

DHeritage Programme Information

With distance learning and campus options, and a commitment to hybrid delivery, DHeritage, the [Professional Doctorate in Heritage \(DHeritage\)](#) at the University of Hertfordshire, UK, attracts an international community of practitioners who want to reflect on and contribute to the latest thinking in what is a dynamic and ever-changing sector crucial to local and national identities and economies. The campus is twenty minutes north of London, UK and benefits from excellent transport links.

Offered full-time or part-time, the programme attracts professionals working in the heritage field broadly defined, including planning, museums, archives, community history, archaeology, and social and cultural sustainability. Applicants must have a master's degree, at least five years' experience of working in heritage, and a compelling research proposal.

DHeritage benefits from a rich, multi-disciplinary research context. Supervisory teams are composed according to students' needs with experts from History, Business and Tourism, Education, Architecture, and Urbanism, among others. Students follow the programme as part of a cohort, supported by bespoke training workshops on topics such as professional ethics, sustainability, cultural memory, and heritage policy, and our university-wide Researcher Development Programme.

As a professional doctorate, DHeritage students produce work which will directly impact heritage practice. Students can choose to support their dissertations with a portfolio submission including, for example, policy documents, toolkits, documentary films, exhibitions, catalogues, or heritage trails.

The University of Hertfordshire is uniquely well equipped to host DHeritage. Our students draw on the rich research contexts of our Schools, our research cluster [Heritage, Cultures and Communities](#), the University-wide collaborative expertise of our [Heritage Hub](#), our regional [UHArts](#) centre, and the [Doctoral College](#). In 2021, we were ranked 10th globally for overall student satisfaction.

Programme Structure

The DHeritage is modelled as a 6-year programme with three phases of study; however, full-time enrolment (typically three years) is available and in the part-time option there is the flexibility for students to complete more quickly (e.g., four+ years), 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 (years one and two part-time, or year one full-time), students complete 6 to 8 workshops, each consisting of a 1-day campus event (or online equivalent) plus a formatively-assessed independent assignment. Two workshops are required core study: Research Methods in year 1 and Project Development and Presentation in year 2. Workshops are delivered on a rolling programme by expert staff. 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 Schools.

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.

Phase 2

In Phase 2 (usually years three and four of part-time study, or year two full-time), 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 undertaken between 36 and 40 months of part-time study. This aims to verify the potential for students to complete their studies at doctoral level. Students in a position to complete early (i.e., in fewer than six part-time 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 final phase (typically the fifth and sixth years of part-time study, or the third year of full-time study), continue to develop their research, with supervisory support, and prepare their final Doctoral submission. Phase 3 students are always 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 c.50,000 words and a portfolio of supporting work demonstrating how research communicated in the dissertation can be used in heritage practice. The portfolio may include a substantial element of non-textual work, with potential outputs ranging from an exhibition outline or an exhibition, a digital resource, a film, an audio work, an extended archival finding aid, a code of practice, a guidebook or a catalogue or other published work.

All Phases

Research training support is principally provided through supervision, bespoke workshops, and through participation in the University-wide Researcher Development Programme (RDP) including the Spring and Summer Schools each year. Students are encouraged to follow elements of the RDP at appropriate points during all phases of study. Core parts of the RDP 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 with the University Research Degree Regulations. In addition to the formal assessments in each phase of study, the Annual Monitoring Report is a useful opportunity 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 overseas 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 once or twice times a year, and to complete workshops online, synchronously using Teams and non-synchronously using 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.

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 'Research Proposal', 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 (Research Proposals) and references, plus copies of degree certificates and passport details, should be emailed to Doctoral College Admissions, doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk specifying that the application is for DHeritage.

Entry Requirements

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 guide sheet is available from the Programme Director to assist with preparing 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 for a formal registration at eight months.

Interviews

Interviews are normally conducted with a panel which may include potential supervisor(s). The interview provides the opportunity to consider and discuss:

- the appropriateness of your entry qualifications
- how previous studies and professional experience provide bases for doctoral work
- the feasibility, relevance and level of the research proposal
- your critical and reflective abilities regarding the research topic
- what you need to succeed, e.g., research training, reasonable accommodations, etc.
- availability of a supervisory team for the research interests identified.

Enrolment

Successful candidates receive formal offer letters in due course after the interviews and enrolment follows. Dates for the DHeritage workshops are published by September each year and will be made available to candidates who formally accept their offer.

Fees

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

Contact

For guidance on preparing an application, including advice on how to write a DHeritage doctoral research proposal, please contact:

- Professor Dr Grace Lees-Maffei, Director of DHeritage – g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk
- Doctoral College Admissions team - doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk

This information was believed accurate and current 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.