



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MSc

Archaeology

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **29 August 2025**

Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

This MSc programme concentrates on science-based archaeology and is ideal for you if you want to become post-excavation or artefact specialists in the museum or commercial sectors.

Introduction

There are two pathways to choose from: **Artefact**, and **Landscape and Environment**. Both pathways are suitable if you are a graduate in archaeology or a science subject and want to start or further your career in these exciting fields.

The programme is also useful preparation for further academic research and the skills you'll gain, such as problem-solving and team work, will be attractive to any employer.

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 MSc is perfect for graduates in Archaeology or related disciplines who want to become post-excavation or artefact specialists, or go onto further academic research in Archaeology.

What you'll learn

- Knowledge and critical understanding of the development of past and contemporary cultures through the application of scientific techniques
- High level skills of archaeological science through applied analysis and interpretation, from methodological aspects of instrumental analysis to the analysis of specific sites or artefacts
- Broad comparative knowledge of the archaeology of selected geographical regions and chronological periods
- To demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the principles and methods by which archaeological data are acquired and analysed
- To evaluate the variety of approaches to the understanding, constructing and interpreting the past
- To design, research and present a sustained piece of archaeological writing.

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Course content

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

Semester one

You will follow one of two pathways: Artefacts Studies **or** Environmental Archaeology.

Artefact Studies pathway:

You will take 45 credits of required modules and 15 credits of optional modules in Semester one.

Required modules for Artefact Studies pathway Semester one:

- Research skills for ACE (**ALGY 601**)
- Pyrotechnology: theory, evidence and experiment (**ALGY 740**)

Environmental Science pathway:

You will take 45 credits of required modules and 15 credits of optional modules in Semester one.

Required modules for Environmental Science pathway Semester one:

- Research skills for ACE (**ALGY 601**)
- Wood in Archaeology and Palaeoecology: wood and charcoal analysis (**ALGY 668**)

Optional Modules

The optional modules available differ slightly depending on the pathway chosen, for more information please contact the Programme contact.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCH SKILLS FOR ACE M-LEVEL STUDENTS (ALGY601)</u>	30
<u>EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY: MATERIALS, THEORIES AND PRACTICES (ALGY740)</u>	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>WOOD IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY: WOOD AND CHARCOAL ANALYSIS (ALGY668)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>WOOD IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY: WOOD AND CHARCOAL ANALYSIS (ALGY668)</u>	15
<u>ROMAN FRONTIER SYSTEMS: FROM THE LATE REPUBLIC TO THE END OF THE FOURTH CENTURY AD (ALGY698)</u>	15
<u>ISSUES IN EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY676)</u>	15
<u>REGIONALISM IN ARCHAIC GREEK WORLD (ALGY689)</u>	15
<u>EARLY TECHNOLOGIES (ALGY763)</u>	15
<u>EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY: MATERIALS, THEORIES AND PRACTICES (ALGY740)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

You will follow one of two pathways: Artefacts Studies **or** the Environmental Archaeology.

Artefact Studies pathway:

You will take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in Semester two.

Required modules for Artefact Studies pathway Semester two:

- Designing and Communicating Research (ALGY731)
- Artefacts and analysis (ALGY 737)

Environmental Science pathway:

You will take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in Semester two.

Required modules for Environmental Science pathway Semester two:

- Designing and Communicating Research (ALGY 731)

Optional Modules

The optional modules available differ slightly depending on the pathway chosen, for more information please contact the Programme Lead.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DESIGNING AND COMMUNICATING RESEARCH (ALGY731)</u>	15
<u>ARTEFACTS AND ANALYSIS (ALGY737)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>DECIPHERING SYMBOLS: APPROACHES TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EARLIEST SYMBOLIC BEHAVIOUR (ALGY761)</u>	15
<u>THEMES IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN (ALGY634)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL LIFE IN EGYPT (ALGY677)</u>	15
<u>ECONOMIES AND EXCHANGE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (ALGY688)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN OSTEOLOGY (ALGY762)</u>	15
<u>BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE BRITAIN (ALGY786)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS542)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ARTEFACTS AND ANALYSIS (ALGY737)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

The Dissertation (ALGY600) is taken over the summer vacation period for both pathways.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>ACE MA AND MSC DISSERTATION (ALGY600)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

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 MSc 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 MSc 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 Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

Careers and employability

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

The Archaeology MSc 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 MSc 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

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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 – £11,700

Part-time place, per year – £5,850

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Part-time place, per year – £12,050

Fees stated are for the 2025–26 academic year.

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 tuition fee 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 £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about paying for your studies](#).

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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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, some science subjects (Biological, Physics, Geology, Geophysical), 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

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. 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

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 no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 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.

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