Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London		
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College		
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Archaeological Practice		
4	Programme Code(s)	TMAARCHP_C (October start)		
		TMAARCHJ_C (January start)		
5	UCAS code	N/A		
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology		
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert, PG Dip		
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year full-time; 2 years part-time		
9	Mode of Study	FT x PT x DL		
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7		
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A		
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A		
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A		

¹⁴ **Programme Rationale & Aims**

This programme introduces students to the major techniques, principal bodies of evidence, research themes and concepts deployed in the discipline of archaeology. Students develop a critical understanding of how contemporary archaeologists think, draw and write about archaeology. The curriculum addresses the perceived divide between theory and practice in archaeological fieldwork and cultural resource management. It aims to produce a new kind of professional, who is theoretically aware while grounded in the craft of archaeology. In doing so, the programme will develop students' capacity for interdisciplinary and innovative research in the field, based on a more critical and integrated study of landscape, architecture and material culture. Context, and an engagement with its material and historical conditions, is crucial to this work-based training. London is key to the history of archaeology in Britain, and this programme explores that history from the public outcry for archaeology. Practice-based teaching will focus on the archives of the Museum of London and the collections held in The British Museum.

15	Entry Criteria	
	Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references	
16	Learning Outcomes	
	Successful candidates will be able to:	
	Subject Specific:	
	1. an awareness of contemporary archaeological practice	



2. an understanding of the range of skills and techniques required for archaeological prospection, excavation and post-excavation 3. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of data 4. to use archaeological material remains to form interpretations about past societies 5. to use environmental data to form interpretations about past environs, flora and fauna and discuss their influence on past societies 6. an appreciation of the philosophy and practice of experimental archaeology 7. the ability to record and produce plans of standing buildings 8. an ability to evaluate the presentation of individual sites and monuments Intellectual: 9. the ability to carry out effective evaluations of information, data, documentation, and material remains 10. the use of critical reasoning 11. the development of analytical skills 12. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information 13. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them Practical: 14. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with databases, GIS, spreadsheets, word processing and internet 15. ability to manipulate and assess large quantities of quantitative data 16. to collect, process and present data 17. to design and implement questionnaire-based survey 18. to produce publication standard plans and illustrations 19. to carry out documentary-based research Personal and Social: 20. the ability to work successfully in teams 21. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis 22. to develop presentation skills 23. to develop organisational skills 24. to master time-management

¹⁷ Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Teaching includes classroom lectures and seminars, as well as practical sessions in laboratories, museums, and in the field. Teaching also makes use of appropriate technologies including Moodle. In accordance with existing school guidelines, assessment of postgraduate Level 7 modules is entirely by submitted essay work, and by a dissertation of 15,000 words. Candidates must take and pass the core course and three optional modules in order to progress and to graduate. Students are permitted to retake a module if the performance in assessed coursework was inadequate in the first attempt. The final classification will be based upon all

modules, equally weighed. All coursework is marked by the relevant module tutor and second marked by a member of the programme's teaching staff.

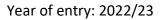
¹⁸ **Programme Description**

The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the compulsory module 'Themes and Concepts in Archaeology' in the first term of their degree. They then have a choice of a further three option modules (taken across two years for the part-time degree, or within one year for the full-time degree). There is also skills training in preparation for the dissertation in the first part of the summer term; students received one-to-one supervision for their dissertation research, and the dissertation is then submitted at the end of September in the year in which the degree is completed.

Option modules for Archaeological Practice may include:

- Field school: Buried Humanities (SSHC352S7)
- Frameworks for Archaeology: Curatorial Archaeology in England (SSHC255S7)
- Archaeological Architecture (SSHC25957)
- Material Worlds (SSHC353S7)
- Between Words and Walls: Housing in the Graeco-Roman World (SSHC295S7)
- From Temples to Museums: Post-Classical Encounters with Classical Antiquities (SSHC227S7)
- The Edge of Empire: The Archaeology of Roman Frontiers (SSHC064S7)
- The City of Rome: Ancient to Medieval (SSHC063S7)

¹⁹ Progr	amme Structure			
Full Time	programme			
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	e Module Title		Status*
7 SSHC358S7 1		Themes and Concepts in Archaeology	30	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
7		(Option 3)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Core
Part Time	programme			
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC358S7	Themes and Concepts in Archaeology	30 Compulsory	
7	(Option 1) 30 Optiona		Optional	
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
Year 2				1
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		(Option 3)	30	Optional





7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Core	
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Note: the January start differs only from the October start in that students take Themes and Concepts in Archaeology in their third term instead of their first, and submit their dissertation in early January instead of September.

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Lesley McFadyen
21	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2012
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2012
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2012
24	Date(s) updated/amended	October 2017