

**1. Programme title(s):**

MA/MSc in Museum Studies  
Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies  
Postgraduate Certificate in Museum Studies  
Short Course in Museum Studies

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study:** Part-time

**b) Type of study:** Distance learning

**4. Registration periods:****Master of Arts/Master of Science (180 credits)**

The normal period of registration for the MA/MSc is 24 months  
The maximum period of registration for the MA/MSc is 48 months

**Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)**

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma is 18 months  
The maximum period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma is 36 months

**Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits)**

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Certificate is 8.5 months  
The maximum period of registration for the Postgraduate Certificate is 14.5 months

**Short course (15 credits)**

The normal period of registration for the Short Course (15 credits) is 2 months  
The maximum period of registration for the Short Course (15 credits) is 3 months

Students can apply for entry to the MA/MSc, PGDip or PGCert; it is then possible for students to switch between programmes during the course of their studies. It is also possible to register for a single module, for which students will receive the award of credit.

For students on the PGCert, a 'study break', to be taken between modules, of 6 months is allowed. For students on the PGDip or Masters, a 'study break' to be taken between modules, of either 6 or 12 months is allowed. Students on a Short Course are not allowed study breaks of this kind, but time is built in to the maximum periods of registration to allow for mitigating circumstances processes which may approve later deadlines.

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

In recognition of the diverse employment needs of the culture sector, our admissions process recognises and credits a range of prior qualifications and experiences.

Prospective candidates will **either** have gained a first class or second class degree, which can be in any subject area, **or** be able to demonstrate equivalent skills and aptitudes through the

possession of a professional or vocational qualification and/or the accrual of relevant work experiences. Relevant experience can come from a wide spectrum of work or voluntary environments but clear evidence of this experience must be provided.

All candidates should be able to demonstrate a commitment to, or strong interest in, museums, galleries, or other kinds of heritage or cultural organisation.

If seeking entry without a degree, you will be asked complete an assessment, such as an essay, so as to demonstrate your readiness for postgraduate study. Clear guidance will be provided on assessment criteria. You may also be required to attend an interview

All applicants must satisfy the University's English language requirements as detailed in the Senate Regulations.

## **6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

Accreditation of Prior Learning will be accepted from students who already hold credits from this programme provided that students return to their studies within 5 years. We will not accredit prior learning from any other programme. The available maximum period of registration for a returning student who holds 15 credits already will be allocated on a pro-rata basis (according to the student's intended award).

Students who graduate with a PGCert (60 credits) or PGDip (120 credits) or who have a number of credits on this programme, may return within five years to this programme under resumption of studies regulations to register for a higher award (i.e. PGDip or MA/MSc). Such students would rescind their existing award, and their maximum period of registration will be the time remaining for their intended award (i.e. maximum period minus time already taken).

## **7. Programme aims:**

The programme aims to:

- Provide a programme of study for those who want to develop a career in the museum and related sectors based on leading museum studies research and practice.
- Provide an inclusive, supportive, and yet challenging, learning environment with access to a range of academic support systems.
- Engage students in the critical development of museum studies as an academic discipline.
- Foster within students a motivation and aptitude for intellectual enquiry, critical assessment, creative innovation and a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Prepare students for further academic research in museum studies and related fields including history, natural sciences, education and communication.
- Equip students with the professional knowledge, skills and values appropriate for the needs of a rapidly changing museums sector.
- Produce employable graduates for the museum and heritage sector including museums, galleries, archives, libraries and living collections around the world.
- Provide opportunities to develop a variety of personal transferable skills relevant to the needs of a range of employers, and develop students' abilities to identify, reflect upon and communicate these to a range of employers and professional colleagues within museums, galleries, heritage and wider sectors.

All our graduates (MA/MSc/PGDip/PGCert) should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of and be able to critically engage with major theoretical, methodological and professional themes in contemporary museum studies as defined in the learning outcomes and content of individual modules.
- Demonstrate an awareness of a range of museum-related issues, and creatively and thoughtfully apply the knowledge gained from the course within specific professional and academic contexts.
- Demonstrate the intellectual skills appropriate to postgraduate study.
- Work both independently and collaboratively.
- Demonstrate a range of personal transferable skills including communication skills.
- Perform to a high professional standard in order to secure employment or advance careers.
- Construct arguments and communicate effectively in English, within an international academic and professional community.

Graduates from our PGDip in Museum Studies should in addition be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in specialist areas of museum practice such as museum education, digital media, heritage, and exhibition design through a selection of optional modules.

Graduates from our MA in Museum Studies should in addition to the above be able to:

- Plan a response to research questions by formulation of aims, objectives and methodologies based on a comprehensive understanding of museum studies research
- Locate, select and analyse information relevant to a research project
- Plan, execute and write up an extended research project on a museum-related topic.

Graduates from our MSc in Museum Studies should in addition to the above be able to:

- Plan a response to research questions by formulation of aims, objectives and methodologies based on a comprehensive understanding of museum studies research
- Locate, select and analyse information relevant to a research project
- Plan, execute and write up an extended research project on science in museums, science museums and collections, or utilise a technical or scientific methodology for the investigation of museums.

## **8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**

- University of Leicester's Learning Strategy
- Assessment Strategy 2017-2021
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- The University's annual and periodic reviews of the School's teaching
- University of Leicester Guide to Writing Intended Learning Outcomes
- University of Leicester: Accessible Curriculum
- University of Leicester: Transferable Skills Framework
- The Flexible and Distance Learning Group, Distance Learning Student Survey (September 2016)

## **9. Programme Outcomes:**

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i>		
<b>Knowledge</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced knowledge of museum practice and a range of museum related issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Guided independent study including directed reading</li> <li>• Assignment feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>
<b>Concepts</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grasp of major theoretical methodological and professional principles in contemporary museum studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Guided independent study including directed reading</li> <li>• Assignment feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>
<b>Techniques</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mastery of a range of techniques related to museum work, including museum communication, collections management, collections care, project management, exhibition and interpretive planning and research methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Guided independent study including directed reading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>Critical analysis</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Guided independent study including directed reading</li> <li>• Supervisions (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Assignment feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Reflective statements</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed; to distinguish between relevant and non-relevant material; to write-up and deliver oral reports on findings to a professional standard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment briefings</li> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource</li> <li>• Module assignment feedback</li> <li>• Supervisions (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Research project feedback (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed presentation</li> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>
<b>Appraisal of evidence</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex museological and practical museum issues and concepts</li> <li>• Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> <li>• Guided independent study including directed reading</li> <li>• Supervisions (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Assignment feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(b) Transferable skills</i>		
<b>Research skills</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to define and describe a problem and its parameters and develop methods for its solution, including a realistic timetable and taking into account relevant ethical issues (MA/MSc only).</li>   <li>• Knowledge of a range of research methods.</li>   <li>• Ability to analyse and draw appropriate conclusions from research data.</li>   <li>• Ability to research and critically engage with online sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource</li> <li>• Self-directed learning</li> <li>• Progressive modes of assessment</li> <li>• Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Practice module</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>Communication skills</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to communicate views, needs and concerns effectively in the context of international working relationships.</li>   <li>• Ability to deliver oral presentations to a professional standard.</li>   <li>• Ability to write cogently and clearly at levels appropriate to academic, museum and public contexts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard.</li> <li>• Presentation feedback</li> <li>• Module assignment feedback</li> <li>• Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Research project feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>
<b>Data presentation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to present research clearly and effectively using appropriate digital media resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard.</li> <li>• Self-directed learning</li> <li>• Presentation feedback</li> <li>• Assignment feedback</li> <li>• Research project feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).</li> </ul>
<b>Information technology</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to make use of digital resources for conducting academic research, locating resources, and assessing these resources for utility and reliability.</li>   <li>• Ability to use online resources set up by the School and the University (e.g. Blackboard, the Digital Library).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of online learning environment</li> <li>• Self-directed learning</li> <li>• Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)</li> <li>• Independent research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).</li> </ul>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>Problem solving</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independently approach the subject and form research objectives in relation to a particular 'problem' (MA/MSc only).</li> <li>• Critically select and apply methods for addressing research questions.</li> <li>• Critically select and analyse a range of material for addressing research questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard.</li> <li>• self-directed learning</li> <li>• assignment feedback</li> <li>• research project feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation.</li> </ul>
<b>Working relationships</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know how and when to draw on the knowledge &amp; expertise of others</li> <li>• Ability to contribute &amp; comment on ideas in group-based teaching sessions</li> <li>• Peer assessment (where appropriate).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Live seminars (and other interactive sessions)</li> <li>• The Practice module</li> <li>• Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutorials and supervisions contributions</li> <li>• Contributions to online discussions</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)</li> </ul>
<b>Managing learning</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to identify, find, categorise and organise research material.</li> <li>• Effective time and work management skills.</li> <li>• Ability to use digital resources to assist and organise research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard.</li> <li>• Assessment feedback</li> <li>• Research project feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module assignments</li> <li>• Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).</li> </ul>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>Career management</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to reflect upon individual professional strengths and identify areas for development</li> <li>• Gain the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the competitive job search environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutorials</li> <li>• Career Development Programme</li> <li>• Jobs desk</li> <li>• Museum Studies Connect graduate network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-reflective assignments</li> <li>• Research project supervisions</li> <li>• Personal tutorials</li> </ul>

#### 10. Special features

- Flexibility - Incremental credit accumulation, so students can start by taking just one module and build up to a qualification
- —Asynchronous online provision as well as options for live teaching via the web
- Optionality - students can choose to specialise in areas that suit their own interests
- Designed and taught by leading academics who are known internationally for their work on the field of museum studies and who continue to direct and shape new museum practice around the world
- A 'practice' work-based module to develop professional skills and encourage 'real-world' outputs
- A Graduate Network focused on lifelong training and networking ('Museum Studies Connect')

#### 11. Indicators of programme quality

- External Examiner reports: External Examiners continue to praise the level of feedback provided and the rigour of assessment methods.
- Student feedback mechanisms: Surveys and Student Staff Committees.

#### 12. Scheme of Assessment:

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

#### 13. Progression points

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress, the student will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

#### 14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

### **15. External Examiners reports**

The External Examiner for the programme is Dr. Kostas Arvanitis. The two most recent External Examiner reports can be found attached.

### **16. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)**

- Flexible routes towards an award, including taking a single module, and returning to study within a set period of time.
- All students who register for this programme will be invited to all Summer Schools (an optional, on-site or online series of live sessions each Summer) taking place while they are a registered student.

## Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Module code	Module title	Credits
MU7550	The Museum and Change	15
MU7551	Designing for Creative Lives	15
MU7552	Objects and Collections: Care, Management, Curation	15
MU7553	Engaging Audiences	15
MU7554*	Lifelong Learning	15
MU7555*	Museums and the Natural Environment	15
MU7556*	Heritage	15
MU7557*	Digital	15
MU7558*	Museums and Contemporary Issues	15
MU7559*	Practice	15
MU7560	Research	60

### Notes:

- Module MU7550 may be taken as a stand-alone short (taster) course leading to the award of 15 credits.
- Modules MU7550, MU7551, MU7552 and MU7553 may be taken leading to a Postgraduate Certificate (no other combination of modules shall lead to the award of Postgraduate Certificate)
- Students wishing to undertake the PGDip or Masters degree will undertake any four of the elective modules marked with an asterisk upon completion of Modules MU7550, MU7551, MU7552 and MU7553. If a student selects MU7559 (Practice), this will always be taken as their final taught module.
- Students may graduate with a Master of Science Degree where the dissertation concerns a science collection or museum, or where the nature of the investigation can be termed 'scientific'.

## Appendix 2: Module specifications

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>