

Programme Specification

Academic Year 2017-18 MA Osteoarchaeology

Programme code: 4183 (Full Time); 4184 (Part Time)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awarding Institution | University of Southampton |
| Teaching Institution | University of Southampton |
| Mode of study | Full time or Part time is permitted |
| Duration in years | 1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time) |
| Accreditation details | Not applicable |
| Final award | 180 CATS(90 ECTS) MA |
| Name of award | Osteoarchaeology |
| Interim Exit awards | Postgraduate Certificate on completion of 60 CATS Postgraduate Diploma on completion of 120 CATS |
| FHEQ level of final award | HE7 |
| UCAS code | N/A |
| QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference | QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010) Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Research Preparation Masters Scheme |
| Programme Lead | Dr Jaco Weinstock |
| Date specification was written | 01/05/2003 Revised 09/01/2015 |
| Date specification was last updated | June 2017 |

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This course provides a thorough grounding in the analytical approaches to human and faunal bone identification, ageing, sexing and palaeopathology, as well as to the wider social, cultural, economic and ethical issues raised through the interpretation of archaeological bone assemblages. Among the topics covered by the course is also the latest advances in molecular-based techniques as applied to human and animal remains to investigate issues such as diet, kinship and migrations. Specialist report-writing, is taught within modules in the first semester (animal remains) and second semester (human remains). The MA gives a thorough foundation for students wanting to pursue a PhD in osteoarchaeology and, due to the solid vocational content it offers, it also provides the necessary expertise to pursue a career as an independent (free-lance) osteoarchaeologist.

Special Features of the programme

- Ample opportunity to work hands-on with archaeological animal and human skeletal material
- Visit to the dissection laboratory in the University of Southampton Centre for Anatomical Sciences
- Possibility to carry out work at the isotopic laboratory at the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) at Southampton, as part of the dissertation research

Learning and teaching

This MA programme makes use of a combination of research seminars, lectures, practical classes, staff and student presentations and personal study. Assuming that you take the relevant units, this course will provide you with the ability to identify British and other European zooarchaeological remains and human bone fragments and with the ability to write English Heritage bone reports. It will also develop your critical evaluation of the potential of skeletal material within archaeological research frameworks.

Assessment

Modules in this course utilise different kinds of assessment methods: identification quizzes designed to demonstrate your proficiency in the identification of bone remains; written reports on faunal and human bone assemblages to assess the understanding of the recording and interpretation of skeletal material; and essays on the methodological and/or theoretical aspects of working with bone remains to assess the understanding of the major issues surrounding working with human and faunal skeletal material.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration, however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

This programme has been designed to provide you with a thorough grounding in the identification of human and animal bone from archaeological assemblages and in appropriate analytical approaches to its interpretation. It will also develop your knowledge and understanding of the wider social, cultural and economic issues raised by the interpretation of archaeological bone assemblages. The programme will provide the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue further research or gain employment in this field.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Enable you to develop general and specific research skills, leading to individual development and the ability to apply these skills in the analysis and interpretation of human and animal bone from archaeological assemblages;
- Provide you with detailed practical knowledge of a range of current analytical methods appropriate to human and animal bone, and the ability to apply them to professional standard;
- Develop your understanding of the ways that the analysis of human and animal bone can illuminate varied aspects of past societies
- Stimulate discussion and critique of past, current and future conceptual approaches to the analysis and interpretation of human and animal bone from archaeological assemblages;
- Prepare you for further research and/or professional archaeological practice

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The professional context of osteoarchaeological research;
- The specific subject areas appropriate to your studies and to your chosen study foci within the area of osteoarchaeology;
- Research methodologies and skills appropriate to and valuable within osteoarchaeology;
- Current and past debates relating to osteoarchaeology and the potential developments and issues of the future;
- The ways in which a variety of archaeological research and professional practice goals have been approached using osteoarchaeological techniques;
- The role of osteoarchaeology within wider archaeological debates, practice and research.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop your knowledge and understanding through a combination of research seminars, lectures, practical classes, staff and student presentations and personal study.

Learning outcomes are developed through lectures and supervised practical classes, directed self-study, tutorial contact with staff, visiting speakers, staff and student research seminars.

Assessment methods

Your knowledge and understanding will be tested through written work and seminar papers and may include, where appropriate, written examination, oral presentation and viva voce examination when modules are completed. At each stage of assessment feedback will be provided to identify your progress and additional areas to consider, develop and concentrate upon.

Throughout the programme you will undertake a variety of written and oral assignments. Written assignments will vary from research proposals or short essays to longer research papers and finally a dissertation based on an original research project. Oral assignments will include a formal presentation of the research proposal for your dissertation topic.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Critique and present your own osteoarchaeological practice, and that of others;
- Theorise, plan and develop creative solutions to archaeological problems through the use of osteoarchaeological techniques.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your cognitive skills will be developed through research staff and student seminars, and through visits and visiting speaker seminars. You will be encouraged to debate ideas and present them through a variety of means developed during the programme.

Assessment methods

You will be assessed in the module of the programme on the basis of written work submitted and on specific research presentations. You will also be assessed via the research dissertation. Independent learning will be assessed throughout the programme as an element of the range of skills considered.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Plan, design and present conceptual and methodological approaches to questions;
- Develop knowledge of new methods and theories based on related knowledge;
- Plan, design and complete a programme of research;
- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats;
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations;
- Identify, select and draw upon a wide range of sources of evidence;
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence;
- Demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The programme will develop a range of transferable research and professional skills through the gradual development of your knowledge through lectures and seminars, including contact with a variety of staff, visiting speakers, other MA students and postgraduates. You will also learn through a range of written assignments throughout the programme and via a series of research-based presentations, discussion following each presentation and in self-directed study.

Assessment methods

Key skills will be assessed where appropriate by written coursework and formal presentations relating to specific elements of taught modules and the research dissertation.

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Subject Specific Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Identify and record human bones
- Identify and record animal bones
- Identify and record normal and pathological variation in bone
- Write osteoarchaeological assessments and analytical reports

Teaching and learning methods

Practical laboratory classes will give you experience of handling, identifying and recording human and animal bones. You will undertake supervised preparation of assessments and analytical reports on sample assemblages.

Assessment methods

Your skills will be assessed through practical tests of identification and recording, as well as the submission of essays and technical reports.

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attributes are the personal qualities, skills and understanding you can develop during your studies. They include but extend beyond your knowledge of an academic discipline and its technical proficiencies. Graduate Attributes are important because they equip you for the challenge of contributing to your chosen profession and may enable you to take a leading role in shaping the society in which you live.

We offer you the opportunity to develop these attributes through your successful engagement with the learning and teaching of your programme and your active participation in University life. The skills, knowledge and personal qualities that underpin the Graduate Attributes are supported by your discipline. As such, each attribute is enriched, made distinct and expressed through the variety of learning experiences you will experience. Your development of Graduate Attributes presumes basic competencies on entry to the University.

Programme Structure

Availability of Modules

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Programme details

The programme can be taken either full-time over 1 year, or part-time over 2 years. It consists of 90 European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS) points (180 Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) points). These are made up from 52.5 ECTS/105 CATS from taught modules and 37.5 ECTS/75 CATS from a research dissertation. If you satisfactorily complete the taught elements of the programme you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma.

| Core modules | | Credits |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ARCH6106 | Osteoarchaeology | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6064 | Masters Dissertation | 30 ECTS (60 CATS) |
| Compulsory modules | | |
| | Note: One of the following must be taken as a compulsory module, the other will then be available as an option: | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ARCH6115 | Human Skeletal Studies | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6110 | Zooarchaeology | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| Optional modules | | |
| | Typical recommended option modules for the programme include the following: | |
| ARCH6110 | Zooarchaeology | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6114 | Maritime Aspects of Culture | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6112 | Materials, Technology and Social Life | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6115 | Human Skeletal Studies | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |
| ARCH6119 | Applied Maritime Archaeology | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6120 | Maritime Museums & Heritage Management | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6121 | Contexts for Human Origins Research | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6122 | Ancient Mediterranean Seafaring | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6126 | Bioarchaeology of Human Remains | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6127 | Analysis of archaeological faunal remains | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6128 | Cultural Heritage within Environmental Impact Assessment | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6411 | The Analysis of Palaeolithic Stone Tool Assemblages | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6412 | Professional Practice | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6413 | Professional Placement in the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sector | 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) |
| ARCH6140 | Maritime Connections of the Ancient Mediterranean | 15 ECTS (30 CATS) |

* Your programme of study may include up to 30 credits drawn from level 6 (undergraduate year 3) modules that have not previously been studied

** Where students have specific research interests, compulsory modules may be substituted for equivalent credit value by agreement with the course coordinator.

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the University Calendar:

<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

[This text may be amended only in cases where UPC approval of exemption from University harmonised regulations has been granted

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

| Qualification | Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits | Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Postgraduate Certificate | at least 30 | 20 |
| Postgraduate Diploma | At least 60 | 45 |

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

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- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas and ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group
- National Student Survey

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)

- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

This includes specific compliance with legislation relating to discrimination (e.g. Equality Act 2010) and the University's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement. This includes a commitment that the University will:

- actively assist groups that experience disadvantage in education and employment to benefit from belonging to the University
- actively seek to widen participation to enable students that do not traditionally participate in Higher Education to do so;
- ensure that admission procedures select students fairly and appropriately according to their academic ability and that the procedure is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Entry Requirements

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

| Qualification | Grade/GPA | Subjects requirements | Specific requirements |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Honours degree or equivalent | First- or upper second-class | Archaeology, Anthropology, or related subject. | |

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you are over 21 and feel you would benefit from degree-level studies, we can be more flexible about our entry requirements. For full-time courses, selectors will expect you to demonstrate your commitment by means of some recent serious study, for example, one or two A level passes, successful completion of an Open University foundation course or an appropriate Access course. Your application will be considered on individual merit and you may be asked to attend an interview.

More information on the entry requirements for MA Osteoarchaeology can be found on the Archaeology webpage here:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/archaeology/v400_ma_osteoarchoeology.page

For further information, please contact our Admissions Team: pgafh@southampton.ac.uk

The University's Admission policy is available at

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissionspolicies/policy/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

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| Overall | Reading | Writing | Speaking | Listening |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 |

Career Opportunities

The main aim of the MA program in Osteoarchaeology is to prepare you for further research and/or professional archaeological practice. The course provides a solid foundation for the undertaking of a PhD – the first step for an academic career in the field of Osteoarchaeology or Forensic Anthropology. However, already after completion of the MA you should be able to work as an Osteologist (human, faunal, or both) for Archaeology Contracting Units and Consultancies, both in the UK and abroad. In addition, during our program you will develop a range of practical and intellectual abilities that are highly-regarded and sought by employers outside Archaeology, such as team-working skills, analytical skills gained from interpreting written and numerical evidence.

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name: Dr James Cole

Institution: University of Brighton

Name: Dr Michael Scott

Institution: London School of Economics

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/archaeology/v400_ma_osteoaarchaeology.page?

Appendix:

Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping document template

| Module Code | Module Title | Knowledge and Understanding | | | | | | Subject Specific Intellectual Skills | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| | | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | B1 | B2 |
| ARCH6106 | Osteoarchaeology in Context | • | • | | • | • | • | • | |
| ARCH6115 | Human Skeletal Studies | • | • | • | | • | | • | • |
| ARCH6110 | Zooarchaeology | • | • | • | | • | | • | • |
| ARCH6064 | Masters dissertation | • | • | • | | | | • | • |

| Module Code | Module Title | Transferable/Key Skills | | | | | | | | Subject Specific Practical Skills | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| | | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | C7 | C8 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 |
| ARCH6106 | Osteoarchaeology in Context | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • |
| ARCH6115 | Human Skeletal Studies | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | |
| ARCH6110 | Zooarchaeology | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • |
| ARCH6064 | Masters dissertation | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | • | | • |

| Module Code | Module Title | Coursework 1 | Coursework 2 | Exam |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| ARCH6106 | Osteoarchaeology in Context | 1x Assessment (1000 words) Total: 10% | 1x 3000 word report Total: 50% | 1x 2000 word research essay Total: 40% |
| ARCH6115 | Human Skeletal Studies | 1 x 3000 word report Total: 35% | 1x 2000 word essay Total: 25% | 1 x bone fragment tests Total: 40% |
| ARCH6110 | Zooarchaeology | 1x written assignment Total: 40% | 1x portfolio Total: 10% | Practical quizzes Total: 50% |
| ARCH6064 | Masters dissertation | | | 20,000 word dissertation 100% |

Appendix 2

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Materials (such as laboratory materials, textbooks, drawing paper, fabric, thread, computer disks, Sheet Music)
- Software Licenses
- Clothing (such as Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, specific shoes and trousers)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Typing Costs
- Field Trips (including accommodation costs for the field trips)
- Work Experience and Placements (including accommodation costs near the placement, additional insurance costs)
- Travel Costs for placements, field trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).
- Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements.
- Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance Subsistence Costs
- Paying for a Music accompanist
- Translation of birth certificates (for programmes abroad)
- Conference expenses
- Professional exams
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Other activities (e.g. visiting specialist marine stations and other institutions)
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk