MUSEUM STUDIES MA / 2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
This MA provides a broad academic and professional training in all aspects of museum work, and encourages students to reflect on the concept of the museum and its associated practices. Grounded in museum practice and research, the programme looks at all types of museums.

Degree summary

Students are equipped with a range of skills that they can apply in any museum and develop critically aware perspectives on professional practice and research processes. The programme’s main aim is to provide an in-depth understanding of approaches to the research, documentation, communication, public engagement, interpretation, presentation and preservation of curated materials in museums, while responding to their audiences and communities.

- 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 in related fields such as museum studies, heritage studies and conservation.
- Its outstanding archaeological library is complemented by UCL’s main library, University of London Senate House and other specialist libraries.
- London’s many museums and galleries are a wonderful source of discussion and material for this degree, but in particular UCL’s own important museums and collections are drawn upon for teaching and research, including those of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, the Art Museum, and the Grant Museum of Zoology. Students participate in real-life projects through a number of courses and placements offered on the programme. Students also have access to MA degree programmes taught in other UCL departments.

The programme is delivered through lectures, small group seminars, practical workshops, student-led panel meetings, museum visits and guest speakers. Students are required to undertake a work placement for a total of 20 days. Assessment is through coursework assignments, projects, essays, field reports, portfolio 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 four core modules (75 credits), two optional modules (30 credits), work placement (15 credits) and a research dissertation (60 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:
  - Collections Management and Care
  - Managing Museums
  - Museum Communication and Audience Engagement
  - The Museum: Critical Perspectives

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Students also choose further options to the value of 30 credits normally from the list below.
  - Antiquities and the Law
  - Archaeology and Education
  - Archaeological Data Science
  - Archaeologies of the Modern World
  - Collections Curatorship
  - Cultural Memory
  - Curating Science & Technology (by arrangement with the Department of Science and Technology Studies).
  - Exhibition Project
  - GIS in Archaeology and History
  - Heritage, Globalisation and Development
  - Oral History from Creation to Curation
  - Sources and Social Research Methods for Heritage and Archaeology
  - Working with Artefacts and Assemblages

- Other options may also be available from the range of Master's options available at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. Please note not all modules are available every year.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

- All students undertake an independent research project on a museological topic which culminates in a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 credits). Examples of recent projects include: the museum on display: exploring changing attitudes to museum architecture at the V&A memorial museums and the representation of genocide; rethinking Zulu material culture in the British Museum’s collections digital technologies and museum communication

Students are required to undertake 20 days' work work in a museum (or similar organisation) 15 credits. This usually takes place one day a week during term-time, although other arrangements may be possible. Students write an assessed 2,500 word report at the end of the placement reflecting on their experience. Recent placements have included: Brent Museum, the British Museum, Croydon Museum, Event Communications, Freud Museum, Hackney Museum, London Transport Museum, Museum of London, RAF Museums, Royal Academy, Royal Botanical Gardens, Royal Historical Palaces, St Paul's Cathedral, Tate...
Your career

Some recent graduates of the programme have gone on to complete a PhD while others have pursued a career in professional organisations associated with the museum and/or heritage sector. 90% of UK graduates from this degree take up employment in the museum sector within six months.

Employability

The MA in Museum Studies facilitates the development of both practical skills relevant to a professional career in the museum and galleries sector and a solid understanding of, and critical engagement with, theoretical issues involved in contemporary museum practice. Core practical skills include collections care procedures, packing and storing objects, documentation, collections-based research, exhibition production, and display evaluation. A museum-based placement and optional modules can be chosen to enable students to focus on specific additional areas of theory and practice. Transferable skills include independent research, writing and communication skills, interpersonal skills, use of IT, time management and group working.
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. Applicants should also have gained experience of working in museums or related organisations (this experience is often gained in a voluntary capacity).

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 Museum Studies at graduate level
- why you want to study Museum Studies at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging academic environment
- an appropriate level of awareness of the museum sector
- ability to demonstrate a critical engagement with museum environments and/or exhibitions as ‘informed visitors’, for example being able to discuss the strength and weaknesses of different museum exhibitions, displays or interpretative strategies
- 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.

We look for experience of working in a museum or similar organisation, either paid or voluntary.

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.