

# MA STREAM IN APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY

## 1.0 Introduction

Applied Archaeology encompasses those dimensions of archaeological practice where archaeology meets, services and negotiates a broader social context. This broader context arises primarily as a result of State imposed statutory requirements governing archaeological practice and regulating the protection and management of archaeological resources, and where archaeology becomes a part of, or mediates, broader cultural heritage interests in society. Commercial consultant archaeologists are regularly engaged by proponents to service their clients' legislated archaeological heritage management requirements. Other applied archaeologists work for the State regulating practice and management of the archaeological heritage. And other applied archaeologists work on behalf of heritage interests arising from public, descendant group or other communities' direct engagement with their past. A notable aspect of all these activities is that archaeologists in applied contexts often are caught up in or mediate issues of practice, ownership, control, value and privileged access to the archaeological record.

## 1.1 UWO Anthropology MA Stream in Applied Archaeology

The Anthropology Department's MA stream in Applied Archaeology aims to address this emerging field of research in the discipline, to give students the opportunity to meet the educational qualification needs expected of licensed applied archaeologists, and to fully exploit the department's considerable strengths in this area.

The department's strengths include several faculty members with relevant expertise. Dr. Neal Ferris holds the Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology, and previously worked as an Ontario provincial archaeologist, regulating practice and mediating the various interests that came together over that archaeological heritage. Dr. Peter Timmins has had extensive experience working in government, running an archaeological consulting firm, and working on behalf of First Nations and other communities. Dr. Lisa Hodgetts has worked with First Nations and undertaken community-based archaeological research, and has worked with private consulting firms providing specialist faunal analyses. Along with the department's Archaeological Lab Manager Edward Eastaugh, Dr. Hodgetts has also developed a program and growing expertise in remote sensing and geophysical survey. Dr. Christopher Ellis has had previous experience working in applied contexts, while Dr. Jean-Francois Millaire brings his own experiences and expertise working with local communities in Peru and applying GIS and geophysical methods to research. Dr. Andrew Nelson, Dr. Christine White, Dr. El Molto have had experience working with applied archaeologists and/or in forensic contexts. As well, Ellis, Ferris and Timmins, along with Dr. Robert Pearce of the affiliated Museum of Ontario Archaeology, have conducted research into most dimensions of Ontario archaeology.

The Museum of Ontario Archaeology is an important resource for applied archaeology students. In addition to hosting Timmins-Martelle Heritage Consultants, one of the most progressive consulting firms operating today, the museum also hosts the newly built Sustainable Archaeology facility, directed by Dr. Ferris. This facility is unique in Canada and houses the compiled collections obtained from

applied archaeology across southern Ontario. These collections are digitized and that digital information is accessible for research, while geophysical, imaging and immersive environment equipment is used for advancing research on these collections. The facility also collaborates with area First Nations on the management of the archaeological record, and grappling with issues of applied practice.

As well, students in the Applied Archaeology MA stream also have the potential to take advantage of related Social Science Faculty strengths, including through the History Department's Public History program, which teaches courses and explores dimensions of the public engagement in heritage, and similarly trains students for a range of applied heritage professions.

## **2.0 Structure of the MA Stream in Applied Archaeology**

The primary aim of this stream is to facilitate MA-level student education and research in applied archaeology, through both course work and the focus of thesis research. All students who enrol in the Applied Archaeology stream complete their education with an MA in Anthropology. Students completing the program are either continuing on in their academic studies, or enter the applied archaeological profession.

Students who enrol in the applied archaeology stream do so because of the nature of the research they wish to conduct for their MA. This typically will consist of either: a) undertaking research on a site collection or field findings generated by consultant archaeology; or b) undertaking research on a methodological or theoretical issue in the practice of applied archaeology, case study review, or broader exploration of contemporary policy or program implications for the management of archaeology today.

### **2.1 Course Work**

All MA students in the Department of Anthropology have to meet both course work and thesis requirements to complete their degree. In the Applied Archaeology MA stream, students are expected to complete 5 half courses (i.e., courses of one term duration) and a milestone requirement unique to this stream.

#### **2.11 Required courses (3 in Total):**

1. All Applied Archaeology students must take Anthropology 9110 Principles in Applied Archaeology (other students in the cohort are able to take the course as an elective). As the core course for this stream, Anthropology 9110 provides an advanced-level review of the practice of applied archaeology, with a particular focus on the methodological, theoretical and practical issues arising from the practice of CRM or consulting archaeology in Canada generally, and Ontario in particular. The course explores how applied archaeology is situated in heritage conservation and land use development laws, and services the broader practice of cultural/heritage resource management in that context. The course also examines issues inherent in applied archaeology, ranging from determining archaeological potential, site significance and ethics, to communicating with non-archaeologists, dispute resolution, Duty to

Consult with Canada's First Nations, and the mediation of contested claims to the archaeological heritage.

2. In addition to Anthropology 9110, Applied Archaeology students are also required to take a core theory course, normally Anthropology 9100 Archaeological Theory. Where appropriate, and following consultation with their thesis supervisor, Applied Archaeology students may substitute Anthropology 9200 Theory in Sociocultural Anthropology for Anthropology 9100.
3. Applied Archaeology students also take one of two methods course offered to graduate students. Depending on their particular focus of research, Applied Archaeology students will take either Anthropology 9101 Research Methods in Bioarchaeology (typically when their research will be focussed on a site collection recovered from applied archaeology contexts or methodological issues), or Anthropology 9201 Research Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology (typically when their research will involve interviews and participant observation in heritage contexts).

### **2.12 Elective Courses (2 in Total):**

1. The Anthropology Department provides a range of additional course options for all graduate students each year. In addition, students may explore taking courses in other departments (e.g., GIS in Geography, Public History in History, etc.).

### **2.13 Research Seminar (Anthro 9010):**

1. All Anthropology graduate students are expected to enrol in the non-credit Research Seminar series and to present their own research results there. Full-time MA students are expected to attend for 4 terms (i.e., for the two years of the program), while part-time students are expected to attend for 2 terms (see 3.12)

### **2.2 Practicum Milestone (To Be Completed Prior to Submitting a Thesis):**

While MA students in the bioarchaeology and in sociocultural anthropology streams are required to complete six courses as part of their MA, Applied Archaeology stream MA students take five courses. In lieu of a sixth course, all Applied Archaeology students must complete an **Applied Archaeology Practicum** prior to formally submitting their thesis. This option is designed to give students real-world experiences through placement with an applied archaeology host. The Practicum typically will last 13 working days, completed either consecutively, or over a longer duration (i.e., one day a week for 13 weeks). While the practicum is not a course, it involves a comparable commitment of time for the student.

Placements can be with an applied archaeological consulting firm, public institution (government office, museum, First Nations office, etc.), or other suitable location relevant to the student's research interests (the student's own place of work, if applicable, could be an eligible candidate for placement). Placement will be determined by the student in consultation with their supervisor and potential host, and is intended to provide students with a diverse experience in the practicalities and challenges in working in applied archaeology. Upon agreement about a placement, the host organization will need to notify the department through the student's supervisor of their agreement to the undertaking,

while the student prepares a brief synopsis of the project. Both documents will be placed in the student's file.

The student will need to maintain a log of activities conducted and experiences and will write a report about the experiences gained during that placement. The intent of the practicum is to give students insight into the realities of applied archaeological career options, as well as beginning to make contacts with potential future employers/colleagues. The milestone will be passed based on the student's thesis supervisor's review of the log and report, and will show on student transcripts.

### **2.3 Thesis**

Thesis research in the Applied Archaeology MA stream will be broadly based within applied archaeology. This can include undertaking research on a site collection or field findings generated by consultant archaeology. Alternatively, the thesis research can focus on a methodological or theoretical issue in the practice of applied archaeology, case study review, or broader exploration of contemporary policy or program implications for the management of archaeology today.

**Thesis Research Proposal** All students must write up, present, and defend a thesis research proposal as a milestone towards completing their MA. Full-time students will typically complete this requirement at the end of winter term in Year 1 (i.e., at the end of course work). The proposal is normally developed as part of the requirements for Anthropology 9101/9201. Part-time students are expected to present a proposal after taking Anthropology 9101/9201, normally no later than after the winter term of their second year in the program.

Students are expected to generate an original piece of research that meets all the requirements for completion and defence of an MA thesis. Examination of the thesis follows the procedures set out for MAs generally in the Anthropology department.

### **3.0 Part-time Students in the Applied Archaeology MA Stream**

Recognising the interest in the Applied Archaeology MA program by prospective students who are employed full time in applied archaeology or a related field, there is the opportunity to complete an Applied Archaeology MA on a part-time basis, typically to accommodate their broader personal and professional obligations.

Requirements for part-time students are the same as above but with the following differences: The following rules apply to students enrolled part time:

1. Part-time student fees are half the rate of full-time fees. This means the part-time student timeline is twice as long as the completion timeline for full-time students.
2. During their coursework phase, part-time students may take a maximum of two courses per term. Please note that enrolment in the non-credit Research Seminar counts as one course, so only one other course can be taken during terms when part-time students are registered in the Research Seminar.

3. Part-time students are not eligible for School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies funding, such as Teaching Assistantships and Western Graduate Research Scholarships (WGRS). They also are not eligible to hold external scholarships such as SSHRC or OGS awards (which require full-time status).
4. If a part-time student wishes to do so, or if circumstances change (such as a loss of employment), s/he may apply to convert to full-time status. In the case of such conversion, the student would become eligible for Teaching Assistantships and Western Graduate Research Scholarship funding from the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), but only if there is funding readily available that is not already allocated to other students, and providing that such students otherwise meet funding eligibility criteria. There is no guarantee that funding automatically would be provided through conversion to full-time status. Once a student has converted to full-time status, all SGPS regulations governing full-time students apply. The student would not be able to change status again to part-time, except as allowed by SGPS regulations governing full-time students.

### **3.1 Considerations for Completing the Applied Archaeology MA Part Time**

Students who are accepted into the Applied Archaeology MA stream on a part-time basis normally will be expected to complete all requirements for their degree by the end of 4 years. This timeline impacts on the usual requirements for all MA students in the program, and requires part-time students to be familiar with how they are progressing. The following considerations will be taken into account as the part-time student progresses towards completion.

#### **3.11 Scheduling Courses:**

1. Part-time students may take for credit two courses per term. However students are strongly encouraged to only take one course per term, due to the heavy workload demands a second course would place on the student.
2. Students enrolled part time and taking one course per term during the Fall and Winter terms when formal courses meet will not have completed all five courses until the Fall of their third year in the program, since graduate courses are not typically offered in summer. While that requires the student to shift to research and writing later into their degree than full-time students, it is expected that part-time students will be beginning to undertake their analysis and research prior to completing all coursework, for example during the summer terms when they are not taking courses in the first two years of their program.
3. As the required graduate course for all Applied Archaeology students, Anthropology 9110 Principles in Applied Archaeology will typically be offered every year. However students are encouraged to enrol in the course at the first opportunity they have, in case the course is not offered in their second year of the program (e.g., if there were no new Applied Archaeology students in that second year).

#### **3.12 Research Seminar (Anthro 9010):**

1. All MA students are required to enrol in the non-credit Anthropology 9010 Research Seminar during their time at Western. However, for part-time students this eliminates the possibility of

taking a second course. It is also recognised that part-time students may have difficulty attending the Research Seminar if they are not otherwise expected to be in the department. As a result, part-time students are expected to enrol in the Research Seminar during the two terms when they are taking required graduate theory and method courses (i.e., Anthropology 9100/9200 and Anthropology 9101/9201) which are intentionally scheduled on the same day as the Research Seminar series. Part-time students are also expected to attend additional Research Seminar meetings whenever their schedules allow. All graduate students are also required to present their research results to the Research Seminar during the second half of their program.

### **3.13 Practicum Milestone:**

1. Part-time students are expected to schedule their practicum to occur during the Summer term of Year 1 or Year 2, i.e., usually before completing course work.

### **3.14 Scheduling Thesis Research and Writing:**

1. Part-time students are expected to have begun researching their thesis topic before completion of all course work, and particularly during summer terms in the first two years of their study. However, they should not do so until their thesis proposal has been approved.
2. Once courses are completed, part-time students are typically expected to complete their research by the end of their third year of study, and complete production of a thesis in the fourth year, in time to submit and defend within normal thesis examination schedules (i.e., in the summer of the fourth year).
3. In order to ensure that part-time students continue to progress toward completion, such students will be in contact with their supervisor on a regular basis after course work completion. The supervisor will be required to file with the graduate office a Part Time Progression Report for the student in May of each year, confirming that progression to completion is occurring.