

Programme Specification

BA Museum Studies and Archaeology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2021

UCAS Code: PV14

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 3 years |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | BA Museum Studies and Archaeology with Placement and Study Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: PV17) BA Museum Studies and Archaeology with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: PV16) BA Museum Studies and Archaeology with Professional Placement - 4 years (UCAS Code: PV15) |

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with an undergraduate-level preparation for a career in the museums and heritage sector, by integrating contemporary theory and practice of museum studies with the academic and practical study of the archaeology of the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods in Britain, Europe and globally. It will also develop numerous academic and personal transferable skills in preparation for a wide range of career choices. The programme is distinctive in its emphasis on experiential learning in the University's numerous museum collections and archives (e.g. the Museum of English Rural Life, the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology and the Cole Museum of Zoology) as well as through practical and vocational options (e.g. the Archaeology Fieldschool and artefacts analysis), culminating in the design and delivery of an exhibition by the students. Its strengths lie in the combination of methodologies from the humanities and sciences, vocational training in the curation, interpretation and presentation of material culture and the application of theoretical concepts and analytical skills to understand and present the human past in all its spatial and temporal dimensions. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge and skills within the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

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| Part 1: | Introduces you to the principles and practices of the museum sector and to the discipline of archaeology and its methodology, providing a broad overview of past artefacts, lifestyles and human social development. |
| Part 2: | Provides you with a focus on practical museum work and the engagement with primary archaeological data, the development of analytical skills and the nature of archaeological interpretation, through a museum placement and the opportunity to participate in the Archaeology Field School and a combination of vocational, techniques- and period-based modules. |

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| Placement/Study abroad year: | A placement year provides the opportunity to obtain practical experience and apply academic knowledge. It also helps provide focus in the final year of academic study. Students gain transferable skills demanded by graduate employers and on return to university are better informed about future career paths. A year abroad provides the opportunity for students to broaden both their academic and cultural awareness. |
| Part 3: | Gives you the opportunity to develop (design, plan, create and evaluate) a museum display through the supervised project and gives the opportunity for increasing specialisation through the provision of a range of specialist subjects as well as the option of conducting an original research project through a dissertation. |

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|---|---------|-------|
| AR1MET | Archaeology today: methods and practice | 20 | 4 |
| MC1HPE | Museum History, Policy and Ethics | 20 | 4 |
| MC1PP | Presenting the Past | 20 | 4 |

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology or elsewhere in the University.

Part 2 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| AR2FAO | Ancient objects: materials and meanings | 10 | 5 |
| AR2TAH | Archaeology and heritage: past, present and future | 20 | 5 |
| MC2BM | Break into the Museum: Work Placement | 20 | 5 |
| MC2CCM | Curatorship and Collections Management | 20 | 5 |
| MC2LE | Museum Learning and Engagement | 20 | 5 |

You must also take: A minimum of 20 credits worth of 'Period Options', focussing on the archaeology of specific time periods or regions.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology or cross-listed modules in other Departments, including vocational, techniques- and science-based options.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students permitted to undertake a placement/study abroad year will take 120 credits in either Work Experience and/or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| MC3DD | Display Design, Planning and Creation: Project Module | 40 |

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology including the Dissertation module *AR3DI* (40 credits) or cross-listed modules in other Departments (e.g. archives or material-culture focussed modules in Classics or History). Under certain circumstances, up to 20 credits may be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

You will be expected to be equipped with suitable outdoor clothing, footwear and some camping gear for the Archaeology Field School. There are no compulsory textbooks, but you may expect to want to spend around £75/year on books. Discounted second hand copies may be available. Depending on your module combination, you may be asked to contribute to the costs of non-compulsory fieldtrips and museum visits (c. £50/year).

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2020.

Placement opportunities

You are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme through placement module *CL2BM: Break into the Museum*. The University will place you in a setting which it will approve with placement providers who are, where appropriate, regulated and monitored by the professional authorities associated with your Programme.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, practicals, fieldtrips and laboratory based sessions.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 600 hours, depending upon your module combination; information about contact hours for individual modules can be located in the relevant module description.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written coursework (including an independent research dissertation), oral presentations, practical tests, and fieldwork.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

| Mark | Interpretation |
|------------|------------------------|
| 70% - 100% | First class |
| 60% - 69% | Upper Second class |
| 50% - 59% | Lower Second class |
| 40% - 49% | Third class |
| 35% - 39% | Below Honours Standard |
| 0% - 34% | Fail |

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes:

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Museum Studies and Archaeology for students entering Part 1 in session 2021/22

30 July 2020

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