

DHeritage Programme Information

Heritage flourishes at local, national and international levels where it takes many forms and its contribution to community building, economic prosperity, cultural adaptation and a sense of belonging is widely recognised. It is a dimension of any and all spheres of human activity and lends itself to study across disciplinary boundaries. Public history is emerging as a field, concerned with the many ways the past is put to use in the present.

The University of Hertfordshire's Doctorate in Heritage (DHeritage) is a broad-based, flexible qualification developed in association with experts from across the heritage sector. It aims to integrate scholarship on a whole range of interdisciplinary themes, including professional ethics, sustainability, cultural memory and heritage policy.

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 will interest those who are employed in tourism, planning, museums, archives, community history, archaeology, and social and cultural sustainability. It will appeal 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.

Students will follow the programme as part of a cohort, supported by research training and supervision shaped to their needs from across the disciplines of History, Education, Digital Humanities, Creative Writing, Creative Arts, Law, Business, and Tourism. Students will be able to select their topic and training according to individual needs and interests, and current developments in the field.

At admission, candidates will be allocated a Principal and one or two Second Supervisors based on the research area they have set out in their Research Proposal and in their interviews.

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, should they wish to do so and their progress indicates that is possible.

Phase 1

During Phase 1 (typically years 1 and 2 of study), students will attend 8 workshops, each consisting of a 1-day workshop plus a formatively assessed independent assignment of 4-6,000 words or equivalent.

Of the 8 Thematic Areas, 2 are required core study: Research Methods and Writing in year 1; Proposal Development and Presentation in year 2. Students will undertake a further 6 thematic workshops, delivered on a rolling programme by expert staff and available to all students on the Programme.

Students will also be supported by their supervision team in working towards their research degree registration assessment, which takes place 8 months after enrolment. Full supervisory teams will meet with students at least 3 times per phase, with additional supervision from the Principal Supervisor. Supervisory meetings typically coincide with workshops with additional meetings are scheduled between the student and the Principal Supervisor at mutually convenient times.

DHeritage students from all years are invited to the annual History staff-student research conference at Cumberland Lodge and become members of the postgraduate History Lab. Students with supervisors in other Schools will also be invited to join any similar activities in those Schools. DHeritage students are encouraged to attend the Spring and Summer Schools hosted by the University's Researcher Development Programme.

Phase 2

During Phase 2 (usually years 3 and 4), students will come into the university for four 1-day workshops, 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 will continue to receive the support of their supervision team, leading to a progression assessment by around 40 months of study. The progression assessment verifies that students are in a position to complete their studies at doctoral level. Those 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 at whatever point in phase 3 they are ready to do so.

If the participant has met the relevant criteria, the award of MA by Research is available at the end of Phase 1, for which participants would need to develop a submission based on their programme of work for this phase.

Phase 3

Students will continue to develop their research, with supervisory support, leading to the final doctoral submission.

The submission typically comprises a thesis of around 55,000 words and a portfolio of supporting work. The portfolio typically contains material showing how research developed in the thesis would be put to use in practice, for example, an exhibition outline, a digital resource, a guide or catalogue. The portfolio may thus include a substantial element of non-textual work, although 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 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. 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 available at various times during the calendar year.

Throughout the programme participants will be subject to ongoing monitoring and assessment of progress in line the University Research Degree Regulations.

Entry Requirements

Entry qualifications are assessed on an individual basis. Normally participants will have an Honours degree, a relevant Masters Degree and five years relevant professional experience.

Candidates without a Masters 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 TOEFL 6.5, preferably higher).

Application Procedure

Applicants for the Professional Doctorate in Heritage (DHeritage) Programme complete the University application form and provide a statement of no more than 2,000 words in support of their application (see below). 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.

The application form can be downloaded from <http://www.herts.ac.uk/apply/how-to-apply>

Please send the completed application form, statement and references by email to Dr Lees-Maffei - g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk - or by post to:

Dr Grace Lees-Maffei
Director of the Professional Doctorate in Heritage
School of Humanities
University of Hertfordshire
College Lane
Hatfield
AL10 9AB
UK.

To discuss an application, please email Dr Lees-Maffei, g.lees-maffei@herts.ac.uk

Statement

A guidance sheet is available from the Programme Director with further information about preparing the supporting statement. In brief, the 2000-word statement in support of your application should provide information on:

- 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;
- How your research interests will relate to your work roles and responsibilities, and be of benefit to the organisation;
- The nature of the research you wish to undertake, and initial ideas about appropriate research strategies.

It is recognised that your thinking about an area of research will not be fully developed. The first year of the programme is designed to support you in developing your programme of research.

Interviews

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

- Confirm the appropriateness of the entry qualifications of the applicant;
- Consider how previous studies and professional experience provide bases for doctoral work;
- Consider the applicant's critical and reflective abilities with reference to her/his research interest;
- Discuss the statement provided in support of the application;
- Consider the availability of a supervisory team for the research interests identified.

Enrolment

Formal offer letters will be sent out 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 the end of September each year.

Fees are published on the University of Hertfordshire's website at <http://www.herts.ac.uk/apply/fees-and-funding/research-degrees>

The information in this presentation 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 as a result 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.