



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MA in Mediterranean Archaeology

Degree Handbook 2023-24



Co-ordinator:
Dr. Borja Legarra Herrero
b.legarra@ucl.ac.uk
Institute of Archaeology
Room 109
Email me for appointment

Introduction

Welcome to the Handbook for the MA degree programme in Mediterranean Archaeology. This outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the degree, and includes lists of module options available this year. It will be made available on the MA Mediterranean Archaeology Moodle.

This Handbook should be used alongside the general Institute of Archaeology online Core Programme Handbook: : <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/iaa-student-handbook>

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

Aims and outcomes of the degree

Aims

- To provide a wide-ranging and challenging analysis of the major interpretative paradigms applied in the Mediterranean, and the region's historiography
- To instill an overall knowledge of Mediterranean societies from earliest times to the early Medieval period from a comparative perspective, as well as in-depth familiarity with select regions, periods or issues
- To provide an in-depth understanding of approaches to the collection, analysis and interpretation of archaeological data within the Mediterranean
- To encourage critically and ethically aware perspectives on archaeological practice and research processes in the Mediterranean
- To provide a sufficiently detailed understanding of Mediterranean archaeological data to serve as a basis for independent research
- To foster the ability to develop original research questions and to explore them effectively through research
- To provide training relevant to a professional career in archaeology
- To provide a strong background for continuing on to a research degree in archaeology

Objectives

These aims are pursued through the degree with one dedicated Mediterranean core module, a core theory module, and a wide range of dedicated option modules 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 resulting in a 15,000-word dissertation, which enables them to develop specific practical, analytical and interpretative skills as well as broader research skills.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MA in Archaeology, students will, among other things, have:

- Gained a detailed understanding of recent intellectual, methodological, interpretative and analytical perspectives in the field
- Developed their critical faculties in discussion, debate, and evaluation of alternative perspectives on, and interpretations of, Mediterranean archaeological and other data
- Acquired a range of subject-specific skills, relevant to their further development as practising archaeologists
- Developed a range of research-oriented skills
- Carried through a substantial programme of independent research embodied in a dissertation that demonstrates theoretical understanding and practical competence in Mediterranean archaeological analysis and interpretation.

Degree structure

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

- Two compulsory core modules (15 credits each, 30 credits in total);
- Options (60 credits in total) comprising modules of either 15 credits or 30 credits (two-term modules are valued at 30 credits), which are chosen from a dedicated range of Mediterranean modules;
- A dissertation on a research topic within the field of Mediterranean archaeology and related areas (90 credits).

Each module addresses a specific subject and has its own Co-ordinator.

Core Modules

- ARCL0133 Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations
- ARCL0199 Heritage Ethics and Archaeological Practice in the Middle East and the Mediterranean

The first core module (ARCL0133) is designed to provide an intensive-level introduction to archaeological theory within a seminar framework based on set readings and on short online lectures that students are required to listen to in advance of the seminar. It introduces students to the modern history of archaeological ideas and to several broad interpretive questions that continue to guide the generation of archaeological knowledge. The second core module (ARCL0199) introduces students to an overview of debates and frameworks of practice, policy and ethical issues in cultural heritage in the Middle East and Mediterranean today (format of the seminars and pre-class activities to be confirmed).

Option Modules

Students must take 60 credits of options, made up of 15-credit or 30-credit modules. At least 45 credits must be made up of options associated with this specific degree, but students may also select an option from the overall range of those available in the Institute of Archaeology, after discussion with, and subject to the agreement of, the Degree Co-ordinator. More exceptionally, it is possible to take one module provided by another Department within UCL, or at one of the other Colleges of the University of London — students should, again, discuss this with their Degree Co-ordinator. The options available this year are listed at the back of this handbook.

Dissertation

The dissertation of up to 15,000 words is a report on a piece of research. There are few restrictions but the topic chosen must be approved by the Degree Coordinator as relevant to the general area covered by this degree. Soon after arrival, students should discuss their area of research interests 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 become the student's Dissertation Supervisor. The Supervisor 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 explore and achieve the student's own academic 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 particular methods of data analysis. If a student is studying part-time while working in the field or museum, 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 for potential employers.

The dissertation submission deadline is 1st September 2023. Guidelines for researching, writing and producing the dissertation are included in the Institute of Archaeology Core Programme Handbook: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook>. Advice on the preparation

of the dissertation will be provided through sessions during through the year, starting at the MA/MSc Induction Session.

Teaching schedule

Taught modules take place in the first two terms. The module timetable is given at the end of this handbook. Students are expected to use the remaining months of their degree to research and write their dissertation.

Teaching methods

Each module will employ face-to-face methods to deliver its content, adapted to the aims and methods of each module.

Prerequisites

Modules for the MA in Mediterranean Archaeology do not normally have prerequisites; students will have been accepted to the degree on the understanding that they already have sufficient background in archaeology or a cognate field, either through their previous degree and/or through relevant experience, to be able to follow the degree and modules for which they have been accepted. If, however, students wish to change their degree, or the modules in which they indicated an interest in enrolling in their application, they should discuss this with the relevant Degree and Module Co-ordinators, to ensure that they have the necessary background to benefit from the course.

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

Coursework

All information about methods of assessment, plagiarism, word length, late submission penalties etc. may be found in the Institute of Archaeology Core Programme Handbook: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook>.

Coursework submission procedures

- All coursework must be submitted electronically
- It has to be uploaded to Turnitin **via Moodle** by midnight on the day of the deadline. This will date-stamp your work.
- Instructions are given below.
 1. Ensure that your essay or other item of coursework has been saved as a **Word doc., docx. or PDF** document. Please include the module code and your candidate number on every page as a header.
 - 2.. Go into the Moodle page for the module to which you wish to submit your work.
 3. Click on the correct assignment (e.g. Essay 1).
 4. Fill in the "Submission title" field with the right details: **It is essential that the first word in the title is your examination candidate number** (e.g. YGBR8 Essay 1), **Note that this changes each year.**
 5. Click "Upload".
 6. Click on "Submit"
 7. You should receive a receipt – please save this.

Practice essay

Much of the assessment of coursework for the MA Mediterranean Archaeology is 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.

Essay task: *Summarise and critically review the article (uploaded on the Mediterranean Archaeology MA Moodle page): Chris Wickham (2005) Problems in doing comparative history. The Reuter Lecture. Identify the salient points of the author's argument and assess whether the Mediterranean as a region is particularly conducive to comparative approaches.*

The Practice Essay should be approximately 1500 words in length.

Deadline is 13th October 2023.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

The practice essay must be submitted to Turnitin via the MA Mediterranean Archaeology 2023-24 Moodle site: <https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=17315>

This must be done by midnight on the day of the deadline.

Dissertation presentation (oral examination)

All Master's students are required to attend an oral examination 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 Co-ordinator a single sheet of A4 summarising the proposed research design of their dissertation, to which they will speak. The oral examination will normally be attended by the Degree Co-ordinator and another member of staff, often the Dissertation Supervisor(s), and will last for approximately 20 minutes. No marks are awarded for the oral examination; the assessment is satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

