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

CONTACT

Professor Andrew Reynolds

Email: ioa-gradadmissions@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 7495

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