UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:	
Awarding institution	**Teaching institution**
University of York	University of York
Department(s)	**Board of Studies**
Archaeology	Archaeology
Award(s) and programme title(s)	**Level of qualification**
MA Funerary Archaeology MSc Funerary Archaeology	Level 7 (Masters)

Award(s) available _only_ as interim awards (i.e. not available for direct entry)
Postgraduate Diploma in Funerary Archaeology Postgraduate Certificate in Funerary Archaeology
Admissions criteria
A good honours degree (an upper second class or first class degree) or an equivalent qualification from an overseas institution in archaeology, history, art history, anthropology, biology or a related field. Other applicants may be considered in exceptional circumstances, such as those who have relevant practical experience in field archaeology. A BSc maybe pre-requisite for some optional modules. For foreign language speakers, level 6.5 IELTS/61 Pearson PTE is required.
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study

Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	**Distance learning**	**Other**
MA or MSc Funerary Archaeology	1 year full-time or 2-3 years part-time		Yes	No	N/A

Language of study	English

Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)
N/A
Educational aims of the programme(s)

The aims of the programme are:
- To facilitate students' development of advanced intellectual and practical skills, through a study of the interplay between theories and methods, and the analysis of primary and secondary material
- To present research-informed teaching and engage students with theories, methods, and debates which are at the forefront of relevant archaeological research
- To provide students with the opportunity to carry out an independent research project requiring higher level academic engagement
- To enable students to develop detailed knowledge and expertise in Funerary archaeology and the study and analysis of human remains
- To examine how funerary and osteological data have been applied and interpreted in archaeological research
- To help students develop skills which will enable them to seek employment in the heritage sector
- To provide students with the opportunity to carry out a dissertation as their independent research project

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:	*The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:*
A: Knowledge and understanding	
Students will have knowledge and understanding of: 1. key principles and terminology used in the discipline of archaeology 2. the nature of the archaeological record, including key forms of data and the methods used to analyse them. 3. the role of theory in interpreting data, and an appreciation of the changing paradigms within which archaeology is undertaken 4. the historical, social, cultural, and political contexts of archaeological interpretation 5. the challenges and opportunities that arise from working with diverse sources of archaeological evidence 6. the social and political significance of archaeology on local, national, and international scales	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • lectures (1-11) • seminars (1-11) • fieldtrips and practical sessions (1-11) • directed reading (1-11) • use of the VLE (1-11) Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Coursework Essays (1-11) • Project Coursework (1-11) • Assessed Lecture (1-11) • Dissertation (1-11)

7. the skills and methodologies for identifying and analysing human bone 8. the methodologies, principles and interpretive rigour necessary for analysing the funerary context 9. the recognition, recording, evaluation and interpretation of funerary remains and burial practices from different chronological periods 10. the main ethical debates in the study and display of human remains (e.g. in museums) 11. the interdisciplinary nature of funerary and osteological research	

B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
Students will be able to: 1. observe and record archaeological data from a range of sources 2. evaluate, analyse, and interpret archaeological data 3. appraise, critique, and synthesise interpretations of archaeological data, and the literature of the discipline 4. apply appropriate scholarly, theoretical, and scientific principles and concepts to archaeological problems 5. communicate complex archaeological information in both verbal and written formats 6. demonstrate the development of skills in analysing material remains relating to the human remains and within the burial context, e.g. skeletal analysis, grave goods, burial-related architectures 7. relate archaeological data and interpretation to specific theoretical issues and debates in funerary archaeology and osteology	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): ● Seminar presentations, discussions and practical sessions (1-8) ● Directed Reading (1-5) ● Supervised independent research project (9) Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) ● Essays and Coursework Projects (1-8) ● Assessed lecture (1-9) ● Dissertation (1-9)

8. synthesise and interpret data from a range of archaeological contexts as appropriate for research within the discipline of Funerary and Osteological studies 9. plan, undertake, and report upon independent archaeological research on a topic within the field of Funerary and Osteoarchaeology.	
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
Students will be able to: 1. Independently gather, organise, and present information and arguments in a critical manner 2. Communicate complex ideas to a high standard in both written and verbal formats 3. Work effectively with others as a team 4. produce logical and structured arguments supported by relevant evidence 5. plan, design, and execute a programme of independent research	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): ● Seminars and presentations (1-4) ● Practical Sessions (3) ● Directed Reading (1, 2, 4) ● Supervised Independent Research (1, 5)
	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) ● Dissertation (1, 2, 4, 5) ● Essays and coursework projects (1, 2, 4) ● Assessed Lecture (1, 2, 4) ● Feedback on presentations (1-4)
C: Experience and other attributes	
Students will be able to: 1. evaluate personal performance in a range of tasks 2. demonstrate the skills necessary for self-managed lifelong learning 3. demonstrate the development of an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work. 4. identify and work towards personal targets for academic and career	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): ● Seminar preparation and presentations (1-3) ● Essay and Coursework projects (1-3) ● Supervised Independent Research (1-4) ● Directed Reading (2-3)
	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) ● Not assessed

development in the archaeological sector or other fields	

Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

N/A

University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:
http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/intranet/taught-pg/rules-assessment/summative-assessment/ and http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/intranet/taught-pg/rules-assessment/grade-descriptors/

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:
http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/intranet/taught-pg/rules-assessment/summative-assessment/

Masters full time

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Archaeology of human bone 20 credit module (core)	*Death and Burial* 20 credit module (core)	*Dissertation* 80 Credits (core; ISM)	
20 credit module (option)	*20 credit module* (option)		
Human bone practical skills 1 5 credit module (core)	*Human bone practical skills 2* 5 credit module (core)		
5 credit module (option)	5 credit module (option)		

Masters 2 year part-time

Year 1			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Archaeology of human bone 20 credit module (core)	*Death and Burial* 20 credit module (core)	*Begin work on dissertation* 80 Credits (core; ISM)	
Human bone practical skills 1 5 credit module (core)	*Human bone practical skills 2* 5 credit module (core)		
Year 2			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
20 credit module (option)	20 credit module (option)	*Dissertation continued* 80 Credits (core; ISM)	
5 credit module (option)	5 credit module (option)		

Masters 3 year part-time

Year 1

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Archaeology of human bone 20 credit module (core)	*Death and Burial* 20 credit module (core)		
Human bone practical skills 1 5 credit module (core)	*Human bone practical skills 2* 5 credit module (core)		
Year 2			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
20 credit module (option)	20 credit module (option)	*Begin work on dissertation* 80 credits (core; ISM)	
5 credit module (option)	5 credit module (option)		
Year 3			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Dissertation 80 credits (core; ISM)			

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Core/Option modules Week 10 submission	Core/Option modules Week 10 submission	ISM Assessed Lecture Week 6	ISM Dissertation First week in September submission	Week 6 Autumn
Research Skills modules Block 1	Research Skills modules Block 1	Progression board meeting		

Week 6 submission	Week 6 submission	Week 4		
Research Skills modules Block 2 Week 10 submission	Research Skills modules Block 2 Week 10 submission	Post-progression re-sits Week 10 submission		

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level[1]	Credit value[2]	Prerequisites	Assessment rules[3]	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment[4]
Archaeology of Human bone	ARC00033M	7/Masters	20	None	None	AuT week 10, essay
Death and Burial	New Module	7/Masters	20	None	None	SpT week 10, essay
Dissertation	ARC00009M	7/Masters	80	None	NC	Assessed Lecture: SuT week 6 Dissertation: SuVac First week in September
Human bone practical skills 1	ARC00046M	7/Masters	5	None	P/F	AuT coursework
Human bone practical skills 2	ARC00050M	7/Masters	5	Human bone prac. skills 1	P/F	SpT coursework

Option modules (n.b. these modules are subject to staff availability and may change in the future)

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format main assessment
Analysing Historic Buildings	ARC00010M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Analysis and visualisation	ARC00008M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Animal bones for archaeologists	ARC00031M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Approaches to conservation	ARC00014M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Concepts of landscapes	ARC00025M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess

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[1] The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

[2] The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

[3] **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

[4] AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

[5] **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Module	Code	Level	Credits		Submission	Assessment
The context and practice of gathering field archaeology data	ARC00020M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Cultural Heritage Management 1: concepts, principles and practice	ARC00012M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Domestic Historic Interiors	ARC00069M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Ethnoarchaeology	ARC00086M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Evolving minds and societies	ARC00018M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Hard Tissue Biology	0980006	7	20	N/A	Submission via HYMS VLE	AuT Week 10, ess SpT Week 1, exan
Issues in Historical Archaeology 1	ARC00022M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Mesolithic lifeways	ARC00029M	7	20	N/A		AuT Week 10, ess
Primate Ecology and evolution	0980009	7	20	N/A	Submissions via HYMS	AuT Week 10, pos presentation SpT Week 1, exan
Vikings	ARC00027M	7	20	N/A	None	AuT Week 10, ess
Ancient biomolecules	ARC00034M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Archaeology of households	ARC00070M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Cultural Heritage Management 2: museums, audiences and interpretation	ARC00013M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Digital publication and web technologies	ARC00007M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Experimental archaeology theory	ARC00087M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Functional and Musculoskeletal Anatomy	0980008	7	20	N/A	Submission via HYMS VLE	SpT Week 8, presentation SpT Week 10, ora examination and s
Human Evolutionary anatomy	0980005	7	20	N/A	Submission via HYMS	SpT Wk 10, essay SuT Wk1, timed e
Hunting and gathering societies	ARC00019M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Interpreting animal remains	ARC00032M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Interpreting Historic Buildings	ARC00011M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Issues in cultural heritage conservation	ARC00015M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Issues in Historical Archaeology 2	ARC00023M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess

Module	Code	Level	Credits		Assessment	Delivery
Medieval Settlement and Communities	ARC00030M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Mesolithic Funerary Archaeology	ARC00081M	7	20	N/A		SpT Week 10, ess
The analysis, interpretation and dissemination of field archaeology data	ARC00021M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Themes in the prehistoric landscape	ARC00026M	7	20	N/A	None	SpT Week 10, ess
Buildings Survey	ARC00035M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Characterisation	ARC00064M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Community activism	ARC00079M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT+SpT, course
Digital imaging	ARC00082M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Experimental Archaeology design and practice	ARC00074M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Geoarchaeology	ARC00048M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Geographical information systems (GIS)	ARC00049M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Geometric morphometrics 1	0990022	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, submission book (100%) AuT
Heritage Protection	ARC00043M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT+SpT, course
Landscape & Earthworks Survey	ARC00039M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Museum collecting: histories, theories, practice	ARC00080M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Practical Building Conservation Skills	ARC00063M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Virtual anatomy 1	0990024	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, submission book (100%) AuT
Virtual Reality & 3D Modelling	ARC00052M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Zooarchaeology 1: identifying animal bones	ARC00041M	7	5	N/A	P/F	AuT, coursework
Applied Buildings Survey	ARC00071M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Artefacts from Excavation	ARC00056M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Conservation Solutions	ARC00058M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Debates in Museum Theory & Practice	ARC00055M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Geometric morphometrics 2	0990023	7	5	To complete GM2 module	P/F	SpT, submission book (100%) Spr
Geophysical Survey	ARC00037M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Heritage education	ARC00078M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Heritage film-making	ARC00084M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework

Material cultural theory and practice	ARC00085M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Perspectives in Landscape Research	ARC00054M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Spatial analysis in GIS	ARC00083M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Sustainable Building Conservation Skills	ARC00075M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Using archaeological data	ARC00036M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Virtual anatomy 2	0990025	7	5	To complete VA1 module	P/F	SpT, submission book (100%) Spr
Working on the web	ARC00040M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework
Zooarchaeology 2: exploring the assemblage	ARC00053M	7	5	N/A	P/F	SpT, coursework

Transfers out of or into the programme
N/A

Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	**Date approved**
None	N/A

Quality and Standards

The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.

Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:

- The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation
- The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector
- Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes
- The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.

More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:
http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/

Date on which this programme information was updated:	1 August 2017
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/

Please note

The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.

Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.

The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.