The Master of Professional Archaeology was introduced by the Faculty of Arts at The University of Western Australia (UWA) in 2013. It has been designed in response to the demand for better trained archaeologists, in part driven by growth in the industrial and mining sectors globally, as well as the increasing recognition of the value and sustainability of archaeological heritage both land-based and maritime.

UWA is recognised internationally as a leading university and ranked in the top 100 in the world in the highly respected Shanghai-JiaoTong University’s Ranking of the World Universities.

It is the only Western Australian university to belong to the Group of Eight - a coalition of the top research universities in Australia - and it is one of only two Australian universities to belong to the Worldwide Universities Network.

The Faculty of Arts academic staff members are not only dedicated teachers but also renowned scholars and researchers who are international leaders and experts in their fields.

The content of the course has a specifically international focus and is intended to provide students from around the world, as well as Australia, the skills needed to work in a broad range of countries and heritage environments.

About the course

The primary aim of the Master of Professional Archaeology course is to provide advanced training in the skills, values and knowledge of a professional archaeologist.

This course is supported by BHP Billiton. The content has been designed with professional archaeologists and the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists.

The course includes archaeological heritage assessment and management, understanding legislation, permits and approvals, working with stakeholders, cataloguing and database management, as well as advanced archaeological survey, excavation and conservation.

UWA is a world centre of archaeological research and study

The academic environment will provide students with broad archaeological experience with partners in professional cultural heritage consulting firms, resource companies, government, and museums. Students will be expected to specialise in subfields – especially with their research project – in areas such as Indigenous, historical, rock art or maritime archaeology.

Archaeologists at UWA include teaching and research staff in the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management. These professionals are engaged in worldwide research and consultation projects with corporate, museum, and heritage partners such as BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Chevron, Fremantle Prison, the National Trust of Australia, and the Western Australian Museum and Maritime Program, among others.
Who is the course for?

The course is designed for graduates of archaeology and related fields both in Australia and overseas and people already working in archaeology who want to increase their knowledge and skills. Both domestic and international students can apply to study this course.

Career prospects

Graduates of this course will attract resources industry interest both in Australia and overseas. It will be a valued professional qualification with substantial career prospects. Resource companies, governments and community organisations are in need of professionally trained archaeologists to evaluate, record and preserve many different heritage resources.

Course structure

The Master of Professional Archaeology is studied by coursework and dissertation. It will run over four semesters full-time or eight semesters part-time, however international students may only study full-time. To complete, students will need a passing grade in eight units of six points followed by a professional placement leading to a research project, to a total of 96 points. Students will be allowed to focus on their area of interest be it Indigenous, historical, maritime or rock art archaeology.

The core units (compulsory):
- Archaeological Survey
- Specialisation in Archaeology
- Artefact Analysis
- GIS Applications
- Working with stakeholders
- Archaeological Resource Management
- Interpretation and Conservation in Archaeology
- Reporting Archaeology.

Followed by professional placement leading to a research project (total 48 points):
- Professional Placement (12 points)
- Archaeology Research Design (12 points)
- Dissertation (Professional Archaeology) (24 points).

How do I apply?

Admission requirements

Applicants for the Master of Professional Archaeology must have a relevant bachelor’s degree with a major in Archaeology with an average mark of at least 65% in Level 3 units of the major, or equivalent as recognised by the Faculty.

Domestic students

Current students or recent graduates can apply via studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate/apply

International students

International students can find out more about living in Perth and other relevant information as well as applying at studyat.uwa.edu.au/international-students

Further information

For further information or assistance please contact:
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