



Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology

MSc/MSc by Research/PgDip

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of how traditional and advanced techniques from archaeology and physical anthropology can be applied in the forensic context. The course offers students a wide range of different experiences with unique facilities available to no other university in the UK. The course is highly practical and hands-on, aiming to produce forensic experts with a strong background to later enter the field and be capable of giving expert witness testimonies in a courtroom situation and elsewhere. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds, usually with a science or forensic science first degree. Many students come from abroad, especially Europe, Africa and North America. The MSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology course is part of the MSc Forensic Programme which has been formally accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. This course is designed to give a broad introduction to the subject, rapidly advancing into the understanding of cutting-edge research and the latest methodologies. Students have access to our purpose-built outdoor research facility - the Forensic Fieldwork Facility one of only two in the country. The facility has been specifically designed to enable research into animal decomposition, taphonomy, search and location and excavation of buried remains.

Who is it for?

- Recent graduates wishing to acquire knowledge and skills in either modelling and simulation or military operational research or in order to obtain employment in the defence industry;
- Members of the Armed Forces working in or preparing to take up appointments in the area of modelling and simulation or of operational research;
- Graduates working in defence research organisations wishing to extend their knowledge of either modelling and simulation or operational research.

Course structure

Students are required to take eight core modules and choose three elective modules based on their particular background, future requirements or interests. This is followed by a four-month research project and thesis.

Individual project

The individual project takes four months from April to July. The student selects from a range of titles, or may propose their own topic. Most are practically or experimentally based using Cranfield's unique facilities.

Future career

Prepares you to work in the field of forensic archaeology or anthropology within forensic laboratories, police departments, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, museums, commercial archaeological companies and universities. It is also a necessary introduction that could lead into conducting research at PhD level in the subject.

Accreditation

The MSc of this course is accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

Example modules

Modules form only part of the course, with the project(s) and theses making up the balance. Please see the course structure for details.

The list below shows the modules offered in the 2019-20 academic year, to give you an idea of course content. To keep our courses relevant and up-to-date, modules are subject to change – please see the webpage for the latest information.

Compulsory:

- Analytical Techniques,
- Courtroom Skills,
- Forensic Archaeology: Mass Grave Excavation,
- Forensic Archaeology: Recovering Buried Remains,
- Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology: Osteology,
- Further Forensic Anthropology: Identification,
- Investigation and Evidence Collection,
- Reasoning for Forensic Science.

Elective:

- Digital Crime and Investigation,
- Environmental Forensic Science Explosive, Effects on Structures,
- Fakes and Forgeries,
- Fires, Explosions and their Investigation,
- Forensic Exploitation and Intelligence,
- Hazardous Forensics,
- International Heritage Crime,
- International Heritage Crime Exercise,
- Introduction to Firearms Investigation and Forensic Ballistics,
- Mass Fatality Incidents,
- Practical Archaeological Excavation,
- Radiographic Investigations in Forensic Science,
- Trace Evidence,
- UK Heritage Crime,
- UK Heritage Crime Exercise.

Duration:

MSc: 11 months full-time, up to three years part-time.
PgDip/PgCert: one year full-time, up to two years part-time.

Start date:

October.

Location:

Cranfield.

Entry requirements:

A first or second class Honours degree or equivalent in archaeology, forensic science or scientific discipline, or the professional equivalent. Students with other degrees who can show a knowledge of and interest in the scientific elements of the subject will also be considered.

Contact details

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For further information please visit

www.cranfield.ac.uk/faa