INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MA in Archaeology

Degree Handbook 2023-24

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Handbook for the MA degree programme in Archaeology. It outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the degree. It will be made available on the MA Archaeology Moodle (

developed a range of research-oriented skills; and

carried through a substantial programme of independent research embodied in a dissertation that demonstrates theoretical understanding and practical competence in archaeological analysis and interpretation.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The programme of study for this degree is intended to help you meet the objectives outlined above, and also to provide an opportunity for you 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; and

a dissertation on a research topic within the broad field of Archaeology (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.

ARCL0134 Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Current Topics.

These core modules are designed to provide an intensive graduate-level introduction to archaeological theory, research questions and reasoning within a seminar framework based on set readings and in some cases online lectures that you are required to listen to in advance of the seminar. The Term 1 module, *Foundations*, introduces you to the modern history of archaeological ideas and to several broad interpretive frameworks that continue to guide the generation of archaeological knowledge. The Term 2 module, *Current Topics*, examines current research organised around broad themes, highlighting a range of approaches to each. Details of each module are given in the relevant module handbooks.

Option Modules

You must take 60 credits of options, made up of 15-credit or 30-credit modules. Normally, you select options from those available within (and particularly relevant to) your specific degree, but given the intentionally broad nature of this degree, you may select options from those available in other Masters' degrees taught 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 up to 30 credits provided by another Department at UCL, or one of the other Colleges of the University of London – you should discuss this with your Degree Co-ordinator.

Subject to space and the agreement of the Module Co-ordinators involved, you are welcome to attend modules in addition to those for which you are formally registered and examined.

Dissertation

The dissertation of up to 15,000 words is a report on 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, you should discuss your area of research interests with your Degree Co-ordinator, who will help you to focus your ideas for your dissertation, or refer you to another member of staff who will be able to provide more specific advice, and will probably become your Dissertation Supervisor. The Supervisor will help you

This must be done by midnight on the day of the deadline, **Friday 13 October 2023**.

DISSERTATION PRESENTATION (ORAL EXAMINATION)

All Master's students are required to attend an oral examination as part of their Dissertation assessment