

DHeritage Programme Information

The University of Hertfordshire's [Professional Doctorate in Heritage \(DHeritage\)](#) is a broad-based, flexible qualification developed in association with experts from across the heritage sector. The programme is aimed at professionals who work in, or desire to work in, the heritage field broadly defined, whether in the private or the public sector. It interests those who are employed in planning, museums, archives, community history, archaeology, social and cultural sustainability and any area of work which engages heritage. It appeals to practitioners who want to reflect on and contribute to the latest thinking in what is a dynamic and ever-changing sector crucial to many economies and to local and national identities.

DHeritage draws on the professional contexts of our regional [UHArts](#) centre, the University-wide collaborative expertise brought together in our [Heritage Hub](#) and Research Theme [Heritage, Cultures and Communities](#), as well as our [Doctoral College](#) and Researcher Development Programme and the expertise, communities and events programmes hosted by each of the Schools.

Students follow the programme as part of a cohort, supported by a series of regular bespoke training workshops, generic research training and supervision shaped to their particular needs from across the disciplines of History, Education, Digital Humanities, Creative Writing, Creative Arts, and Law, among others. The programme integrates scholarship on a range of interdisciplinary themes, including professional ethics, sustainability, cultural memory and heritage policy. Students will be able to select their topic and training according to individual needs and interests, and current developments in the field. On admission, successful candidates are allocated a Principal and one or two Co-Supervisors based on the research area they have set out in their research proposal and at interview.

DHeritage Programme Structure

The DHeritage is modelled as a 6-year programme with three phases of study; however, there is the flexibility for students to complete more quickly, if progress and assessments indicate that it is feasible. Research training is provided through supervision, bespoke DHeritage workshops, online workshops, participation in the University's Researcher Development Programme and other Doctoral College and University events.

Phase 1

During Phase 1 (typically years 1 and 2 part-time), students complete 8 workshops, each consisting of a 1-day campus event (or online equivalent) plus a formatively assessed independent assignment. Workshops are delivered on a rolling programme by expert staff and are available to all students on the Programme. Two workshops are required core study: Research Methods in year 1 and Project Development and Presentation in year 2. All students are encouraged to participate in thematic workshops. DHeritage students are encouraged to attend the Spring and Summer Schools of the University's Researcher Development Programme and to participate in relevant activities in their home School.

Students are supported by their supervisory team in working towards their Registration assessment, which takes place 8 months after enrolment. Full supervisory teams meet with students at least 3 times per phase, with additional supervision from individual supervisors as needed. If the participant has met the relevant criteria, an exit award of MA by Research is available at the end of Phase 1, for which participants develop a submission based on their programme of work for this phase.

Phase 2

In Phase 2 (usually years 3 and 4 of part-time study), students continue to participate in the bespoke DHeritage training workshops programme, based on sharing and discussing progress, addressing research issues, and with some delivered content (for example, an external speaker, or a guided exploration of a film, online resource or article).

Students continue to receive the support of their supervision team, leading to a Doctoral Review progression assessment by around 40 months of study. This verifies the potential for students to complete their studies at doctoral level. Students in a position to complete early (i.e. in fewer than 6 years) can take this assessment before the end of their fourth year, then submit for final assessment when they are ready in Phase 3.

Phase 3

Students in the fifth and sixth years of part-time study continue to develop their research, with supervisory support, leading to their final Doctoral submission. Phase 3 students are welcome at all workshops but attendance is not compulsory in this final phase.

The doctoral submission for DHeritage will typically comprise a dissertation of around 55,000 words and a portfolio of supporting work. The portfolio contains material demonstrating how research communicated in the dissertation can be used in heritage practice, for example, an exhibition outline, a digital resource, an extended archival finding aid, a code of practice, a guidebook or a catalogue or other published work. The portfolio may include a substantial element of non-textual work. A commentary and analysis of 5,000-10,000 words is required as part of the portfolio to explain and locate the materials relative to the thesis and any relevant practical examples or issues.

All Phases

Research training support is principally provided through supervision, discussion of key issues at workshops, and through participation in the University's Researcher Development Programme (RDP). Students are encouraged to follow elements of the RDP at appropriate points during all phases of study including the Spring and Summer Schools each year. Core parts of the Programme are compulsory and additional sessions will be identified by the student and the Principal Supervisor at supervision meetings. Some RDP training is available online; other parts are delivered on campus.

Throughout the programme, participants will be subject to ongoing monitoring and assessment of progress in line the University Research Degree Regulations. In addition to the formal assessments in each phase of study, the Annual Monitoring Report is useful as a time to reflect on progress made and planning for the coming phase of study, as well as developmental needs and external interactions (e.g., conferences attended, papers published) related to the doctoral research.

Distance Learning Registration

The DHeritage is available as a distance learning degree, which allows students to attend for approximately 50% of the campus sessions with the other 50% being accessed online. Distance learners are expected to visit the campus to participate in workshops, residential events and supervisions 2 or 3 times a year, and to complete online equivalent workshops from our suite hosted on Canvas, our Managed Learning Environment. Distance-learning students based outside the UK are sometimes assigned a 'local' supervisor, near their home or place of work, in addition to one or more supervisors at the University of Hertfordshire.

DHeritage Application Procedure

Applicants for the DHeritage complete the University application form and provide a statement of c. 2000 words in support of their application (see below). The application form can be downloaded from <http://www.herts.ac.uk/apply/how-to-apply> Two references are required to be submitted with the application: one should provide an opinion on the academic ability of the applicant and the other on

the applicant's professional roles and responsibilities. To discuss an application, please email DHeritage Programme Director, Professor Dr Grace Lees-Maffei, g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk

Completed application forms, statements and references should be emailed to Doctoral College Admissions, doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk specifying that the application is for DHeritage.

Entry Requirements

Entry qualifications are assessed on an individual basis. Normally participants will have an Honours degree, a relevant Master's Degree and a minimum of five years' relevant professional experience. Candidates without a Master's degree will need to demonstrate an equivalent level of accomplishment through professional practice, based on appropriate professional training (e.g. via the Museums Association). Candidates for whom English is not their first language will require certification of English language competence (minimum IELTS 6.5, preferably higher).

Research Proposal

A guidance sheet is available from the Programme Director to assist with preparing a supporting statement in the form of a Research Proposal. In brief, the 2000-word statement in support of your application should provide information about:

- Your reasons for wishing to follow the DHeritage programme
- Your proposed area of research and what has prompted your interest in this area
- Your involvement in any prior research in this area, or work relevant to this area
- How your research interests will relate to your work roles and responsibilities, and be of benefit to your employing organisation
- Information about the research you wish to undertake, and initial ideas about appropriate research strategies
- Current and existing literature and other sources of relevance to your topic.

We recognise that your thinking about an area of research will not be fully developed during the application process. The first year of the programme is designed to support you in developing your programme of research.

Interviews

Interviews are normally conducted with c. three members of staff, one or two of whom may be potential supervisor(s). The interview provides the opportunity to:

- Confirm the appropriateness of your entry qualifications
- Consider how previous studies and professional experience provide bases for doctoral work
- Consider your critical and reflective abilities regarding the research topic
- Discuss the statement provided in support of the application, the research proposal
- Consider the availability of a supervisory team for the research interests identified.

Enrolment

Formal offer letters will be sent to successful candidates in due course after the interviews, with a view to candidates enrolling in September of each year. Dates for the DHeritage workshops are published by September each year and will be made available to candidates who accept a place, if one is offered.

Fees

Fees are published on our website at <https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>

This information was believed accurate and up to date at the time of delivery. We may however make changes from time to time to advertised courses or modules (or occasionally discontinue them), for example because of the way in which we continually seek to improve our academic provision and take on board feedback from students and other stakeholders, or to take account of changed circumstances. For instance, we may not run an optional module if insufficient students have chosen it to make it viable or if a key member of staff who taught it is no longer available.