Programme Specification

MSc Professional Human Osteoarchaeology (full-time) **PFTZHUMOSTHM**
MSc Professional Human Osteoarchaeology (Part-time) **PPTZHUMOSTHM**

For students entering in September 2019

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

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	12 months (full time), 24 months (part time)
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The MSc Professional Human Osteoarchaeology is designed to prepare students for the impact of HS2 and other major UK infrastructure projects on the archaeological environment and to provide advanced training in the analysis of human skeletal remains. Students develop detailed understanding of skeletal anatomy, osteology and disease processes, equipping them with the skills required to analyse human remains from a variety of contexts. There is an opportunity to develop skills in microscopic, radiographic and isotopic analysis. The programme is unique in offering advanced study in child skeletal remains, as well as providing in-depth training in palaeopathology and hands-on experience, with access to hundreds of archaeological skeletons. Students are taught by established researchers and prepared for both doctoral research or as vocational training to enhance employment prospects in archaeology and related areas.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide graduates with:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights informed by current professional practice in human osteology
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research, advanced scholarship, or practice in human osteology/bioarchaeology
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in human osteology
- conceptual understanding that enables the student: - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of modules listed below.

Compulsory Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ARMRPP	Research Project	60	7
ARMMSA	Musculo-Skeletal Anatomy	20	7
ARMEPP	In at the Deep End: Professional Practice	20	7
ARMAHR	Analysis of Human Remains	20	7
ARMPAC	Palaeopathology of Adults and Children	20	7
ARMSTD	Science and the Dead	20	7
ARMSAS	Statistical Approaches: making sense of your data	10	7
ARMIDB	Issues and Debates in Bioarchaeology	10	7

Students who can demonstrate advanced prior learning in one of the core modules (omitting ARMRPP) may, in discussion with the Programme Director, select an alternative from the optional modules from the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be taken over two years on a part-time basis. Selection of modules between the two years will be agreed between the student and the Programme Director at the start of the programme. ARMIDB Issues and Debates in Bioarchaeology is taken in the first term of the programme. Participation in the dissertation Workshop and submission of the Research Project proposal is at the end of Year 1. The dissertation is submitted at the end of Year 2. Students will normally complete at least 70 credits in Year 1. Modules will be assessed in the year that they are taken. The programme may also be taken on a modular basis with ARMIDB Issues and Debates in Bioarchaeology a pre-requisite for ARMRPP Research Project.

Modules may also be taken on an individual basis as part of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) gradually building towards the completion of a PGCert, PGDip or MSc.

Additional costs of the programme

Students will be expected to purchase a white lab coat (c. £20) and a trowel (£15-20). Students may also wish to purchase their own copies of key textbooks (c. £200). Students wishing to participate in additional archaeological field work run by the department may be asked to contribute towards the cost of travel and subsistence. Costs are dependent on the location and duration of the field work.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

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 any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

There are opportunities to participate in departmental research projects, including fieldwork and post-excavation; and students may have the opportunity to work with our commercial arm QUEST. Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) provides archaeological, forensic and environmental scientific services to industry. Students will have the opportunity to carry out some placement activities including human bones processing during the Easter break. Placements may also available on excavations taking place in the UK and in north-eastern Europe associated with major departmental projects, currently these focus on the Baltic Crusades and Anglo-Saxon Monasticism, but opportunities are subject to change.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will participate in a unique and highly vocational programme with problem-based learning at its core. It will be delivered mainly through a series of illustrated lectures and practical classes. The majority of modules will be laboratory-skills focussed and student learning will be reinforced by frequent in-class tests and feedback during the laboratory practicals. Oral-presentations and seminar participation will enhance student confidence and provide additional skills for the workplace environment. The range of assessments (essays, article critiques, seminar participation, professional skeletal reports, project design and sampling strategies, research designs, a dissertation, oral presentations, practical tests and data analysis) reflects our desire to train students for work within commercial units and museums, or to pursue advanced research in bioarchaeology. Feedback on performance and assignments will be provided throughout the programme.

There will be regular drop-in sessions where students can seek staff advice while collecting data for their practical assignments, and we r run a weekly ‘mystery fragment’ quiz for students to test their knowledge against each other and develop comradely. They will also have access to digital recourses including the ‘Skelly-pad’ app (http://www.eskeletons.org/) an on-line digital skeletal recording form developed at Reading and now widely used by commercial units. Students will learn about the realities of working within the modern archaeological sector through contact with professionals from commercial units and museums through lectures and site visits.

The Department of Archaeology curates over 600 human skeletons from four sites in the UK spanning the Roman to the post-medieval period. These provide an excellent resource for teaching human anatomy, analytical methods, child osteology and human palaeopathology. We also have close links with the Natural History Museum, Oxford Archaeology, Historic England, British Museum and Museum of London that provide access to collections for Masters level dissertation research. Three labs make-up the Bioarchaeology Suite at Reading. We boast a dedicated and well-equipped laboratory for Human Osteology (Wager G23), digital radiographic equipment and a bone chemistry

(isotope analysis) preparation laboratory (Wager 1.04), with advanced analytical facilities in the School and in CAF.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will normally be around 306 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Assessment
The programme will be assessed through a combination of essays, professional-style reports, in-class examinations and oral presentations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation
70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
(ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
(ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and

(ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
(ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
(iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must
(i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
(ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.