

Note:

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Curriculum for the
Master's Programme Archaeological Studies
at the Faculty of Philosophy and History
at the University of Innsbruck

Table of contents

- § 1 Allocation of the study programme
- § 2 Qualification profile
- § 3 Scope and duration
- § 4 Admission
- § 5 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course
- § 6 Procedure for the allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants
- § 7 Compulsory and elective modules
- § 8 Master's Thesis
- § 9 Examination regulations
- § 10 Academic degree
- § 11 Coming into force
- § 12 Transitional provisions

§ 1 Allocation of the study programme

According to §54 par. 1 Universities Act 2002, the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies is grouped among the Humanities and Cultural Sciences.

§ 2 Qualification profile

- (1) The Master's Programme Archaeological Studies is aimed at graduates of the Bachelor's Programme in Archaeological Studies and at Austrian and international students with a comparable Bachelor's degree. It serves to advance the archaeological education from the Stone Age to the present on the basis of material culture, especially in the (pre-) Alpine and Mediterranean area and has its place at the interface of history, cultural and natural sciences. In addition to a sound theoretical education, students acquire in-depth knowledge of applied research methods in the sense of research-led teaching, in particular in the practical area such as the preparation, organisation, management and implementation of archaeological excavations and research projects, in the field of conservation, restoration, scientific processing and subsequent museum presentation of archaeological find complexes. The following areas are offered in Innsbruck: Prehistory and Early History, Near Eastern Archaeology, Classical Archaeology, Provincial Roman Archaeology and Medieval and Modern Archaeology.
- (2) Graduates understand the importance of dealing with material culture as a source of knowledge for expansive subject areas. They acquire the skills to process archaeological source material independently and on their own responsibility, i.e. to analyse it with theory-based questions and to evaluate it with the help of archaeological, historical and natural science methods. They are able to interpret the results obtained, to situate them in their historical-cultural context, to classify them in terms of the history of science and to take an independent critical position vis-à-vis existing scientific and popular views, theories, ideologies and dogmas. They possess the competence to present the facts resulting from their independent research in a critical, factual and clear manner, i.e. they can present, communicate and put them up for discussion at different levels. Through the examination and respectful treatment of the cultural heritage of the past, students gain an understanding of the diversity of human cultures, i.e. different historical, political, cultural and religious positions, traditions and values.
- (3) The Master's Programme Archaeological Studies qualifies graduates for jobs in research or teaching institutions, such as universities and academies, in institutions for the preservation of historical monuments, in museums and in the field of freelance archaeological work, in accordance with the primary job profiles. In addition to preparing for specialist archaeological professions, students acquire competences and key qualifications that enable them to work in fields of work and professions with very different requirement profiles:
 1. Museology, collections and exhibitions
 2. Preservation of historical monuments and cultural assets
 3. Private archaeological service providers (excavation companies ...)
 4. Tourism, cultural travel, cultural education
 5. Art trade (galleries, auction houses)
 6. Archive, library and documentation services
 7. Public service (culture, education, diplomacy)
 8. Subject-specific adult and vocational training
 9. Cultural management, cultural policy and public relations
 10. Press and media relations (print and audio-visual media)
 11. Publishing and book trade, journalism
- (4) The Master's Programme Archaeological Studies is the basis for postgraduate further education building on it and, in particular, is the foundation for a Doctoral study programme and thus for a specific academic career.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme Archaeological Studies covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a duration of the study programme of four semesters. One ECTS-Credits corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

§ 4 Admission

- (1) The admission to the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies requires the completion of a subject-specific bachelor's or diploma programme or a subject-relevant bachelor's programme passed at a university of applied sciences or another equivalent degree programme at a recognised post-secondary educational institution home or abroad.
- (2) The completion of a Bachelor's Programme Archaeological Studies at the University of Innsbruck is in any case a subject relevant study programme. The Rectorate decides on the existence of another subject-relevant study programme and on the equivalence of a study programme passed at a post-secondary educational institution home or abroad, based on §64 par. 3 Universities Act.
- (3) If equivalence is given in principle with only a few supplements missing for full equivalence, additional courses and examinations corresponding to a maximum of 30 ECTS-Credits may be prescribed for full equivalence, which must be taken by the end of the second semester of the master's programme.

§ 5 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Lectures with practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. No maximum number of participants.
 2. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 30.
 3. **Practical training courses (PR)** provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and academic training. Maximum number of participants: 30.
 4. **Excursions (EX)**, conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents through practical experience with concrete scientific tasks. For excursions in elective modules, a maximum number of 30 students for excursions in compulsory modules a maximum number of 8 students are allowed per course.

§ 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, the places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice, then first students who take this course as part of a compulsory module and secondly students for whom this course is part of an elective module are given a place.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and no. 2 do not suffice to regulate the admission, then the available places are drawn at random.

§ 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) **Compulsory modules:** The following compulsory modules covering altogether 20 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a written synopsis as well as agreement on work processes and the study progress; planning of a time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of the module, students have acquired the knowledge to agree on a topic, to write a brief description of the content of the planned Master's Thesis (synopsis) and to outline a time schedule.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Master Seminar	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Master Seminar	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
	Learning Outcomes: The students have acquired the knowledge to present the first results of the Master's Thesis, to put them up for discussion and to take up feedback.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the Master's Thesis in front of an examination board	-	2.5
	Total	-	2.5
	Learning Outcomes: The students have acquired the knowledge to reflect on the results of the Master's thesis in the overall context of the Master's programme and to present them in the form of a lecture and defend them in a discussion. The focus is on theoretical understanding, methodological issues, communicating the results of the Master's Thesis and presentation skills.		
	Prerequisites: positive evaluation of all other modules and the Master's Thesis		

4.	Compulsory Module: Practice of Field Archaeology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	EX Practice of Field Archaeology I	4	5
b.	EX Practice of Field Archaeology II	4	5
	Total	8	10
	Learning Outcomes: The students have acquired in-depth field archaeological knowledge to independently carry out archaeological work in the context of excavations and prospections with special consideration of aspects of independent excavation management. They can carry out the necessary administrative and budgetary preparations, implement the excavations using contemporary		

	methods and present the results obtained.
	Prerequisites: none

(2) **Elective modules:** Elective modules covering altogether 80 ECTS-Credits are to be passed.

- A. Archaeological Disciplines (EM 1–5)
- B. Theories and Methods in Archaeological Studies (EM 6–10)
- C. Overlapping Topics and Current Research in Archaeological Studies (EM 11–17)
- D. Archaeological Excursions (EM 18–19)
- E. Individual Choice and Practice (EM 20–21)

At least two elective modules covering 10 ECTS-Credits are to be selected from A (EM 1–5), from B (EM 6-10) at least two elective modules covering 10 ECTS-Credits, from D (EM 18-19) at least one elective module covering 10 ECTS-Credits. The remaining 50 ECTS-Credits may be selected from A, B, C, D, E. Instead of the elective modules “Individual Choice” (EM 20) and “Practice” (EM 21), a Minor for Master’s programmes may be passed, providing the availability of places. Minors are fixed modules covering 30 ECTS-Credits that complement a Master’s programme with contents from other disciplines or study programmes.

- A. At least two elective modules covering altogether 10 ECTS-Credits are to be passed from the elective modules in Archaeological Disciplines (EM 1- 5). The module, the field of which is the field of the Master’s Thesis, must be chosen, in consultation with the supervisor of the Master’s Thesis.

1.	Elective Module: Prehistory and Early History	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Prehistory and Early History	1	2.5
b.	VU Prehistory and Early History	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
	Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Prehistory and Early History, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, analyse, compare and evaluate their own research results and those of others and can explain and critically reflect on research questions and controversial perspectives.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Elective Module: Near Eastern Archaeology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	1	2.5
b.	VU Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to independently develop specific research questions in the field of Near Eastern archaeology and to discuss their cultural-historical significance for historical reconstruction on the basis of practice-oriented case studies.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Elective Module: Classical Archaeology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Classical Archaeology	1	2.5
b.	VU Classical Archaeology	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Classical Archaeology, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, analyse, compare and evaluate their own research results and those of others and can explain and critically reflect on research questions and controversial perspectives.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

4.	Elective Module: Archaeology of the Roman Provinces	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Archaeology of the Roman Provinces	1	2.5
b.	VU Archaeology of the Roman Provinces	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of the Archaeology of the Roman Provinces, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, analyse, compare and evaluate their own research results and those of others and can explain and critically reflect on research questions and controversial perspectives.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Elective Module: Medieval and Modern Archaeology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Medieval and Modern Archaeology	1	2.5
b.	VU Medieval and Modern Archaeology	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of the Medieval and Modern Archaeology, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, analyse, compare and evaluate their own research results and those of others and can explain and critically reflect on research questions and controversial perspectives.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

B. At least two elective modules covering altogether 10 ECTS-Credits are to be chosen from the elective modules in the field of Theories and Methods in Archaeological Studies (EM 6-10):

6.	Elective Module: Archaeological Theories and Methods	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Archaeological Theories and Methods	1	2.5
b.	PR Archaeological Theories and Methods	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Archaeological Theories and Methods, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different theories and methodological approaches and can deal with these in application-related questions, critically reflect on them and draw conclusions.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

7.	Elective Module: Archaeology and Society	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Archaeology and Society	1	2.5
b.	PR Archaeology and Society	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Archaeology and Society, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches and can deal with these in application-related questions, critically reflect on them and draw conclusions.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

8.	Elective Module: ArchaeoSciences	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU ArchaeoSciences	1	2.5
b.	PR ArchaeoSciences	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of ArchaeoSciences, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches and can deal with these in application-related questions, critically reflect on them and draw conclusions.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

9.	Elective Module: Digital Archaeology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Digital Archaeology	1	2.5
b.	PR Digital Archaeology	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Digital Archaeology, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches and can deal with these in application-related questions, critically reflect on them and draw conclusions.			
Prerequisites: none			

10.	Elective Module: Quantitative Methods	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Quantitative Methods	1	2.5
b.	PR Quantitative Methods	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with new topics in the field of Quantitative Methods, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends and to carry out independent scientific work. They master the material taught, grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches and can deal with these in application-related questions, critically reflect on them and draw conclusions.			
Prerequisites: none			

C. Elective modules in Overlapping Topics and Current Research in Archaeological Studies (EM 11–17)

11.	Elective Module: Architecture - Settlement - Landscape	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Architecture – Settlement – Landscape	1	2.5
b.	PR Architecture – Settlement – Landscape	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Architecture - Settlement - Landscape, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

12.	Elective Module: Mining Archaeology - Resources - Environment	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Mining Archaeology – Resources – Environment	1	2.5
b.	PR Mining Archaeology – Resources – Environment	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Mining Archaeology – Resources - Environment, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

13.	Elective Module: Economy - Trade - Technology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Economy – Trade – Technology		
b.	PR Economy – Trade – Technology		
	Total		
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Economy – Trade - Technology, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

14.	Elective Module: Cult - Ritual - Religion	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Cult – Ritual – Religion	1	2.5
b.	PR Cult – Ritual – Religion	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Cult – Ritual - Religion, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

15.	Elective Module: Death - Burial - Necropolises	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Death – Burial - Necropolises	1	2.5
b.	PR Death – Burial - Necropolises	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Death – Burial - Necropolises, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual			

	knowledge.
	Prerequisites: none

16.	Elective Module: Material Culture	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Material Culture	1	2.5
b.	PR Material Culture	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Material Culture, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

17.	Elective Module: Pictures - Media - Communication	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Pictures – Media - Communication	1	2.5
b.	PR Pictures – Media - Communication	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to deal with the topic of Pictures – Media - Communication, taking into account methodological aspects and current research trends. They master the material taught, are confident in recognising contexts and can contextualise and interpret the acquired factual knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

D. At least one elective module covering 10 ECTS-Credits is to be passed from the elective modules in Archaeological Excursions (EM 18–19):

18.	Elective Module: Archeological Excursions I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	EX Archeological Excursion Ia	3	3
b.	EX Archeological Excursion Ib	5	7
	Total	8	10
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to work independently on historical habitats, archaeological sites as well as museums, to deal with them within the framework of written work and to present them in independent group tours. They master the material taught, but in the sense of an intercultural exchange, there are also many points of contact for creating an awareness for other countries, cultures, ways of life and beliefs.			
Prerequisites: none			

19.	Elective Module: Archaeological Excursions II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	EX Archaeological Excursion IIa	3	3
b.	EX Archaeological Excursion IIb	5	7
	Total	8	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to work independently on historical habitats, archaeological sites as well as museums, to deal with them within the framework of written work and to present them in independent group tours. They master the material taught, but in the sense of an intercultural exchange, there are also many points of contact for creating an awareness for other countries, cultures, ways of life and beliefs.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

E. Individual Choice and Practice (EM 20–21):

20.	Elective Module: Individual Choice	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses covering 20 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen from the curricula of the master's programmes at the University of Innsbruck or another university home or abroad. It is recommended to choose a course dealing with gender aspects including the subject-specific results in women's and gender research.		20
	Total		20
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students acquire additional and advanced competences, skills as well as additional qualifications</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: The registration prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.</p>			

21.	Elective Module: Practice	h	ECTS-Credits
	To test and apply the acquired knowledge and skills or to orientate themselves about the conditions in professional practice, the students can complete a Practice. The Practice has to cover 240 hours and must be completed in relevant institutions such as universities, offices for the protection of monuments, museums and other research institutions as well as in the field of excavation companies and similar institutions.		10
	Total		10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are informed about possible occupational fields and have applied their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment. They have professional-field-related as well as social experience (organisational and project management, work in hierarchical organisations).</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: at the earliest after having passed a minimum of 30 ECTS-Credits</p>			

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) A Master's Thesis amounting to 20 ECTS-Credits has to be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work which serves to prove the student's ability to autonomously cope with scientific questions using adequate scientific methods.

- (2) The student is entitled to suggest the topic for the Master's Thesis or to select a topic from a number of suggestions. The Master's Thesis is to be thematically allocated to one of the modules from Archaeological Disciplines (EM 1-5).
- (3) The student is entitled to write the Master's Thesis in a foreign language if the supervisor agrees to it.
- (4) Students may work on a topic jointly if it is possible to assess the performance of the students separately.
- (5) The Master's Thesis is to be submitted in electronic form and in the form specified by the Director of Studies.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of the courses of the modules is evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations are
 1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in an individual course in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define the method of examination (written and/or oral) before the start of the course.
 2. courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants. The course instructor has to define the assessment method (written and/or oral) and the assessment criteria before the start of the course.
- (2) The performance of the module "Practice" (EM 21) is evaluated by the Director of Studies. It is evaluated on the one hand on the basis of a report by the student including the objectives, the work plan and activities as well as the learning experiences, and on the other hand on the basis of a statement by the external supervisor in the institution including the duration, the scope and contents of the work done as well as on the commitment of the student. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".
- (3) The module "Preparation of the Master's Thesis (CM1) is evaluated by the supervisor on the basis of a synopsis. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluations "unsuccessfully completed".
- (4) The performance of the module "Master's Thesis Defence" (CM 3), which finalises the study programme is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board consisting of three persons.
- (5) Courses that have been selected from other Master's programmes are evaluated according to the examination regulations of the curricula they have been taken from. For extracurricular Minors the examination regulations of the resp. curriculum apply (§ 9).

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies receive the academic degree "Master of Arts", abbreviated "MA".

§ 11 Coming into force

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2022.

§ 12 Transitional provisions

- (1) This curriculum applies to all students commencing the study programme as of the 2022/23 winter semester.
- (2) Regular degree students, who have started the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies at the University of Innsbruck based on the curriculum as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 April 2009, Issue 60, No. 238, are entitled to finish this study programme within a maximum of six semesters.

- (3) If the Master's programme is not finished in time, the students are subject to the curriculum for the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies. Also, the students are entitled to subject to the curriculum of the Master's Programme Archaeological Studies on a voluntary basis any time.