

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 17 July 2024.

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Archaeological Science

Brief note about nature of change:

Major changes to the assessment structure.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2025

For first examination from 2025/26

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* [2024-25, Master of Science by Coursework in Archaeological Science](#)

Details of Change:

Strike all current citations:

~~^{1.1}1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Archaeology.~~

~~^{1.2}2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Archaeological Science for three terms full-time.~~

~~^{1.3}3. Candidates will complete two of the following three modules, each assessed by written examination in early Trinity term:~~

~~^{1.4}(i) Principles and practice of scientific dating~~

~~^{1.5}(ii) Bio-archaeology~~

~~^{1.6}(iii) Materials analysis and the study of technological change~~

~~^{1.7}4. Candidates will complete either:~~

~~^{1.8}(a) One pre-set essay as set out in the Course Handbook of no more than 8,000 words by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term AND the third module listed in clause 3, assessed by written examination in early Trinity term; or~~

~~^{1.9}(b) One pre-set essay as set out in the Course Handbook of no more than 4,000 words by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term AND submit two pre-set essays (each of no more than 5,000 words) as set out in the Course Handbook, by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term on either:-~~

~~^{1.10}(i) a module offered and available from List B in any subject stream of the MSc in Archaeology, or~~

~~^{1.11}(ii) a module offered and available from Schedule C of the MSt in Classical Archaeology.~~

~~^{1.125} Candidates will complete a dissertation of no more than 16,000 words on a topic agreed with their supervisor. The dissertation must be submitted by noon on the first Tuesday of September.~~

~~^{1.136} All essays and the dissertation must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.~~

~~^{1.147} The examiners may require to see the records of practical work carried out during the course.~~

~~^{1.158} Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination if required by the examiners.~~

Insert and number as follows:

1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Archaeology.

2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Archaeological Science for one year full-time.

3. Candidates must submit the following assessments by noon on Tuesday of week 1 of Hilary term:

(i) a 2,500 word lab report, and

(ii) a 500 word blog post and a 30 word museum label.

4. Candidates will complete the following three core courses, each assessed by written examination in early Trinity term:

(i) Principles and practice of scientific dating

(ii) Molecular bioarchaeology

(iii) Materials analysis and the study of technological change

5. Candidates must submit a 5,000 word review article by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term.

6. Candidates must submit a 15,000-word dissertation, a lab book and risk assessments by noon on the first Tuesday in September, and make a 10 minute oral presentation on their dissertation research during the long vacation.

7. Candidates should refer to the Course Handbook for full details of the requirements for each assessment.

8. All assessments must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.

9. Candidates who fail either the lab report and/or the blog post and museum label assessments will have the opportunity to resubmit in week 2 of Trinity term. Candidates who fail the review article will have the opportunity to resubmit in the first week in September. Candidates who fail one or more of the written examinations will have the opportunity to re-sit in September. Candidates will be informed of the exact dates for re-submissions/re-sits after the exam board has confirmed that reassessment is required. In the case of failure of the dissertation, lab book and risk assessments, and/or the oral presentation on their dissertation research, the assessment(s) may be resubmitted either by noon on Tuesday of week 1 of Hilary term the following year, or by the deadline in clause 6 in the following year.

10. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination if required by the examiners.

Explanatory Notes

In summary, the teaching and content of the course will broadly remain the same but the assessment structure has been significantly changed to provide a greater range of assessment tasks, spread more evenly throughout the year. The possibility of replacing one of the core papers with a module from the MSc Archaeology or MSc Classical Archaeology has been removed (although the possibility of taking an MSc Archaeological Science module will remain available to those courses).