University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course codes MSc W349 (FT); MSc W350 (PT)
GDip W373 (FT); GDip W374 (PT)
GradCert W499 (PT)

MSc/GradDip/*GradCert Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture

One Year Full-Time or Two Year Part-Time

*GradCert online part-time only

(Non-EU/EEA students full-time only due to immigration regulations)

Introduction

Our **Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture** programmes are designed for students interested in learning about past peoples and their worlds through experimental archaeological and material culture studies.

You will learn innovative archaeological and scientific approaches to understanding things – both buildings and objects - from the past, and you will investigate them through practical and scientific projects. You will learn about different materials and how they were worked. You will explore ways of communicating your knowledge and understanding of people and their material culture in museums, archaeological open-air museums, online through blogs, videos and social media, and in traditional publication. You will develop skills in project design and management, data analysis and interpretation, writing, photography and illustration.

Students in the MSc and the GradDip take the same courses for 60 credits over two trimesters from September, with the MSc having an additional trimester from May and 30 credits for a research dissertation you design. During the year you can apply to transfer from the GradDip into the MSc –and visa versa.

The Graduate Certificate is a 30 credit, one year course, taught entirely online.

Course Content and Structure

90 credits taught MSc | **60 credits** taught modules | **30 credits** dissertation — or — **60 credits** Graduate Diploma — or — **30 credits** Graduate Certificate

Student-led discussion and debate are key elements in our programme design and implementation, and strong links are maintained between teaching and research in both the field and classroom.

Core modules include:

- Material Culture (10)
- Experimental Archaeology (10)
- Practical Experimental Archaeology (10)

Graduate Dissertation (30 credits MSc only)

Optional modules include:

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

GradCert modules:

Online part-time

- Experimental Archaeology (10)
- Thinking about Things (10)
- Crafts, Making & Storytelling (10)

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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Career Opportunities

Graduates may progress to careers in further research (e.g. PhD), in academia, state or commercial archaeology, in cultural heritage studies, in education and public outreach, in traditional and archaeological open-air museums, in cultural tourism and heritage management, amongst many other options.

- Further research, whether academic or professional
- Professional archaeological practice
- Museums, Living History and re-enactment
- Communicating heritage
- Heritage and education policy and practice

Graduate Profile

Chase Minos

MSc Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture.

"I came to University College Dublin from San Diego, California because I had strong interests in both learning about and practicing experimental archaeology. I never quite expected just how much I would get out of this programme. I engaged not only with the practical and academic aspects of experimental archaeology but I also developed a new skill, wheel-throwing pottery. This skill was unexpected and propelled me not only to employ it as part of my thesis but also in pursuing a PhD. This combination of practical and academic experience with excellent teaching makes the MSc programme in experimental archaeology one of the best."

Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in archaeology, or cognate disciplines such as geography, history, environmental studies, architecture, art history, classics, sociology, or professionals working in museums, living history, crafts and material culture studies areas. Contact us for advice and information.
- An upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required for the MSc Programme.
- Candidates who possess a lower second class honours degree are encouraged to consider the Graduate Diploma programme. Subject to performance in the first trimester, students may transfer to the full MSc programme.
- 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 Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip Mediterranean Archaeology
- MSc/GradDip World Heritage Management and Conservation
- MSc/GradDip/GradCert World Heritage Conservation (part-time online)

- PhD in Archaeology

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