ARTEFACT STUDIES MA / 2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
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.

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). Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

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

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: Mining and Extractive Metallurgy
- British and European Prehistory: Neolithic to Iron Age
- Comparative Archaeologies of the Americas I: First Peoples to Emerging Complexity
- Comparative Archaeologies of the Americas II: Empires, States and Settlement
- Funerary Archaeology
- Geoarchaeology
- Interpreting Pottery
- Laboratory and Instrumental Skills in Archaeological Science
- Prehistoric Stone Artefact Analysis
- Social and Material Contexts in Art: comparative approaches to art explanation

Please note not all modules are available every year.

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.

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 may also be permitted to study away from UCL on academic grounds which are not part of the standard delivery of programme or module e.g. collecting data or conducting research. Such a period of study away from UCL must not taken until it is authorised by the Departmental Tutor/Programme Leader. Students must inform their Departmental Tutor/Programme Leader before they intend to study away from UCL, and provide the location of study and the reason for doing so. The period of this form of study away from UCL must not exceed three months.
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.

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.
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

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

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

- UK: £10,720 (FT), £5,395 (PT)
- EU: £10,720 (FT), £5,395 (PT)
- Overseas: £22,080 (FT), £11,060 (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 Students website.

IUCL Institute of Archaeology (IoA) Master's Awards: a small number of grants up to the value of £1,000 are available for the academic year 2019/20. 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 2019.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 26 July 2019

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

CONTACT

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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/brexit