

Course Catalogue 2025-2026

Title of Program: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Program Code	4-MA-MACH
Level	Graduate
Credits and Duration	120 ECTS credits / 4 semesters
Delivery Language	English

Programme Overview

The Master in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage was developed to cater to the need of addressing current challenges in the field of Archaeology, which is at the core of other disciplines including earth sciences, materials science, digital technologies, conservation sciences etc., and therefore offers broader professional opportunities for the programme's graduates. It is designed to cover the areas of Archaeology, Heritage, and other related disciplines, hence, provides students with a 360-degree overview of these fields. This programme is multidisciplinary, yet, it gives priority to Archaeology and Heritage with particular focus on the challenges faced in Abu Dhabi and the Emirates in general.

Its unique curriculum and mode of delivery, with each semester alternating between lectures and fieldwork practice (internship), reflects on the scholarly and practical nature of archaeological and heritage work. In Fall Semesters, lessons are delivered by local and visiting professors, including museum professionals, archaeologists, geologists, scientists such as physicists who are also specialists in their fields. In Spring Semesters, in the first year students will participate in an Academic Archaeological Project in the Emirate of Dubai which is developed by the Department of Archaeology and History of Art of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, while in their second year, students will conduct their mandatory internship in partners institutions, in the UAE or abroad (depending on the level of language proficiency of the candidates).

Students will therefore have the opportunity to acquire broad, deep knowledge and practical skills in Archaeology and Heritage both on the field and in labs, this is complimented with a scientific background strong enough to develop their critical thinking and to providing them with innovative problem solving skills to analyse, preserve and manage archaeological/historical sites as well as culture material.

The Master Degree Programme in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage aims to train competent professionals in the areas of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage management, conservation, and valorization to face the new challenges and the technological revolution that such fields are currently experiencing. Graduates of this programme will be able to support not only the immediate needs of museums and cultural organizations, heritage collections and sites, but will also, be able to provide cutting-edge solutions to managing and preserving them in the medium and long run.

The programme is delivered by visiting professors coming from the Department of History of Art and Archaeology at Sorbonne University (Paris) and professors from Sorbonne University

Abu Dhabi, as well as archaeologists, museum professionals, geomaticians, geographers, and scientists working in the field of Heritage.

Learning Outcomes / Objectifs de la formation

PLO 1	Critically evaluate evidence in support of an argument or proposition in the area of archaeology and cultural heritage through the application of appropriate tools and methodology in archaeology, history of art and heritage studies, principles, and records.
PLO 2	Structure ideas, theories, and information arising from professional and research activities and communicate solutions effectively to peers and the wider community.
PLO 3	Apply professional Archaeological and Cultural ethics in promoting theories and practice of Heritage Management through collaborative activities that demand cross-disciplinary interaction, and demonstrable autonomy in conducting independent research.
PLO4	Manage research, teams, projects, and discipline-specific professional skills in archaeology, heritage management and cultural mediation to challenge traditional ways of approaching preservation, and valorization of archaeological collections and cultural heritage sites, and transmission of Heritage.
PLO5	Appraise archaeological artefacts and material culture in general in order to initiate, organize and support a collection from acquisition or creation to exploitation operations (preservation, managing, appraisal, valorisation, and access of material culture and records).
PLO6	Contribute to cultural awareness and sensitivity at strategic and leadership levels in their organization through identifying the impact of artefacts and more generally heritage preservation, exhibition, and promotion to local and foreign audiences.

Program Structure / Structure de la Formation

The Master in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage requires the successful completion of 120 ECTS comprising:

Master 2 Semester 3			
Unité d'Enseignement	Titre du Cours	Crédits	Dates
UE1: Archaeology and civilizations-cultural areas I	Archaeology of the Gulf area II	2	8-Sep - 12-Sep 2025
	Levantine Archaeology / Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula	2	15-Sep - 19-Sep 2025
	Archaeology in the Asian World II	2	13-Oct - 17-Oct 2025
	African Archaeology	2	22-Sep - 26-Sep 2025
UE2: Tools and Sciences for Archaeology I	Landscape Archaeology	2	6-Oct - 10-Oct 2025
	Digital Archaeology II	3	10-Nov - 14-Nov 2025
	Ancient Sources in Context	2	3-Nov - 7-Nov 2025
	Material Culture II	2	20-Oct - 24-Oct 2025
UE3 : From sites to cultural heritage management	Exhibition Project Management	4	27-Oct - 31-Oct 2025
	Archive Project Management	3	29-Sep - 3-Oct 2025
	Tools for Cultural Mediation and Education	2	17-Nov - 21-Nov 2025
UE4: Internship preparation & support	Internship Preparation & Support	2	24-Nov - 28-Nov 2025

UE5: Language	French for Art Historians & archaeologists	2	Semestriel
Master 2 Semester 4			
UE1: Application seminar: Internship	Application seminar: Internship	10	Semtriel
UE2: Processing data and ongoing research	Processing data and ongoing research	10	Semtriel
UE3: Dissertation and defense	Dissertation & Oral Presentation (Defense)	10	Semtriel

Course Details / Description des cours

Master 2 Semester 3

Course Title & Code	Archaeology of the Gulf Area II (MACH-520)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino
Date	8-Sep - 12-Sep 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	The aim of this course is to present the main theories and concepts of archaeology in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. The origins and development of archaeological research in the region will be discussed, with particular emphasis on the United Arab Emirates and Oman. The results of researchers in all archaeological periods will be covered, from the Paleolithic to the beginnings of Islam. Each session will be divided into two parts, the first being a lecture devoted to a major scientific theme. The second part of the course will be a tutorial based on documents. The last part of the course will be devoted to an argumentative correction and discussion.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Levantine Archaeology / Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula (MACH-521)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino
Date	15-Sep - 19-Sep 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	The primary goal of this seminar is to offer participants an in-depth understanding of the archaeological history of the Levant and Arabian Peninsula regions, spanning from prehistory to the Islamic period. By the end of the seminar, participants will gain a thorough knowledge of significant civilizations, cultural evolution, and technological

	advancements that influenced these areas. Additionally, the course aims to enhance participants' practical skills in analyzing and interpreting archaeological findings, encouraging an engaged approach to both traditional and contemporary archaeological techniques. The method will be as follows: The first hour will be dedicated to an introductory lecture on the period. Then, a case study on research related to the period and current archaeological trends will be presented, either by the students or by myself. Finally, the last two hours will be devoted to a debate on this case study.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Archaeology in the Asian World II (MACH-522)
Instructor	Vincent Lefèvre
Date	13-Oct-25 17-Oct-25
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course aims at introducing archaeological research in South and Southeast Asia. After a short presentation of the area (the Indian subcontinent and the Indianized countries of Asia) and its cultural specificities, it will introduce the history of its archaeological discovery and the different tools for reconstructing its past. The second part of the course will be devoted to recent trends in archaeological research, related to the urbanization process and the environmental issues.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	African Archaeology (MACH-523)
Instructor	Emmanuelle Honoré
Date	22-Sep - 26-Sep 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course provides an overview of the main archaeological cultures of Africa, their context and chronologies, with special interest for the relationship between these cultures and the Gulf. This ranges from early Prehistory to African medieval empires. It provides a unique opportunity to connect a series of regional case studies with major global developments. Particular attention is given to the methodology of practicing archaeology in Africa: fieldwork, contextual analysis, dating, artefacts and material culture studies. The course is the opportunity to discuss current issues such as the protection and management of archaeological heritage under threat. It also includes a training to real-life professional situations of archaeological heritage management.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Landscape Archaeology (MACH-524)
Instructor	Christophe Moulherat
Date	6-Oct - 10-Oct 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course introduces students to the cultural, sensory, and social dimensions of landscape archaeology, focusing on how societies perceive, remember, and shape their environments over time. Combining theory, fieldwork, and applied research, students explore memory, identity, and the meanings attached to places through case studies, practical workshops, and collaborative projects. The course also addresses contemporary challenges in heritage management, mediation, and conservation, and provides skills for evaluating impacts, engaging with local communities, and developing valorization strategies.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Digital Archaeology II (MACH-525)
Instructor	Christophe Moulherat
Date	10-Nov - 14-Nov 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	3
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course explores the role of digital technologies in contemporary archaeology, with a strong emphasis on non-invasive investigation techniques and advanced tools for heritage documentation, interpretation, and dissemination. It specifically addresses the use of CT scanners (Computed Tomography) for the internal analysis of artefacts, as well as holographic showcases and immersive display systems for the valorisation of archaeological objects in museum contexts. Students will acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge of digital workflows applied to archaeology, ranging from field recording to museum exhibition, with a critical reflection on ethics, data sustainability, and the future of digital heritage.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Ancient Sources in Context (MACH-526)
Instructor	Maxime Durocher
Date	3-Nov - 7-Nov 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h

Course Description	This course aims to train students to the study of Ancient sources related to archaeological research. Indeed, archaeological sites and artefacts need to be put in a broader context that – for the historical periods that constitute most of archaeological research – can be drawn thanks to the cross study of multiple evidence and sources. A multi-disciplinary approach will be developed and students will be train to the basics and methodology of the study of textual sources (literary, chronicles etc), epigraphy and numismatics. In addition to these basics, the course will build on practical case study chosen by the students to train them to Data Management and Metadata Structure, two central skills in the development of archaeological project, will be offered.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Material Culture II (MACH-527)
Instructor	Elisabetta Neri
Date	20-Oct - 24-Oct 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	The course concerns the coloured artistic supports – notably sculpture, mosaics and painting – and their production, during the 1st millennium CE in the Mediterranean area and in Western Asia. The first part will focus on pigments and their application on wall painting and on marble sculptures. The second part will focus on coloured glass and its use in mosaics. Case studies will be presented with the objective to demonstrate how the production of coloured decorations involves a complex network of trade to supply the raw materials, as well as a specific know-how. The course will include tutorials on literature reading and laboratory activity using portable microscopes.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Exhibition Project Management (MACH-528)
Instructor	Mario Choueiry
Date	27-Oct - 31-Oct 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	4
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	The Exhibition Project Management course equips students with the skills and practical tools to plan, organise, and execute successful exhibitions. The course will cover various aspects of project management, including budgeting, logistics, stakeholder communication, and risk assessment, with a focus on the unique challenges of the exhibition industry. It will initially provide the fundamentals of exhibition-making theories and knowledge of the art world in general, focusing on the role of the curator and its brief history in modern times. Furthermore, students will be provided with practical tools to manage the exhibition-making process through all its stages, from concept planning to setting up the exhibition in the space and managing post-exhibition functions,

	such as communication and event management. All the above will be communicated through real case studies and practical exercises.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Archive Project Management (MACH-529)
Instructor	Josef Wilczek
Date	29-Sep - 3-Oct 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	3
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	The goal of this course is to familiarise students with archives and their management, with a particular focus on archaeology and the humanities. The course is divided into two components: a theoretical part (lectures) and a practical part (tutorials/exercises). The theoretical component will cover key topics including: (i) the importance of archives in archaeology and the humanities; (ii) their role, value, and organisation; (iii) core principles and standards in archival practice; (iv) management stages and workflows; and (v) common challenges in archive management. In addition to physical archives, the course will place particular emphasis on digital archives, exploring their structure, preservation, and current trends in their application to cultural heritage. The practical component will focus on the creation of a digital database and the application of archival project management principles to a realistic archaeological context to prepare students for professional practice in the field.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Tools for Cultural Mediation and Education (MACH-530)
Instructor	Ibrahim Mohamed Ali
Date	17-Nov - 21-Nov 2025
Course Format	1 week mission
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course provides a comprehensive introduction to cultural mediation and the tools employed within cultural heritage institutions. The course begins by examining the definitions, history, development, and integration of cultural mediation within cultural heritage institutions, such as museums, galleries, and archaeological sites. Throughout the course, students will engage with various methods to research, explore, and apply practical tools for cultural mediation in heritage contexts. The course emphasizes the development of skills necessary to facilitate dialogue, mutual understanding, interpretation, and collaboration across cultural boundaries. Key concepts such as intercultural communication, translation, and interpretation will be critically examined. Practical case studies based on selected items from diverse cultural heritage collections form an essential component of the course, allowing students to translate theory into practice. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to design and

	implement cultural mediation initiatives and to identify appropriate strategies customized to specific cultural heritage collections or institutions, which would foster inclusivity, reduce cultural misunderstandings, and support equitable interaction in multicultural settings. Pedagogical methods will include presentation, discussions, and interactive class activities.
Evaluation	40% CC, 60% CF

Course Title & Code	Internship Preparation & Support (MACH-531)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino
Date	24-Nov - 28-Nov 2025
Course Format	Semestriel
Credits	2
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 3
Contact Hours	19h
Course Description	This course prepares and supports students in completing their professional internship as part of the Master 2 in Archaeology. It guides them in identifying suitable host institutions, defining learning objectives, and understanding professional practices in archaeology and related heritage fields. Students receive support in preparing application materials and in developing the skills needed for effective professional integration. The course also includes follow-up and reflective activities that help students connect their internship experience with their academic training and research interests, while strengthening their professional profile and awareness of career opportunities in archaeology and heritage sectors.
Evaluation	100% CC

Master 2 Semester 4

Course Title & Code	Application Seminar: Internship (MACH-532)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino
Date	Semestriel
Course Format	Semestriel
Credits	10
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 4
Contact Hours	Semestriel
Course Description	This course aims to prepare students for their end-of-year projects. Mandatory meetings are organized to discuss students' personal interests, after which they must complete questionnaires to find the topic best suited to their profile among SUAD's partnerships. This course aims to review students' theoretical and practical knowledge in order to facilitate their choice of thesis topic.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Processing Data and Ongoing Research (MACH-533)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino (SUAD) and Michele Degli Esposti
Date	Semestriel/ 16-Feb - 20-Feb 2026
Course Format	Semestriel

Credits	10
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 4
Contact Hours	Semestriel
Course Description	This course supports students in processing, analysing, and interpreting data collected during their archaeological research and fieldwork. It focuses on methodological approaches to organising and managing datasets, applying appropriate analytical tools, and critically assessing results in relation to research questions. Students are guided in developing their ongoing research projects through regular follow-up sessions, discussions, and feedback, helping them refine their methods and structure their work. The course aims to strengthen students' ability to transform raw data into coherent academic arguments and to advance their Master's research within a clear scientific framework.
Evaluation	100% CC

Course Title & Code	Dissertation & Oral Presentation (Defense)
Instructor	Maria Paola Pellegrino
Date	Semestriel
Course Format	Semestriel
Credits	10
Level	Graduate
Semester offered	Semester 4
Contact Hours	Semestriel
Course Description	This course accompanies students in the completion of their Master's dissertation and the preparation of their oral defense. It provides guidance on structuring and writing an academic dissertation, formulating research questions, and presenting arguments clearly and coherently. It concludes with the formal defense of the dissertation before an academic jury.
Evaluation	50% CC; 50 CF

Permanent Academic and Administrative Staff

Head of Department: Dr. Rose-Marie Ferré

Permanent Faculty: Dr. Christophe Moulherat

Permanent Faculty: Dr. Maria Paola Pellegrino

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