Programme Specification (Postgraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2027/28

Date created: 18/12/2020 **Last amended:** 14/04/2026 **Version no.** 1

1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MA in Museum Studies
MSc in Museum Studies
Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies

HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100918	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods

The normal period of registration for the MA/MSc is 12 months

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

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma is 9 months

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

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, candidates will be asked to complete an assessment, such as an essay, so as to demonstrate their readiness for postgraduate study. Clear guidance will be provided on assessment criteria.

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

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

n/a

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 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) 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.
- 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.
- Construct arguments and communicate effectively in English, within an international academic and professional community.

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

- Plan, execute and write up an extended research project on a museum-related topic.

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

- 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

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education

- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

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

* signifies Masters-only components.

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Advanced knowledge of museum practice and a range of museum related issues	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • self-directed learning • independent research	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • an exhibition project • presentations • practicals • the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	• Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Grasp of major theoretical methodological and professional principles in contemporary museum studies	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • self-directed learning • independent research	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • an exhibition project • presentations • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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.	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • self-directed learning • independent research	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • the exhibition project • presentations • practicals • the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation* • reflective statement on the practice element

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self reflexivity	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • self-directed learning • independent research	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • the exhibition project • presentations • practicals • the practice element • research project: research project: paper/report/media presentation* • reflective statement on the practice element

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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	• Writing and assessment briefings • online materials • tutorials • seminars • oral presentation workshops • module assignment feedback • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Individual presentations • technical report for a non-academic audience • study visit 'report backs' • module assignments • research project: paper/report/media presentation* • reflective statement on the practice element

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex museological and practical museum issues and concepts	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • writing and assessment briefings • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • the exhibition project • presentations • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level	• Lectures • seminars • workshops/practicals • student-led group work • online work • study visits/fieldwork • the practice element • feedback on all assessed work • writing and assessment briefings • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • a technical report for a non-academic audience • study visits 'report-backs' • the exhibition project • presentations • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

b) Transferable skills

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Self-directed learning • progressive modes of assessment • research project supervision*	• module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • individual presentations • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Knowledge of a range of research methods.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard • Self-directed learning • progressive modes of assessment • research project supervision*	• module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • individual presentations • research project: paper / report / media presentation*
Ability to analyse and draw appropriate conclusions from research data.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Self-directed learning • progressive modes of assessment • research project supervision*	• module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • individual presentations • research project: paper / report / media presentation*
Ability to research and critically engage with websites.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Self-directed learning • progressive modes of assessment • research project supervision*	• module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • individual presentations • research project: paper / report / media presentation*

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to communicate views, needs and concerns effectively in the context of international working relationships.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • writing and assessment briefings • tutorials • seminars • oral presentation workshops • oral presentation feedback • module assignment feedback • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Individual presentations • study visit 'report backs' • module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to deliver oral presentations to a professional standard.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • writing and assessment briefings • tutorials • seminars • oral presentation workshops • oral presentation feedback • module assignment feedback • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Individual presentations • study visit 'report backs' • module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • research project: paper / report / media presentation*
Ability to write cogently and clearly at levels appropriate to academic, museum and public contexts.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • writing and assessment briefings • tutorials • seminars • oral presentation workshops • oral presentation feedback • module assignment feedback • research project supervision* • research project feedback*	• Individual presentations • study visit 'report backs' • module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • research project: paper / report / media presentation*

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to present research clearly and effectively using appropriate digital media resources	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • writing and assessment briefings • working with on-line databases • self-directed learning • oral presentation feedback • assignment feedback • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • Individual/group presentations • research project: paper / report / media presentation*

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to make use of digital resources for conducting academic research, locating resources, and assessing these resources for utility and reliability.	• Lectures, briefings, tutorials • Self-directed learning • working with on-line databases • Research project supervision* • Independent research	• Module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • research project: paper / report / media presentation*

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Independently approach the subject and form research objectives in relation to a particular 'problem'.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • working with on-line databases • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Critically select and apply methods for addressing research questions.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • working with on-line databases • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Critically select and analyse a range of material for addressing research questions.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • working with on-line databases • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback*	• Module assignments • technical report for a non-academic audience • the exhibition project • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Know how and when to draw on the knowledge & expertise of others	• Tutorials • seminars (and other interactive sessions) • student led group work • the exhibition project • the practice element • research project supervision*	• Tutorial contributions • study visit 'report backs' • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to contribute & comment on ideas in syndicate groups	• Tutorials • seminars (and other interactive sessions) • student led group work • the exhibition project • the practice element • research project supervision*	• Tutorial contributions • study visit 'report backs' • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Peer assessment (where appropriate).	• Tutorials • seminars (and other interactive sessions) • student led group work • the exhibition project • the practice element • research project supervision*	• Tutorial contributions • study visit 'report backs' • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to identify, find, categorise and organise research material.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard • writing and assessment briefings • assessment feedback • research project feedback	• The exhibition project • module assignments • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Effective time and work management skills.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard • writing and assessment briefings • assessment feedback • research project feedback	• The exhibition project • module assignments • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*
Ability to use digital resources to assist and organise research.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard • writing and assessment briefings • assessment feedback • research project feedback	• The exhibition project • module assignments • reflective statement after the practice element • research project: paper/report/media presentation*

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to reflect upon individual professional strengths and identify areas for development	• Tutorials • Career Development Programme including: lectures, seminars, workshops, Museum Studies Connect graduate network	• Self-awareness demonstrated in personal tutorials • Research project supervisions* • reflective statement after the practice element • performance at work placement interviews • preparations for locating suitable work after graduation
Gain the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the competitive job search environment	• Tutorials • Career Development Programme including: lectures, seminars, workshops, Museum Studies Connect graduate network	• Self-awareness demonstrated in personal tutorials • Research project supervisions* • reflective statement after the practice element • performance at work placement interviews • preparations for locating suitable work after graduation

10. Special features

Practice element with a cultural organisation , study visits, external speakers, optional 'Specialism' sessions, Reading Groups and seminar series, exhibition project.

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 (LUMES), Student Staff Committees, annual focus groups.

12. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional award requirements for this programme have been approved:

- 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'.

13. Progression points

As defined in Senate Regulations - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional progression requirements for this programme have been approved:

- Progression takes place at the end of the taught component, with the assessment of 90 credits of course work completed.

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

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

As defined in Senate Regulations - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

15. External Examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

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

n/a

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Programme Specification (Postgraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

Date created: 18/12/2020 **Last amended:** 13/10/2022 **Version no.** 1

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Master of Arts/Master of Science in Museum Studies

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	45 credits	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

180 credits in total

Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	45 credits	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2027/28

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	MU7012	Museums, Publics, Power	15 credits
Semester 1	MU7018	Designing for Creative Lives	15 credits
Semester 1	MU7016	Objects and Collections	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7017	Engaging Audiences	15 credits
April	MU7008	Research*	60 credits
July	MU7009	Practice	30 credits

Optional modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	MU7031	Cultural Management and Marketing	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7030	Curating Art	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7033	Digital Design (Specialism)	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7034	Heritage (Specialism)	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7035	Learning (Specialism)	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7036	Asian Museologies (Specialism)	15 credits
Semester 2	MU7037	Museums and Health (Specialism)	15 credits

Notes

* compulsory for the degree of MA/MSc.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate below. (For 2025/6 see module specification database [Login required]) (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).