University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course codes MSc W491 (FT); MSc W492 (PT)
GDip W493 (FT); GDip W494 (PT)

MSc/GradDip Archaeology

One Year Full-Time or Two Year Part-Time

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

Survey of unclassified Neolithic tomb at Belderrig, Co. Mayo

Introduction

Archaeology is the only subject that provides deep-time perspectives on past human worlds, enabling us to imagine exciting new futures. The MSc in Archaeology allows you to choose from a wide range of modules offered as part of the School's Level 3 and Level 4 offerings, which lets you build a tailored postgraduate experience to suit your own archaeological interests.

Through our diverse range of modules students can engage with the latest theoretical and scientific debates in prehistoric, historic and contemporary archaeology, enhance their knowledge and understanding of World Heritage studies, and explore the valuable insights provided by experimental archaeological approaches. At the same time, the MSc and Graduate diploma pathways allow students to focus on archaeological skills including GIS and remote sensing, archaeological field methods, material culture studies and heritage communication.

University College Dublin benefits from its proximity to a wide range of spectacular archaeological sites and landscapes within 'Ireland's Ancient East', including the 'monastic city' of Glendalough, the *Brú na Bóinne* World Heritage Site and the historic city of Dublin itself. Dublin is also home to some of Ireland's most significant cultural and archaeological institutions including the National Museum of Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the National Monuments Service and the National Library of Ireland.

Course Content and Structure

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

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:

- Land/Landscape (10)
- Archaeological Field Methods (10)
- Material Culture (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.

Examples of module options include:

- Heritage Presentation & Interpretation (5)
- Heritage Management Challenges (10)
- Geographic Information Systems (10)
- Practical Experimental Archaeology (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

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

Graduate Employability

#1

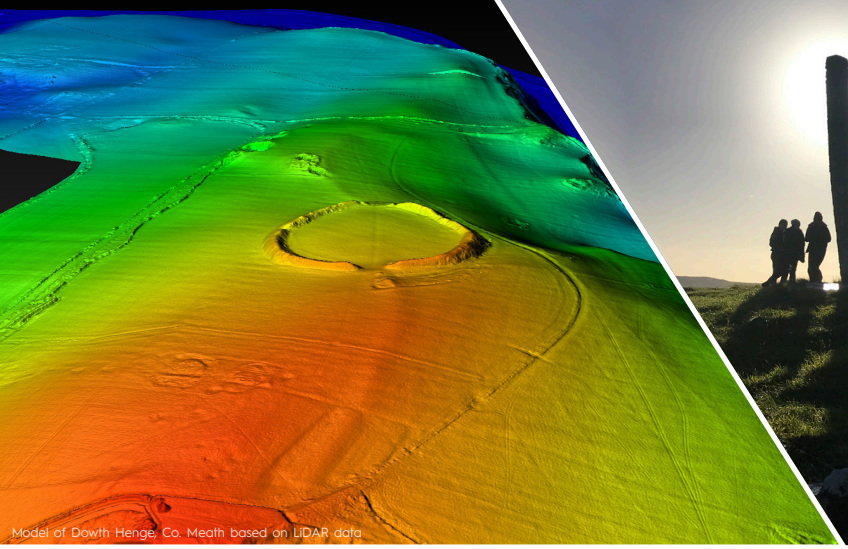
Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking

Global Community

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

Athena Swan Ireland Equality Charter Bronze Award

Inch Cistercian Abbey, Co. Down



Model of Dowth Henge, Co. Meath based on LiDAR data

Doonfeeny graveyard and cross inscribed standing stone, Co. Mayo

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Career Opportunities

The MSc and Graduate Diploma 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. Graduates of this programme may progress to careers in:

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

Graduate Profile

Carolyn Morgan

MSc graduate 2024

"The UCD MSc Archaeology programme encourages students to seek deeper knowledge about their niche passions. Even without a dissertation topic in mind when I arrived at UCD, I found the freedom to fuel my curiosity, and guidance in narrowing my interests into specific research questions. This programme transformed me into a confident academic writer, a skill which I will be able to carry with me throughout my entire career"

Applicant Profile

- The MSc and GradDip programmes are 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, heritage management and material culture studies areas. Contact us for advice and information.
- An upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required for entry to the MSc.
- Candidates who possess a lower second class honours degree or have limited archaeological experience are encouraged to consider the Graduate Diploma programme. Subject to performance in the first semester, 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/GradCert Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture
- 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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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