University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course codes MSc W501 (FT); MSc W502 (PT)
GDip W503 (FT); GDip W504 (PT)
GradCert W614 (PT)

MSc/GradDip Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology

One Year Full-Time or Two Year Part-Time
(Non-EU/EEA students full-time only due to immigration regulations)

GradCert Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology & Anthropology

On-line One Year Part-Time

Cairngorms, Scotland

Introduction

Our on-campus and distance-learning programmes in Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology and Anthropology are for students interested in the fascinating and remarkable world of hunter-gatherers. It is often claimed that humans have spent 90-99% of our existence as hunter-gatherers. Understanding these ways of life provides vital perspectives on human identity and the challenges and opportunities societies face today. Archaeology is the only discipline that can provide this information.

Our programmes introduce students to key themes in the archaeology of past hunter gatherers, the relationship between past and present hunting and gathering communities, and the contemporary context of knowledge production about hunter-gatherers. Our primary focus is the archaeology of *Homo sapiens* hunter-gatherers: we will include some discussion of non-*Homo sapiens*, but this is not a course on human evolution.

Students in the Masters and the Graduate Diploma take the same taught courses for 60 credits in Autumn and Spring Trimesters, with the Masters having a 30 credits research dissertation in Summer Trimester.

The Graduate Certificate is a 30 credit, one year course, taught entirely online. Students take the same taught courses as the campus based students in Autumn and Spring and an Independent Research Project in Summer.

The GradCert is a recognised pathway for access to the MSc programme.

Course Content and Structure

90 credits taught masters | **60 credits** taught modules | **30 credits** dissertation — or — **60 credits** graduate diploma — or — **30 credits** Graduate Certificate

Core modules MSc/GradDip

- Hunter-Gatherers 1: Key Themes
- Hunter-Gatherers 2: Knowledge Production
- Material Culture
- Dissertation

Graduate Dissertation (30 credits, MSc only)

Optional modules MSc/GDIP

Students can choose option modules from other masters programmes coordinated by the School of Archaeology, allowing them to learn about other thematic areas.

Core modules GradCert

- Hunter-Gatherers 1: Key Themes
- Hunter-Gatherers 2: Knowledge Production
- Independent Research Project

Modules and topics shown are subject to change and are not guaranteed by UCD.

Why study at UCD?

Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs

Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland

Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking

Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries

QS World University Rankings by Subject — Archaeology in the top 100 — 2025

Athena Swan Ireland Bronze Award — Equality Charter

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Rock crystal from Belderrig Mesolithic site, Ireland (© johnsunderland.com)

Experimental hazelnut roasting

Career Opportunities

The MSc and GradDip will provide you with the skills required to develop a career in the archaeological profession or the heritage sector, or to go on to further academic study. Transferable skillsets such as critical thinking and project management will also provide you with an excellent grounding for future employment in other sectors.

The GradCert can be used as an entry pathway for the MSc programme; a stand alone qualification; or part of a CPD programme.

Graduates of these programme may progress to careers in:

- Further research, whether academic or professional
- Commercial archaeology and cultural resource management
- The heritage sector
- State sector bodies
- NGOs
- Education

UCD Hunter-Gatherer Research Group

All students will be part of the Hunter-Gatherer Research Group, which includes book clubs, occasional seminars, social events, and opportunities for volunteering for field/lab work. Recent field projects have been in Ireland and Scotland. Students can work on materials from these projects for their dissertations.

Applicant Profile

- The MSc and GradDip programmes are intended for applicants with a degree in archaeology, anthropology, or cognate disciplines such as geography, history, environmental studies, or professionals working in museums, heritage management or related areas. Contact us for advice, especially to consider relevant archaeological experience.
- An upper second class honours degree, or international equivalent is required for entry to the MSc.
- The GradCert requires a lower second class honours degree in archaeology, anthropology, or other cognate disciplines. Alternatively, candidates may have equivalent professional/ vocational experience (to be discussed with programme coordinator).
- Applicants whose first language is not English are also required to submit evidence of their English Language proficiency. It is expected that applicants will normally have reached on overall 7.0 in IELTS or equivalent.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/ for further information.

Related Graduate Programmes

- MSc/GradDip Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip/GradCert Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture
- MSc/GradDip Mediterranean Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip World Heritage Management and Conservation
- MSc/GradDip/GradCert World Heritage Conservation (part-time online)
- PhD in Archaeology

Graduate Profile

Deborah Buchanan

MSc Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology student, UCD School of Archaeology

"I can honestly say that the Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology programme has far exceeded my expectations. The practical side of things really surprised me- we've spent a lot of time doing, not just sitting listening to lectures.

The style of teaching at UCD has also been a pleasant surprise to me. In the past I didn't feel like I could approach lecturers, but at UCD I feel like everyone is trying to help me learn and genuinely wants me to do well."

CONTACT US

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International Students - E: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie **T**: +353 1 716 8500
W: www.ucd.ie/global

SCHOOL INFORMATION ON FUNDING & SUPPORTS

W: www.ucd.ie/archaeology/study/graduateprogrammes

APPLY NOW

W: www.ucd.ie/global/apply