



Get in touch

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Masters' Programmes

Archaeological Science
Archaeology
Assyriology
Biological Anthropology

Egyptology
Heritage Studies
Human Evolutionary
Studies



Our exciting Masters' (MPhil) programmes will allow you to gain research experience in one of the most dynamic research environments in the world.

A wide range of specialised Masters' programmes cover archaeological science, biological anthropology, ancient languages and heritage studies. We also have a more general Master's programme in Archaeology which allows you to focus on fields as diverse as African Archaeology, South Asian Archaeology or the Global Middle Ages. This programme allows you to flexibly combine your interests in a particular period or region with an in-depth study of methods such as zooarchaeology, paleobotany, materials analysis and many others.

The Masters' programmes in Archaeological Research and Biological Anthropological Science are suitable for students who have already achieved a high degree of specialist knowledge and have specific research interests. You spend the year working on a research paper and an extended dissertation.

The Masters' programmes run from the beginning of October to the end of July or August. After two or three terms of classes (three in ancient languages) you will spend the spring and summer months researching for your dissertation.

Teaching

We offer research-led teaching at the highest level; that means that the content of our courses is at the cutting-edge of ongoing research. Staff and students interact closely in lectures, seminars, language classes and laboratory-based practicals, allowing students to benefit from the world-class research being carried out at the Department. The means of assessment vary from module to module, and can be by coursework, exams, and presentations.

Our excellent staff-student ratio means that students have regular contact with staff in small class sizes. Students have a high degree of intellectual freedom. Students design their own

research questions, together with their personal supervisor, and are given space to immerse themselves in their chosen specialisation. There are also many opportunities for students to join Department-based research projects.

Resources

We have world-class resources for supporting MPhil teaching and research. Our excellent resources include the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, a well-equipped IT suite and purpose-built laboratories for archaeological genetics, isotope analysis, materials analysis, zooarchaeology, archaeobotany and environmental archaeology.

The Duckworth Collection holds one of the largest human skeletal collections in the world, while the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Fitzwilliam Museum provide access to extensive artefact collections of global importance. The Haddon Library is conveniently located within the main Archaeology Department building and houses a wide range of specialist archaeological and anthropological literature and journals.

Community

As an MPhil student, you will work closely with and alongside teaching staff, postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate students.

Our postgraduate community is vibrant. Postgraduate students publish their own peer-reviewed academic journal—the Archaeological Review from Cambridge.

The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research is the beating social and intellectual heart of the postgraduate and postdoctoral community. Here you will be able to attend stimulating seminar series and conferences, or socialise with staff and students over coffee and interesting conversation. The Department also offers many opportunities for fieldwork and field trips and we encourage students to participate in community outreach activities. We are a friendly Department with students and staff members from all over the world.



What are we looking for?

We are looking for applicants with a real passion for further study and research in Archaeology, Archaeological Science, Biological Anthropology, Heritage Studies, or the languages and cultures of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

We welcome your application if you have an excellent first degree in archaeology, biological anthropology, or a related subject or subjects. We value diversity, of background and outlook, and we welcome talented students from around the world.

For further information about entry requirements, please check the University's graduate admissions website <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/>

How to apply

Applications for admission to all MPhil programmes in the Department of Archaeology are submitted through the Graduate Admissions Office website (see link above). The website also has information about fees and funding opportunities.

You can submit your application from September through the end of April for entry in the following academic year. However, we encourage you to apply by mid-December, since key deadlines for funding are in early January.

After the MPhil

Our MPhil programmes will equip you with the skills needed for further postgraduate research, or for work in museums, professional archaeology, heritage policy and administration, or other related areas.

As well as gaining in-depth knowledge of your chosen specialisation and learning research skills, our MPhil degree will also give you training in a range of transferable skills, such as writing, presentation, research design, data analysis, and formulating and analysing arguments. By the end of the course, you should be able to exercise these skills in independent research, and in any professional-level work which requires them.

