

MA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

DEGREE PROGRAMME HANDBOOK 2023-24



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INTRODUCTION

This is the Handbook for the MA degree programme in Public Archaeology. It outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the degree. It is also available on the Institute web-site.

This Handbook should be used alongside the online Student Handbook at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students> which contains a wide range of relevant and important information on a range of topics, from enrolment to guidance on the dissertation, so students should ensure that they read it carefully.

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

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE DEGREE

The MA in Public Archaeology at UCL Institute of Archaeology was developed in 1999 to examine the role and impact of archaeological activity in a wider social, economic and political context.

The main aims of the degree programme are:

- To introduce the students to the wide range of areas in which archaeology has an impact outside the academic areas of archaeological study.
- To provide examples of the position and control of archaeological activity in the fields of national and international legislation.
- To examine how archaeology is/has been used and presented in the political sphere, both in the past and today, and to look at its social contexts.
- To examine how archaeology is presented to the public across the world, in the media, in museums and on sites.
- To understand the economic importance of archaeology, both the costs of archaeological activities and the role of archaeology for economic development, especially in tourism.
- To engage in the debate on the differing values attached to archaeology and archaeological activity.

Upon successful completion of the course students should, among other matters, be aware of:

- The potential and possibilities for developing archaeological activity in the public sphere.
- The development and planning of archaeological presentations.
- Issues connected with maintenance of archaeological resources.
- The role of legislation in archaeology.
- The ideological implications of archaeology past and present.
- The complex relationships between society, politics and economics that provide the framework within which archaeology works (and is used by others).
- The range of stakeholders in archaeological activities.

These aims are pursued through core courses designed to provide a solid understanding of the history, theories and methods of archaeology, both globally and with special regard to the study region. In addition, a range of options is provided from which students can define an individual pathway through the programme, tailored to their specific interests and personal educational objectives. All students undertake a supervised research project leading to a 15,000 word dissertation, which enables them to develop specific practical analytical and interpretive skills as well as broader research skills.

PRACTICE ESSAY

Most of the assessments for the MA Public Archaeology are based on writing essays. In order that you have the opportunity to ensure that you are familiar with what is expected of an essay at the Institute (including conventions for the citation of sources and submission of essays via Moodle to the Turnitin program) you are required to submit a practice essay.

The essay will be marked in the normal way, and will be returned to you with comments and any suggestions for improvement. An indication of the likely mark will be given for guidance, but the mark will not be included in the assessment of your year's work. We hope that many of you will find the writing of a practice essay a helpful means of ensuring that you are producing the sort of work expected before submitting an essay that will contribute to your final marks.

Practice essay title: **Should the Parthenon Marbles be returned to Greece?**

Deadline: Friday 13 October

The essay should be between 1000 and 1500 words long, and should cite at least 5 different academic texts e.g. books, book chapters or journal articles, along with relevant newspaper articles and other resources.

The essay should be submitted through Moodle – details will be provided.

DEGREE 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:

- **Compulsory 30 credit core module - PA**
- **Compulsory 15 credit module - PPP**
- **45 credits of options**
- **Dissertation**

Weighting in Scheme for Award: Dissertation = 6/12, 30 credit module = 2/12; 15 credit module = 1/12.

The Core Module

The core module for the MA Public Archaeology (also called ARCL0091 Public Archaeology) shares the aims and objectives of the MA degree as a whole, outlined above, and provides a grounding in these areas through teaching, seminars, and other activities. It is taught by a variety of experts in the fields of archaeology, museums, heritage, public policy and consultancy, from within UCL and beyond. It carries a weighting of **30 credits**.

Additional compulsory module

The module Presenting the Past to the Public (ARCL0215) is a practical course aimed at complementing the core module, and giving students a chance to learn about and practice specific skills in archaeology and heritage communication and interpretation. It carries a weighting of **15 credits**.

Options

Students must take **45 credits** of optional courses. Please note that some core courses are normally only available to those enrolled for the degree in question. If you wish to take a core course from another degree as an option, certain restrictions may apply. Please consult your course co-ordinator before making your options choice.

More exceptionally, it is possible to take one module provided by another Department at UCL, or one of the other Colleges of the University of London - students should discuss this with their Degree Co-ordinator.

Subject to space and the agreement of the Course Co-ordinators involved, students are welcome to attend courses in addition to those for which they are formally registered.

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. 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 objectives. It might be used to apply newly learned approaches to an archaeological problem that has long been of interest, or to gain greater experience with 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 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.

Guidelines for researching, writing and producing the dissertation are included in the MA/MSc Handbook, and advice on the preparation of the dissertation will be provided at sessions at regular intervals through the year.

The deadline for the dissertation is 2 September 2024

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Taught courses are normally timetabled in the first two terms, though assessed work may be scheduled for submission in the third term, depending on which options have been selected. Students are expected to use the remaining months to work on their dissertation.

If they are pursuing the degree on a part-time basis, students will normally be expected to take 60 credits (which will normally include the core course) in the first year and the remaining element in the second. They must agree their choice of courses with the Degree Co-ordinator. They may start work on the dissertation at the same time as full-time students, or they may wish to start later; either way they should consult the Degree Co-ordinator, and their Dissertation Supervisor, once the latter has been appointed.

TEACHING METHODS

See individual module handbooks for more information.

PREREQUISITES

Courses for Masters programmes do not have prerequisites; students will have been accepted to the programme on the understanding that they already have sufficient background in archaeology or a relevant field, either through their previous degree, or through relevant experience, to be able to follow the programme and courses for which they have been accepted. If, however, students wish to change their programme, or the courses in which they indicated an interest in enrolling in, in their application, they should discuss this with the relevant Degree and Course Co-ordinators.

For some courses, depending on the student's previous background, it may be recommended that they also attend (but will not be assessed for) a parallel undergraduate lecture course, to ensure that they have the background to get the most out of the Masters level seminars.

ORAL EXAMINATION

All Master's students are required to attend an oral examination, normally as part of their Dissertation assessment. This will normally be held in late May or early June. Students must submit to their Dissertation Supervisor and Degree Programme Co-ordinator a single sheet of A4 summarising the proposed research design of their dissertation to which they will speak. The oral examination will be conducted by two members of staff, normally the Degree Co-ordinator and the Dissertation Supervisor, and will last for approximately 20 minutes.

No marks are awarded for the oral examination; the assessment is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In the event of a problem being identified by the examiners of the Dissertation, students may be invited to attend a formal viva voce examination with the External Examiner for the degree also in attendance. Part-time students and students on two-year MA programmes will normally be required to give a Dissertation presentation (viva) in the year in which they are examined in the Dissertation.

COMMUNICATION

The primary channel of communication within the Institute of Archaeology is e-mail. If you wish to be contacted on your personal or work e-mail address, please arrange for e-mail sent to your UCL address to be forwarded to your other address, since staff and other students will expect to be able to reach you through your UCL e-mail address, which they can find on the UCL web-site. Students must check their e-mail regularly (and if possible the student pigeon-holes in the Basement Common Room for written communications). Please also ensure that you keep your contact details (especially your mobile number) up to date on Portico, in case you need to be contacted.

For individual modules and for the MA Public Archaeology as a whole there are also **Teams** and **Moodle** channels that you can use to communicate, and it is vital that you sign up for these **and check them**, as they are often used to distribute course materials and provide updates. That said, please use email as your primary means of contacting course tutors and other staff.

LIBRARIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

In addition to the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, other libraries in UCL with holdings of particular relevance to this degree are: the Geography and Anthropology collections in the Science Library, the History and Law collections in the Main Library and the holdings of the Bartlett library. Libraries outside of UCL which have holdings which may also be relevant to this degree are: Senate House Library, Society of Antiquaries Library.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Institute has a Health and Safety policy and code of practice which provides guidance on laboratory work, etc. This is revised annually and the new edition will be issued in due course. All work undertaken in the Institute is governed by these guidelines and students have a duty to be aware of them and to adhere to them at all times. This is particularly important in the context of the field trips which will be undertaken as part of this degree.

FEEDBACK

In trying to make this degree as effective as possible, we welcome feedback during the course of the year. Students will be asked to fill-in Progress Forms at the end of each term, which the Degree Co-ordinator will discuss with them, which include space for comment on each of their courses. At the end of each course all students are asked to give their views on the course in an anonymous questionnaire, which will be circulated at one of the last sessions

of the course. You're nearly at the end of the handbook. Don't give up. These questionnaires are taken seriously and help the Course Co-ordinator to develop the course. The summarised responses are considered by the Degree Co-ordinator, the Institute's Staff-Student Consultative Committee, Teaching Committee, and by the Faculty Teaching Committee. If students are concerned about any aspect of a specific course, we hope they will feel able to talk to the relevant Course Co-ordinator, but if they feel this is not appropriate or have more general concerns, they should consult their Degree Co-ordinator, Personal Tutor, or the Graduate Tutors. They may also consult the Academic Administrator, the Chair of Teaching Committee, or the Director. You made it to the end, congratulations you star.