

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2027/28

Date created: 18/12/2020

Last amended: 25/03/2026

Version no. 1

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

MA in Museum Studies

MSc in Museum Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies

Postgraduate Certificate in Museum Studies

Short Course in Museum Studies

[HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100918	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Part-time

b) Type of study

Distance learning

4. Registration periods

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

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

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

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

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

The normal period of registration for the Short Course is 2 months

The maximum period of registration for the Short Course 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

- 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).

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 • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading • Assignment feedback	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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 • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading • Assignment feedback	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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 • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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 • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading • Supervisions (MA/MSc only) • Assignment feedback	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only) • Reflective statements

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	• Assessment briefings • Study and Research Guidance resource • Module assignment feedback • Supervisions (MA/MSc only) • Research project feedback (MA/MSc only)	• Assessed presentation • Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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 • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading • Supervisions (MA/MSc only) • Assignment feedback	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level	• Lectures • Seminars • Tutorials • Fieldwork • Guided independent study including directed reading • Supervisions (MA/MSc only) • Assignment feedback	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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 (MA/MSc only).	• Study and Research Guidance resource • Self-directed learning • Progressive modes of assessment • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Module assignments • Practice module • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)
Knowledge of a range of research methods.	• Study and Research Guidance resource • Self-directed learning • Progressive modes of assessment • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Module assignments • Practice module • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)
Ability to analyse and draw appropriate conclusions from research data.	• Study and Research Guidance resource • Self-directed learning • Progressive modes of assessment • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Module assignments • Practice module • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to research and critically engage with online sources.	• Study and Research Guidance resource • Self-directed learning • Progressive modes of assessment • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Module assignments • Practice module • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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. • Presentation feedback • Module assignment feedback • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only) • Research project feedback	• Presentations • Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)
Ability to deliver oral presentations to a professional standard.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Presentation feedback • Module assignment feedback • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only) • Research project feedback	• Presentations • Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to write cogently and clearly at levels appropriate to academic, museum and public contexts.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Presentation feedback • Module assignment feedback • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only) • Research project feedback	• Presentations • Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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. • Self-directed learning • Presentation feedback • Assignment feedback • Research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Presentations • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).

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.	• Use of online learning environment • Self-directed learning • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only) • Independent research.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).
Ability to use online resources set up by the School and the University (e.g. Blackboard, the Digital Library).	• Use of online learning environment • Self-directed learning • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only) • Independent research.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).

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' (MA/MSc only).	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation.
Critically select and apply methods for addressing research questions.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation.
Critically select and analyse a range of material for addressing research questions.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • self-directed learning • assignment feedback • research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/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 • Live seminars (and other interactive sessions) • The Practice module • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Tutorials and supervisions contributions • Contributions to online discussions • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to contribute & comment on ideas in group-based teaching sessions and peer-based assessment (where appropriate)	• Tutorials • Live seminars (and other interactive sessions) • The Practice module • Research project supervision (MA/MSc only)	• Tutorials and supervisions contributions • Contributions to online discussions • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only)

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. • Assessment feedback • Research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).
Effective time and work management skills.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Assessment feedback • Research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).
Ability to use digital resources to assist and organise research.	• Study and Research Guidance resource on BlackBoard. • Assessment feedback • Research project feedback.	• Module assignments • Research project: report/dissertation/media presentation (MA/MSc only).

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 • Jobs desk • Museum Studies Connect graduate network.	• Self-reflective assignments • Research project supervisions • Personal tutorials

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Gain the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the competitive job search environment	• Tutorials • Career Development Programme • Jobs desk • Museum Studies Connect graduate network.	• Self-reflective assignments • Research project supervisions • Personal tutorials

10. Special features

- Flexibility - Incremental credit accumulation, so students can start by taking just one module and build up to a qualification
- Flexible and blended delivery - online provision as well as options for live teaching via the web and face-to-face (where possible) sessions
- 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')
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10a. Research-inspired Education

Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:

RiE Quadrant	Narrative
Research-briefed Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.	The programme promotes critical inquiry and practice-based learning through exposure to the contemporary trends and current scholarship in the fields of museums, heritage and galleries, as well as a solid grounding in interdisciplinary research methods for the study of museum institutions, objects and visitors. • Research-briefed: Students will be exposed to the latest developments in the fields of museums, heritage and galleries informed by cutting-edge and international-facing research undertaken at Museum Studies at Leicester, the largest and oldest unit of its kind in the world. Our teaching is informed by our unparalleled global expertise spanning different continents of the world.
Research-based Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.	• Research-based: Lectures, seminars, workshops, practical sessions and assessments are based on real-world issues and examples, putting our research into context and developing transferrable skills in students which can be applied to their future work in the museum sector.
Research-oriented	• Research-oriented: Students are strongly encouraged to engage in critical thinking and writing in both the class seminars and assessments. They will

Students critique published research content and process. Research-apprenticed Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.	be provided with academic skills training and guidance in how to appraise data and research information critically. • Research-apprenticed: Training and practice are provided on writing grant proposals and reports, critical reading and writing, presentation skills, teamwork and library skills including referencing and literature review. Students will also undertake a piece of independent research under the close supervision of an academic staff.
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As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:

Students are required to undertake a mandatory series of courses on different research methods including ethnographic research, mixed methods research, data analysis, literature reviews, ethics review, as part of our MU7560 Research module. Students will complete an independent study of their choice, carrying 60 credits, under the guidance of an academic staff.

Our distance-learning (DL) courses also include embedded live online seminars, which typically take place during the lunch hour to make them accessible to students. These sessions provide opportunities for direct interaction with faculty members, and recordings are made available to students after each event.

In addition, students are invited to attend seminars and conferences organised by our academic staff through our research networks, such as 'Institute of Digital Culture', 'Asian Art, Museum and Heritage' and 'Cr/ia [Creative Research / Instituting Art]'. These events are primarily delivered in a hybrid format, enabling students to participate online.

Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:

We ensure that all staff remain up to date with current best practices in Museum Studies pedagogy through a combination of ongoing professional development, research-led teaching, and active engagement with the museum and heritage sector. Our teaching is closely informed by staff research and professional practice, ensuring that course content reflects current debates, methodologies, and challenges within Museum Studies.

All academic staff with teaching and marking responsibilities receive regular training and updates related to teaching practice, including research-inspired education, through the annual tutor day held in June, alongside our annual distance learning week. In addition, staff are actively encouraged to share innovative approaches to research-inspired teaching and to participate in

training sessions and events organised by the Leicester's Education Academy, and during the School Education Committee meetings.

The School actively supports all staff involved in teaching to obtain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their application of pedagogical theory to their own practice and reflect on their teaching, as well as ongoing professional development.

In addition, regular programme reviews, peer observation, and curriculum development meetings provide structured opportunities for staff to share best practice and reflect on teaching approaches. Student feedback is also systematically reviewed and used to inform pedagogical development, ensuring our teaching remains responsive, current, and aligned with sector standards.

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. 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.

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)

- Flexible routes towards an award, including taking a single module, and returning to study within a set period of time.

- Optional face to face (where possible) teaching in Leicester each year. All students who register for this programme will be invited to all Summer Schools taking place while they are a registered student.

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

Date created: 18/12/2020

Last amended: 25/03/2026

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.

MA/MSc in Museum Studies**Credit breakdown**

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits
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	n/a	n/a	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Postgraduate Certificate in Museum Studies

Credit breakdown

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

60 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2027/28

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Other	MU7550	The Museum and Change	15 credits
Other	MU7551	Designing for Creative Lives	15 credits
Other	MU7552	Objects and Collections: Care, Management, Curation	15 credits
Other	MU7553	Engaging Audiences	15 credits

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)

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Other	MU7554	Lifelong Learning	15 credits
Other	MU7555	Museums and the Natural Environment	15 credits
Other	MU7556	Heritage	15 credits
Other	MU7557	Digital	15 credits
Other	MU7558	Museums and Contemporary Issues	15 credits
Other	MU7559	Practice	15 credits
Other	MU7565	Cultural Management and Marketing	15 credits

Notes

- This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.
- Students wishing to undertake the PGDip or Masters degree will undertake any four of the option modules (typically over Years 1 and 2) upon completion of Modules MU7550, MU7551, MU7552 and MU7553.

Level 7/Year 2 2028/29

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Other	MU7560	Research	60 credits

Notes

- 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'.

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Other	MU7554	Lifelong Learning	15 credits
Other	MU7555	Museums and the Natural Environment	15 credits
Other	MU7556	Heritage	15 credits
Other	MU7557	Digital	15 credits
Other	MU7558	Museums and Contemporary Issues	15 credits
Other	MU7559	Practice	15 credits
Other	MU7565	Cultural Management and Marketing	15 credits

Notes

- This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.
- Students wishing to undertake the PGDip or Masters degree will undertake any four of the option modules (typically over Years 1 and 2) 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.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) [Login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).