



**UCL Institute of Archaeology**

**MA Archaeology and Heritage of Asia**

**Degree Programme Handbook 2023-2024**



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## INTRODUCTION

This is the Handbook for the MA degree programme in *Archaeology and Heritage of Asia*. It outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the degree, and includes the core modules.

If students have queries about the organisation, objectives, structure, content or assessment of the degree, they should consult the Degree Co-ordinator.

The IoA student handbook can be found: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students>, wherein useful information regarding policies, forms and guidelines as well student support and so forth is available.

## PART 1 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE DEGREE

The aim of this programme is to develop a comparative appreciation of the cultural histories and heritage of Asia, moving chronologically from early human history, through movements towards the Neolithic, and the rise of cities and states, to the present day by looking at current debates around conservation ethics, reconstruction and authenticity of archaeological remains.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

1. Past human societies and their development, especially as regards Asia, including the basis chronological frameworks applied in different parts of Asian.
2. Archaeological methods and theories.
3. The nature of archaeological analysis and interpretation.
4. The diverse nature of archaeological data and argumentation, often through the study of the culture history of specific regions or periods.
5. The modern social and political context of archaeological heritage.
6. The role of scientific methods and theories as applied in archaeology.

Intellectual (thinking) skills:

1. Communicate effectively, both in writing and orally.
2. To consider what is similar and different in the long-term traditions of Asia countries, and extent to which there can be argued to be 'unity' in Asian cultural history.

Practical skills (able to):

1. Be able to recognise the major early monuments and artefacts types of the different regions of Asia.
2. Use a range of basic computer applications, including data analysis and spread sheets.
3. Search out, and organise effectively, information from a wide variety of sources (printed and electronic).

Transferable skills (able to):

1. Organise, analyse, present and interpret complex data.
2. Access information from a diverse range of sources.
3. Use computers and have other transferable practical skills
4. Communicate ideas in writing and orally.
5. Work independently and to deadlines.
6. Collaborate and work as a member of a team.

The annual Careers Day (which is for all IoA students) will take place (forms and dates to be confirmed). It is also worthy checking the related websites, e.g., [Careers and Alumni | Institute of Archaeology - UCL – University College London](#)

## PART 2 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme of study for this degree is intended to help students meet the objectives outlined above, and also to provide an opportunity for them to achieve any additional personal objectives. It comprises

three compulsory core modules, three units of options which are chosen from a range of options, and a dissertation on a research topic related to the field of the degree. Each module addresses a specific subject and has its own Co-ordinator.

The structure of the degree is as follows:

MA in THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE OF ASIA Weighting in Scheme for Award: Dissertation = 6/12, 30 credit module = 2/12; 15 credit module = 1/12			
Cores: Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations 15 credits Archaeologies of Asia 15 credits Archaeological heritage management in Asia 15 credits	45 credits	Dissertation 15,000 words 90 credits	Placement: None

### The Core Modules

Students are required to take **3 core modules (45 credits)**, which serve to develop the necessary theory, critical thinking and quantification skills for this degree. The information of the core modules is as follows:

Credit	Code	Module Name	Co-ordinator	Term	Time	Room
15	ARCL0133	Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations	Todd Whitelaw	I	<i>Monday 11-1 or 2-4 or Tuesday 11-1</i>	<i>410</i>
15	ARCL0152	Archaeologies of Asia	Yijie Zhuang	I	<i>Friday 4-6</i>	<i>B13</i>
15	ARCL0153	Archaeological heritage management in Asia	Yijie Zhuang	II	<i>Tuesday 11-1</i>	<i>B13</i>

### Additional options

Students must take **three units (=45 credits)** of optional modules. Normally, students select at least one from those available within (and particularly relevant to) this degree programme (Asian options), but they may select one element of options from those available in other Masters' degree programmes taught in the Institute of Archaeology, after discussion with and subject to the agreement of the Degree Co-ordinator.

### ASIAN OPTIONS

Credit	Code	Module Name	Co-ordinator	Term	Time	Room
15	ARCL0154	Archaeology of Buddhism	Julia Shaw	II	<i>Thursday 4-6</i>	<i>B13</i>
15	ARCL0155	Social complexity in Early China: from Neolithic to Early Empire	Yijie Zhuang	II	<i>Tuesday 9-11</i>	<i>B13</i>
15	ARCL0210	Archaeology of the Silk Roads	Paul Wordsworth	II	<i>Friday 9-11</i>	<i>209</i>

Other optional modules can be found here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/study/graduate-taught/graduate-taught-programme-modules>

## Dissertation

The dissertation of up to 15,000 words is a report on research, the topic chosen being approved as being relevant within the general area covered by this degree. It is worth 90 credits, i.e. accounting for 50% of your overall degree class. Soon after arrival, students should discuss their area of research interest with their Degree Co-ordinator, who will help them to focus their ideas for their dissertation, or refer them to another member of staff who will be able to provide more specific advice, and will probably be appointed to be the student's Dissertation Supervisor. They will help the student define their dissertation topic, and provide guidance through the main stages of the work. The dissertation provides a further opportunity to define and achieve the student's own particular objectives. It might be useful to apply newly learned approaches to an archaeological problem that has long been of interest, or to gain greater experience with particular methods of data analysis. If a student is studying part-time while working in the field, they might choose to analyse a data set derived from their own work, or to assess the potential of particular theoretical or methodological approaches for their work. They can treat the dissertation as a one-off research project, as a pilot study for a Ph.D. project, or use it to showcase their skills to potential employers.

**The dissertation should be submitted by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024.** Guidelines for researching, writing and producing the dissertation are included in the MA/MSc Handbook.

### General tasks:

**Term 1:** Read the handbooks and consider topics for dissertation, discuss these with the degree coordinator who will advise and help to arrange the appointment of a suitable dissertation supervisor.

**Term 2:** Early in the term prepare an outline of your dissertation proposal in consultation with your supervisor, and submit this to both your supervisor and the MA coordinator if they are different, for comment. A single typed side of A4 should suffice; this should specify a title, aims, possible methodology, and sources of material and areas of literature to be examined. By the end of *Reading Week in term 2* you must complete the dissertation form, to be signed by your supervisor, and returned to the MA coordinator.

**Term 3:** By *May/June 2024* you are advised to prepare an outline dissertation proposal (no more than four sides of A4) including a description of the research question, a summary of your literature review, a list of chapter headings and briefly describing the source of any material/collections you are analysing.

**Early June:** Agree your research timetable (analysis of material, reading, data processing, preparing illustrations, writing up, proof-reading, etc.) with your Supervisor, and arrange to show her/him a substantial piece of work (e.g. a chapter of the dissertation) for comment.

**Oral Dissertation Presentation ('Viva')** There is a mandatory oral examination which will be held in May/June of the degree. Students must submit to their Dissertation Supervisor and Degree Programme Coordinator a single sheet of A4 summarising the proposed research design of their dissertation to which they will speak. The presentation will normally be conducted by the Degree Coordinator and the Dissertation Supervisor(s) and will last for c. 15 minutes. This will be organised with a group of students giving their presentations, with their peers present (but given the uncertainty of pandemic, exact forms of presentation will be further announced). Following the presentation each student will have a meeting with their Dissertation Supervisor to discuss their Presentation and Dissertation programme. **No marks are awarded for this.**

Although any member of IoA staff may supervise or co-supervise a dissertation, for topics on Zooarchaeology students should consult Louise Martin, for topics on Geoarchaeology or Phytolith analysis students should consult Yijie Zhuang, for topics on Cultural Heritage studies should contact Yijie Zhuang, and for topics on Archaeobotany students should consult Dorian Fuller.

### Practice Essay

Each MA degree program requires that students undertake a practice essay.

This is not counted towards your final degree mark but is simply a means for helping students writing their graded work and identifying any potential issues early on, such as problems with language or structuring etc.

This essay should be 1000 words long and is based on a critical review of an academic paper. It should be properly formatted and draw on appropriate references according to the guidelines laid out in the General MA/MSc handbook and the practice essay guidance.

This assessment is not marked by the degree coordinator or lecturers of core modules but by the IoA's **Academic Writing Advisor, Dr Julia Shaw**, who will be able to better assist any student struggling with expression in written English or with best practice in writing academic essays.

This essay is due on **Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**. Please submit your essay through Moodle, via the MA Archaeology and Heritage of Asia degree moodle page:

<https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/enrol/index.php?id=17313>. UCL coursework is normally marked anonymously – **students are only expected to write their candidate code on coursework, you should not write your name**. All essays should be uploaded via this moodle page to 'Turnitin', which is used to record the date of submission of each piece of work that you hand in. This must be done by midnight on the day of the deadline.

(In the special case of this practice essay we will de-anonymise your essay so that your personal tutor can discuss it with you within two weeks of your submission.)

#### **Topics for the practice essay**

- 1). What is a 'complex society'? Use archaeological evidence in an area of your choice.
- 2). Discuss the relationship between archaeology and nationalism in a country of your choice

You should choose one of the above. For 1000 words, you are expected to have at least 7-10 references.

#### **FINDING YOUR CANDIDATE CODE**

Your candidate code is different from the student number on your UCL ID card. You can find it on Portico [https://evision.ucl.ac.uk/urd/sits.urd/run/siw\\_lgn](https://evision.ucl.ac.uk/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_lgn)

#### **WRITING ACADEMIC ENGLISH**

If you would like help with writing academic English, you should arrange to see Julia Shaw the IoA's Academic Writing Tutor, who will be available each week during term to advise students (email [julia.shaw@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:julia.shaw@ucl.ac.uk)).