UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MA

Archaeology

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **17 September 2027**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **27 September 2027**

About this course

The MA in Archaeology is an ideal postgraduate degree if you want to study the major developments in human societies from the origins of settled life to the florescence of the great civilisations.

Introduction

We'll teach you a variety of practical archaeological techniques and cover in depth the prehistory of the Mediterranean region, the Near East and Northern Europe or Classical Archaeology.

This degree is great preparation for a research degree or a career in archaeology due to the practical skills that it covers. You will gain problem solving, analytical and team-working skills that are beneficial to many other types of employment.

Fieldwork is an important part of research in archaeology and we have projects based internationally, in Egypt, Greece, Bulgaria, Jordan, Turkey, Italy, Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa, as well as in the British Isles.

Who is this course for?

This MA is perfect for graduates in Archaeology or related disciplines who want to study the major developments in human societies and aspire to a career in research or Archaeology.

What you'll learn

- Knowledge and critical understanding of the nature and development of past and contemporary cultures
- Enhance your experience in archaeological field and/or laboratory work
- Skills of archaeological analysis and interpretation, from assessing data from past societies to the analysis and interpretation of specific monuments/sites and their modern published records
- Broad comparative knowledge of the archaeology of selected geographical regions and chronological periods
- The principles and methods by which archaeological data are acquired and analysed and the problems associated with these processes
- How to design, research and present a sustained piece of archaeological writing
- The ability to apply and demonstrate a good understanding of theoretical concepts within archaeology
- Problem-solving and discursive writing skills.

Back to top

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH SKILLS FOR ACE M-LEVEL STUDENTS (ALGY601)	30

Optional modules	Credits
AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY513)	15
RESEARCH THEMES IN THE NEOLITHIC OF THE NEAR EAST (ALGY656)	15
WOOD IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY: WOOD AND CHARCOAL ANALYSIS (ALGY668)	15
ISSUES IN EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY676)	15
REGIONALISM IN ARCHAIC GREEK WORLD (ALGY689)	15
EARLY TECHNOLOGIES (ALGY763)	15
EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY: MATERIALS, THEORIES AND PRACTICES (ALGY740)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it ran for students beginning in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by Friday 30th April 2027 at the latest.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DESIGNING AND COMMUNICATING RESEARCH (ALGY731)	15

Optional modules	Credits
SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY588)	15
SOCIAL LIFE IN EGYPT (ALGY677)	15
ECONOMIES AND EXCHANGE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (ALGY688)	15
ARTEFACTS AND ANALYSIS (ALGY737)	15
DECIPHERING SYMBOLS: APPROACHES TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EARLIEST SYMBOLIC BEHAVIOUR (ALGY761)	15
HUMAN OSTEOLOGY (ALGY762)	15
BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE BRITAIN (ALGY786)	15

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Final project

The Dissertation (ALGY600) is taken over the summer period.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ACE MA AND MSC DISSERTATION (ALGY600)	60

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Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Most modules are delivered on campus in small group seminars and occasionally via lectures. Certain modules include practical work. Independent study is fostered by essay-work and set preparation for seminars that grows progressively demanding as your knowledge increases over the course. A range of bibliography is set to assist with

independent study also. Feedback is given on all submitted work to help your reflective engagement and progress in future exercises and assessment activities.

The compulsory research skills module, ALGY 601 is delivered via a number of teaching sessions on subjects such as library and scholarly research and careers talks by members of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology.

Preparation for the MA dissertation is undertaken over the length of the programme and completed in the summer period. You will receive one-to-one supervision sessions with a research-active member of staff who will oversee your research on your approved dissertation topic. As part of your dissertation work you may choose to: design experiments, carry out analyses of a body of data or perform GIS studies.

How you're assessed

Assessment is normally by essay and a portfolio of practical work but examinations are included in some modules.

Within the research skills module, ALGY 601, you will develop research skills through the production of work that is assessed and which includes a presentation of your dissertation research topic to a staff and student audience.

You will prepare for the MA dissertation over the length of the programme, however delivery and completion will be in the final four months of the course. The dissertation counts for 60 credits (one third) of your masters. Your finished dissertation is assessed on the quality of your research, your handling of the scholarship, engagement with an issue, organisation and effective presentation.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries

- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

Back to top

Careers and employability

The Archaeology MA delivers career opportunities for further study and employment within the field of Archaeology. As a graduate of the MA, you are also well equipped for a wide variety of jobs in private or public sector employment.

The Archaeology MA provides a strong platform from which to progress to further research at PhD level either within the University of Liverpool or at other Universities.

Career opportunities within Archaeology exist in sectors including:

- University
- Museums
- Local government (posts in planning and archaeology)
- Private professional archaeological companies.

With the Archaeology MA you are also well equipped for a wide variety of jobs in sectors such as:

- Finance
- Journalism
- Law
- The police
- Civil Service
- Retail management
- Environmental consultancy
- Teaching
- Tourism and heritage management (where high-level knowledge of archaeology and cultural heritage is a specific advantage).

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

Back to top

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £12,500
Part-time place, per year - £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £28,000
Part-time place, per year - £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £13,206 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We don’t anticipate additional costs to students outside of general study costs.

You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

Back to top

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Archaeology (or a closely related subject e.g. Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Physics, Geology, Geophysical Sciences, History and Geography).

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English

course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

Back to top

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