



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE

DAAM
DIPARTIMENTO ASIA,
AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO

Master's Degree Course: ARCHAEOLOGY: ASIA, AFRICA AND MEDITERRANEAN

Program Overview

The primary objective of this Master's Degree Course is to train archaeologists and specialists in past cultures with a solid understanding of the historical contexts in which these cultures emerged. Students are encouraged to deepen their knowledge of archaeological theories, methods, and practices across the African, Asian, and Mediterranean regions. A distinctive feature of the program is its integrated approach to these geographical areas, with particular emphasis on networks of cultural and material exchange.

The broad and flexible curriculum enables students to design academic paths spanning specific regions (Asia, Africa, Mediterranean) and cultural-historical periods (prehistoric, protohistoric and historic times, the Classical world, Late Antiquity, Islamic cultures etc.). Alongside theoretical instruction, students acquire essential technical skills for the interpretation and analysis of archaeological data. Special attention is devoted to professional development through laboratory work and internships.

Career Opportunities

Graduates will emerge as qualified experts in archaeology and museum heritage, capable of working internationally as researchers, technical specialists, excavation supervisors, museum professionals, cultural event organizers, and editorial contributors. They may find employment in public institutions, private companies, and cultural cooperatives engaged in research, protection, promotion, and dissemination of cultural heritage, both nationally and internationally.

The program also provides a strong foundation for advanced academic pursuits, including doctoral programs in archaeology and related disciplines, as well as Italy's postgraduate Schools of Specialization in Archaeology.. Through hands-on learning experiences such as laboratory activities and internships, students accumulate certified training hours that support eligibility for inclusion in the national registry of cultural heritage professionals (as outlined in Ministerial Decree 244/2019).

Curriculum 3 - ARCHAEOLOGY: NETWORKS OF EXCHANGE

The new English-language curriculum *Archaeology: Networks of Exchange* (MAC/3), offers a more interdisciplinary perspective than the two curricula already offered in Italian: *Archeologie del Mediterraneo* (MAC/1) and *Archeologie dell'Asia e dell'Africa* (MAC/2).

The MAC/3 English curriculum focuses on the dynamics of contact, exchange, and reciprocal adaptation among ancient cultures. It adopts both a trans-areal perspective and an intra-regional approach, occasionally including reflections on modern legacies.

Courses will be taught by faculty with expertise in various geographical and cultural contexts, reflecting the inter- and trans-disciplinary ethos at the heart of MAC/3. This approach will encourage engagement with cross-cutting themes—such as settlement patterns and architectural models, production technologies, human-environment interaction, religious and philosophical systems, and research methodologies—examined through their development over time and across regions.

The structure of MAC/3 aligns with the general framework defined by the Ministry of University and Research. Like MAC/1 and MAC/2, it is organized into thematic areas grouping specific disciplinary fields and includes the following components:

- **12 exams** (each worth 6 ECTS/CFU credits), including **2 free choice courses**, which may be selected from other Master's programs at 'L'Orientale';
- **Other Educational Activities** (totaling 24 ECTS/CFU), such as hands-on labs and methodological seminars, are designed to build skills relevant to the professional fields.
- **1 Internship** (150 hours, 6 ECTS/CFU), to be undertaken at institutions, organizations, or companies engaged in the research, preservation, and management of cultural heritage;
- **Final Examination** (18 ECTS/CFU), based on a thesis to be defended before an academic committee.

COURSE OFFERINGS

SSD code	Courses	ECTS / CFU
1 st year		
Core area – TAF B		
Archaeology of Asia and Africa, and Studies of Eastern Civilizations		
1 exam to be selected from the list below:		6
(L-OR/05)	Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula	
(L-OR/16)	Rock-cut Architecture in East and South Asia	
Core area – TAF B		
Archaeology of the Prehistoric, Classical, and Medieval Ages		
1 exam to be selected from the list below:		6
(L-ANT/06)	Etruscologia e archeologia italica (ITA)	
(L-ANT/07)	Greek Figured Pottery and the Mediterranean Transcultural Network	
(L-ANT/10)	Maritime Archaeology of the Indian Ocean	
Core area – TAF B		
Ancient and Medieval History		
2 mandatory exams:		6+6
(L-OR/02)	Egypt between Africa and the Mediterranean: Cultures, Religions and Trade	
(L-OR/03)	A Socio- Economic History of Western Asia: From Villages to Empires	
Core area – TAF B		
Technical, Scientific, Economic, and Legal Education		
1 exam to be selected from the list below:		6
(BIO/08)	Antropologia (ITA)	
(SECS-P/08)	Culture Management and Marketing	
Disciplines related to the core area – TAF C		
1 exam to be selected from the list below:		6
(L-FIL-LET/06)	Mobility and Networks in Judaism and Early Christianity: Literary and Documentary Sources	
(L-OR/14)	Zoroastrianism Past and Present	
(L-OR/17)	History of Buddhist Ideas from a Translocal Perspective	

(L-OR/17)	Epigraphy in the Sanskrit Cosmopolis	
(L-OR/17)	History of Hinduism in the South Asian Transregional Network	
(L-OR/18)	Tibetan Cultural Heritage in the Global World	
(L-OR/23)	History of the China Seas	
(M-STO/06)	Ecology and Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean	
(M-STO/07)	Art Collections, Colonialism, and Evangelization in Asia and Africa	
Mandatory		
1 Free-choice exam		6
Other Educational Activities (OEA)		
4 Free-choice Educational Activities		2+2+2+2
Laboratorio di topografia e telerilevamento per la ricerca storico-archeologica (ITA)		4
Internship		6

7 exams (42 ECTS/CFU) + 5 Other Educational Activities and 1 Internship (18 CFU) = 60 ECTS/CFU

SSD code	Courses	ECTS / CFU
2nd year		
Core area – TAF B		
Archaeology of Asia and Africa, and Studies of Eastern Civilizations		
<i>1 exam to be selected from the list below:</i>		6
(L-OR/16)	The Archaeology of Settlement in the Indo-Iranian World	
(L-OR/11)	Archeologia islamica (ITA)	
Core area – TAF B		
Archaeology of the Prehistoric, Classical, and Medieval Ages		
<i>1 exam to be selected from the list below:</i>		6
(L-ANT/01)	Environmental Archaeology	
(L-ANT/07)	Archeologia della colonizzazione greca (ITA)	
(L-ANT/07)	Pompeii as a Commercial Hotspot in the Roman Age	
(L-ART/01)	Byzantine Art History	
Core area – TAF B		

Ancient and Medieval History		
<i>1 mandatory exam</i>		6
(L-OR/04)	Ittitologia (ITA)	
Disciplines related to the core area – TAF C		
<i>1 exam to be selected from the same list for the 1st year</i>		6
Mandatory		
1 Free-choice exam		6
Other Educational Activities (OEA)		
4 Free-choice Educational Activities		2+2+2+2
Laboratorio restauro archeologico (ITA)		4
Final exam		18

5 exams (30 ECTS/CFU) + 5 Other Educational Activities and the final exam (30 CFU) = 60 ECTS/CFU