



The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

HAAAH, Master's Programme in Archaeology - theory and practice, 120 credits

Masterprogram i arkeologi - teori och praktik, 120 högskolepoäng

Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / Program med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå

Decision

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 24-03-2015 and was last revised on 22-08-2025 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/435). The revised syllabus comes into effect 13-10-2025 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

Programme description

The programme focuses on the interaction between theory and practice and aims to provide students with in-depth knowledge and specialization in the subjects of Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, Historical Osteology, or Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. The courses in the programme combine theoretical and practical aspects of various phenomena relevant to our subjects. The programme is designed for students intending to work in the heritage sector, in museums, or in research.

The two-year programme consists of a combination of mandatory and elective courses. It is structured to give students the freedom to design their own study path based on their desired specialisation. It begins with a mandatory introductory course of 15 credits, which provides a common foundation for the other courses in the programme. This is followed by elective specialisation courses totalling 15 credits, and it is mandatory to choose one of these. These are selected during the first and third terms. The final course, consisting of a thesis of 30 credits, is also mandatory. In between, elective courses within the programme are offered, allowing specialization according to the department's subjects. Students also have the opportunity to choose other courses, of which a maximum of 30 credits may be at the undergraduate level.

In this way, the student has great freedom to shape their education within the framework of the programme, while providing a clear structure from the initial introduction to the thesis. An advantage for students admitted to the programme is that they have priority for all courses offered within the programme, as these are also offered as independent courses.

Goals

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a significant degree of specialised knowledge in key areas within Archaeology and/or Ancient History.
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of a broad spectrum of theories within one of the fields of Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, Historical Osteology, or Classical Archaeology and Ancient History,
- at an advanced level, understand how relevant methods can be applied to specific contexts within the main field of study,
- demonstrate in-depth insight into current research and development work within the main field of study,
- be able to explain source material, how it was created, and how theoretical positions shape the interpretation and documentation process,

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, and creatively identify and formulate questions, and using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work,
- independently seek information within a chosen area and critically analyse and interpret the information,
- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and, with relevant perspectives and methods, analyse, assess, and handle complex phenomena, questions, and situations, even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to clearly explain and discuss their conclusions in speech and writing, as well as the knowledge and arguments that form the basis for these,
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work or to independently work in other qualified activities,

Judgement and approach

- show the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal, and ethical issues, and demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- be able to discuss heritage issues in an informed manner,
- show the ability to identify their personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Course information

The programme consists of:

- A mandatory introduction to the programme: *Theory, Method, and Ethics* (15 credits).
- A mandatory elective specialisation course (15 credits) (chosen from a limited selection of four specialisation courses).
- A mandatory thesis for each subject specialisation (30 credits).
- Additional elective courses (60 credits).

Mandatory Courses for the Entire Programme

1. The course *Theory, Method, and Ethics* (15 credits).
2. At least one of the following specialisation courses:
 - *Text and Materiality* (15 credits).
 - *Human Landscapes in Long-Term Perspectives* (15 credits).
 - *Scientific Approaches to Archaeological Analysis* (15 credits).
 - *Building Archaeology* (15 credits).
3. Mandatory Thesis (one of the following):
 - Master's Thesis in Archaeology (30 credits)
 - Master's Thesis in Historical Archaeology (30 credits)
 - Master's Thesis in Historical Osteology (30 credits)
 - Master's Thesis in Ancient Culture and Society (30 credits)

The programme starts in the autumn semester of the academic year. It begins with the mandatory introductory course *Theory, Method, and Ethics* and ends with the mandatory thesis in the spring semester of the second year. The four elective specialisation courses are offered every other autumn semester in combinations adapted so that relevant courses for subject specialisation can be chosen in the first and third semester. The course *Text and Materiality* is offered alongside *Human Landscapes in Long-Term Perspectives* in the first and third semesters during even years, and *Scientific Approaches to Archaeological Analysis* is offered alongside *Building Archaeology* in the first and third semesters during odd years. Students must take at least one of these elective specialisation courses within their programme.

In the second semester, there is an opportunity to apply for various courses, such as *GIS and Spatial Analysis in Archaeology* (15 credits), *Advanced 3D Documentation, Processing, and Visualisation in Archaeology* (15 credits), The Archaeological Course at the Swedish Institute in Rome (15 credits) or Advanced Course in the Archaeology of Ancient Greece at the Swedish Institute in Athens (15 credits).

In the second and third semesters, an advanced reading course is also offered. It is offered twice during the students' programme time but can only be chosen once.

In the summer semester an elective course called *Practical Research and Research*

Practice (7.5 credits) is offered when it is possible to do so. The available places are only accessible to programme students, to give them the opportunity to get practical experience in one of the research projects conducted at the department.

Programme courses offered at the department

Term 1, Autumn:

- *Theory, Method, and Ethics* (15 credits), mandatory, and
- *Text and Materiality* (15 credits) or *Human Landscapes in Long-Term Perspectives* (15 credits),
- *Scientific Approaches to Archaeological Analysis* (15 credits) or *Building Archaeology* (15 credits)

Term 2, Spring:

- *GIS and Spatial Analysis in Archaeology* (15 credits) or
- *Advanced Reading Course* (15 credits, elective once), or
- *Advanced 3D Documentation, Processing, and Visualisation in Archaeology* (15 credits), or
- *Internship Course* (15 credits).

Term 3, Autumn:

- *Field Course in Archaeology* (15 credits) or
- *Advanced Reading Course* (15 credits, elective once), and
- *Scientific Approaches to Archaeological Analysis* (15 credits) or *Building Archaeology* (15 credits),
- *Text and Materiality* (15 credits) or *Human Landscapes in Long-Term Perspectives* (15 credits).

Term 4, Spring:

- Thesis (30 credits).

Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits)

Major: Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Archaeology

Major: Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Major: Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Archaeology

Major: Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Osteology

Filosofie masterexamen

Huvudområde: Arkeologi och antikens historia med specialisering i antikens kultur och samhällsliv

Huvudområde: Arkeologi och antikens historia med specialisering i arkeologi

Huvudområde: Arkeologi och antikens historia med specialisering i historisk arkeologi

Huvudområde: Arkeologi och antikens historia med specialisering i historisk osteologi

Requirements and Selection method

Requirements

To be admitted to the programme, applicants must have a first-cycle degree in one of the main fields of Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, or Historical Osteology, or the equivalent, and English 6.

Selection method

Based on academic qualifications and a letter of intent.

Transition rules

Students who have been admitted to the programme and commenced their studies under the previous version of the curriculum (up to and including programme start autumn term 2025) have the right to complete their studies according to the then applicable plan until 2028-09-01. Students who thereafter wish to complete the programme can apply to transfer to this curriculum and the current course offerings. Transition to the new programme version is subject to availability.

Other information

The programme is normally taught in English. It can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the lecturers and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturers and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.