

Module Catalogue

for the Subject

Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology

as a degree subject in a Master's degree programme with 2
majors
(45 ECTS credits)

Examination regulations version: 2026

Responsible: Faculty of Arts, Historical, Philological, Cultural and Geographical
Studies

Responsible: Institute of Ancient Cultures

Responsible: Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies

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The subject is divided into

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Learning Outcomes

German contents and learning outcome available but not translated yet.

Wissenschaftliche Ausbildung

- Der MA Vorderasiatische Archäologie befasst sich mit den prähistorischen und historischen Epochen Vorderasiens und vertieft die Kenntnisse der charakteristischen Lebensformen, Bau- und Siedlungsweisen sowie der gegenständlichen und bildlichen Objektgattungen in einem weiten geographischen und chronologischen Rahmen. Die Vermittlung methodischer Kompetenzen schließt eine fundierte Ausbildung in digitalen Arbeitsweisen ein, sowohl im Hinblick auf die moderne archäologische Feldforschung als auch auf die Modellierung, Vernetzung und Auswertung von Bild- und Objektdaten sowie deren Visualisierung und Vermittlung.
- Die Einbindung der Studierenden in die Lehre erfolgt zielführend und praxisnah durch die für das Fach Vorderasiatische Archäologie einschlägigen Formen der Wissensvermittlung, indem Themen sowohl schriftlich als auch mündlich in Form von Referaten präsentiert werden, um die sprachlich-diskursive sowie die schriftliche Präsentations- und Ausdrucksfähigkeit gleichermaßen zu fördern.
- Im Verlauf des MA-Studiums erwerben die Studierenden ein tiefgreifendes Verständnis für die konzeptionellen und praktischen Voraussetzungen für die Erforschung und Interpretation wissenschaftlicher Themenkomplexe und werden an übergreifende Kernfragen nach der Gestaltung menschlicher Gemeinschaft, nach der Wechselwirkung zwischen Lebenswirklichkeiten und ideellen Vorstellungswelten, nach der gesellschaftlichen und kulturellen Wandlungsprozessen, nach Konzepten politischer und religiöser Ordnung oder nach Konstruktionen von Raum und Zeit herangeführt.
- Im MA mit Erwerb von 45 ETCS-Punkten ist eine individuelle Gewichtung ausgewählter Themenbereiche komplementär zum zweiten Studienfach möglich. Die Abschlussarbeit (MA 45) kann dann entweder im Fach Vorderasiatische Archäologie, im zweiten Studienfach oder fächerübergreifend angefertigt werden.

Berufsbefähigung

- Der MA-Abschluss befähigt zu einer archäologischen Tätigkeit an Hochschulen und Forschungseinrichtungen (z. B. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Akademien, Landesämter für Denkmalpflege), im Museumswesen sowie in Archiven und Sammlungen auf internationaler Ebene. Darüber hinaus vermittelt das Studium die notwendigen methodischen und praktischen Vorkenntnisse für den Einstieg etwa in archäologische Grabungsfirmen sowie in die wachsende Zahl freiberuflicher Unternehmen in den Bereichen der archäologischen Visualisierung, Vermessung, Datenerfassung und Rekognoszierung.
- Neben den inhaltlichen Kompetenzen erhalten die Studierenden durch entsprechende Übungen und Praktika in verschiedenen Institutionen eine praxisnahe Einführung in die wissenschaftlichen Arbeitsmethoden des Faches. Darüber hinaus werden sie von Beginn an in laufende Forschungsprojekte eingebunden, was angesichts der meist interdisziplinären Struktur archäologischer Feldforschungsprojekte hierüber auch Einblicke in die Arbeitsweisen benachbarter Fächer ermöglicht und zugleich das Gespür für potentiell fruchtbare Schnittmengen in der interdisziplinären Zusammenarbeit schärft.
- Die unmittelbare Auseinandersetzung mit aktuellen Forschungsfragen fördert die interdisziplinäre Fähigkeit, Probleme oder Forschungsdesiderate zu erkennen und Lösungsansätze zu entwickeln.
- Die Teilnahme an Feldforschungsprojekten in verschiedenen Ländern Vorderasiens, in internationalen Teams und unter bisweilen herausfordernden Lebensbedingungen schult die Teamfähigkeit über Sprachgrenzen hinweg, den konstruktiven Umgang mit Konfliktsituationen sowie die effiziente Erledigung von Aufgaben unter Zeitdruck; zugleich fördert der Besuch und die Zu-

sammenarbeit auf internationaler Ebene die kulturelle Kompetenz, indem über die fachliche Perspektive hinaus z. B. sozio-politische, wirtschaftliche oder sprachliche Einblicke in die Gastgeberländer ermöglicht werden.

Gesellschaftliches Engagement

- Die Auseinandersetzung nicht nur mit den Kulturen des Altertums, sondern gleichermaßen mit der Forschungsgeschichte des Faches führt die Studierenden bereits in der Lehre an die aktuellen kulturellen, politischen, wirtschaftlichen etc. Entwicklungen der modernen Länder Vorderasiens heran und ist Voraussetzung für einen kritisch reflektierten Umgang mit aktuellen gesellschaftspolitischen, kulturellen und wirtschaftlichen Fragestellungen. Zu diesem Zweck werden im Rahmen des Curriculums Veranstaltungen mit forschungsgeschichtlichen Themen angeboten, die auch die politischen Hintergründe des Faches beleuchten.
- Die Teilnahme an Forschungsprojekten im Ausland und die Zusammenarbeit in internationalen Teams ermöglichen zudem einen direkten Einblick in die jeweiligen Kulturkreise und schaffen so eine oft persönliche Annäherung und einen nachhaltigen Austausch.

Persönlichkeitsentwicklung

- In den verschiedenen Seminaren und praktischen Übungen des Curriculums werden von den Studierenden eigenständig erarbeitete Themenbereiche nicht nur schriftlich ausgearbeitet, sondern auch mündlich in Form von Referaten präsentiert und anschließend unter den Veranstaltungsteilnehmern diskutiert. Auf diese Weise sollen inhaltliche, zeitliche und methodische Lern- und Arbeitsprozesse eigenverantwortlich erarbeitet und vorgestellt sowie die Diskussionsbereitschaft und -fähigkeit der Studierenden gestärkt werden. Die durch Einübung und Förderung erworbener Kritik- und Reflexionsfähigkeit (einschließlich Selbstreflexion und Selbstkritik) ermöglicht eigenständiges Denken und selbstbestimmtes Handeln.
- Durch die Zusammenarbeit in internationalen Teams, die Teilnahme an archäologischer Forschung im Ausland und die lebendige Auseinandersetzung mit anderen Kulturkreisen und deren historischer Entwicklung erwerben die Studierenden interkulturelle Kompetenz und Toleranz, die sie in unterschiedlichen Kontexten innerhalb und außerhalb des Studiums anwenden und weiterentwickeln können.

Abbreviations used

Course types: **E** = field trip, **K** = colloquium, **O** = conversatorium, **P** = placement/lab course, **R** = project, **S** = seminar, **T** = tutorial, **Ü** = exercise, **V** = lecture

Term: **SS** = summer semester, **WS** = winter semester

Methods of grading: **NUM** = numerical grade, **B/NB** = (not) successfully completed

Regulations: **(L)ASPO** = general academic and examination regulations (for teaching-degree programmes), **FSB** = subject-specific provisions, **SFB** = list of modules

Other: **A** = thesis, **LV** = course(s), **PL** = assessment(s), **TN** = participants, **VL** = prerequisite(s)

Conventions

Unless otherwise stated, courses and assessments will be held in German, assessments will be offered every semester and modules are not creditable for bonus.

Notes

Should there be the option to choose between several methods of assessment, the lecturer will agree with the module coordinator on the method of assessment to be used in the current semester by two weeks after the start of the course at the latest and will communicate this in the customary manner.

Should the module comprise more than one graded assessment, all assessments will be equally weighted, unless otherwise stated below.

Should the assessment comprise several individual assessments, successful completion of the module will require successful completion of all individual assessments.

In accordance with

the general regulations governing the degree subject described in this module catalogue:

ASPO2015

associated official publications (FSB (subject-specific provisions)/SFB (list of modules)):

??-???-2026 (2026-??)

This module handbook seeks to render, as accurately as possible, the data that is of statutory relevance according to the examination regulations of the degree subject. However, only the FSB (subject-specific provisions) and SFB (list of modules) in their officially published versions shall be legally binding. In the case of doubt, the provisions on, in particular, module assessments specified in the FSB/SFB shall prevail.

Compulsory Electives

(45 ECTS credits)

Module title		Abbreviation
Advanced Module: Material Culture of the Ancient Near East 1		04-VA-FMK1-242-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module teaches specific topics in Near Eastern archaeology. It deals with material culture, settlement and subsistence forms, and types of finds and monuments, reflecting on their informative and interpretive potential, contextualization, research history, distribution and chronology, taking into account the current state of research. Students acquire basic skills in independent scientific practice as well as advanced knowledge of archaeological methodology and presentation techniques.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module conveys research-based specialist knowledge and uses selected topics to practice in-depth, independent academic analysis and written elaboration of a given topic. Students are encouraged to critically examine research opinions and diverse sources, and to synthesize and present information according to academic principles.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
S (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module title		Abbreviation
Advanced Module: Material Culture of the Ancient Near East 2		04-VA-FMK2-242-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module provides a comprehensive knowledge of a selected period or region of Near Eastern archaeology, examining its characteristics, chronology and material culture. Both the history of research and current research issues will be considered. Students will acquire advanced knowledge of methodological and scientific approaches, disciplinary conventions and the presentation of selected archaeological topics.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module furnishes in-depth specialist knowledge and develops students' ability to engage independently and critically with academic issues and sources, and to develop and communicate selected topics. In addition to developing their specialist knowledge, students will acquire the ability to reflect on research questions and will be encouraged to contribute their own ideas to current research debates.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
S (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module title		Abbreviation
Environment and Landscape Archaeology in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology		04-VA-NLV-262-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module furnishes advanced knowledge of the different natural environments of the Near East and Central Asia and uses selected archaeological monuments of a region or period to examine the relationships between natural conditions, anthropogenic interventions and material culture. Students will study environmental conditions, topography, hydrology and various geo-archaeological data, and will learn various digital methods of evaluation, visualization and communication.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module conveys knowledge of the wide variety of landscapes and environmental conditions in the Near East and Central Asia, and the forms of human subsistence developed in relation to them in different regions and periods. It develops an understanding of the relationship between people and their environment and teaches the theoretical and practical handling of geo-archaeological data.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
Ü (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
a) term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) or b) project work (e. g. processing geo-archaeological data, approx. 50 hours total) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module title		Abbreviation
Advanced Module: Digital Practice		04-VA-FDP-262-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module provides in-depth knowledge of digital resources, tools and working methods in Studies of Ancient Cultures (especially at the interface of Near Eastern Archaeology, Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Digital Humanities). Selected archaeological and/or philological data collections will be used to introduce students to strategies for systematic recording and structuring, analysis, networking, modelling, visualization and communication within and outside academia.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module promotes the acquisition of methodological and practical skills for an independent and self-reflective working with digital data. The inherently interdisciplinary content of the module in the field of Studies of Ancient Cultures and Digital Humanities will provide students with innovative research strategies and transfer skills.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
Ü (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
a) project work (e. g. evaluation, modelling and/or processing of archaeological data, approx. 50 hours total) or b) log (approx. 15 pages) or c) term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) or d) oral examination of one candidate each (approx. 20 minutes) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module title		Abbreviation
Methods, Theories and Research History in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology		04-VA-MTF-242-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module teaches current methods and theories of Near Eastern Archaeology, while reflecting on their historical interdependence with the genesis of the discipline and of Studies of Ancient Cultures in general.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module fosters the reflective and critical use of knowledge and strengthens the individual problem awareness, judgement and argumentation skills. Students will be trained in interdisciplinary exchange and transfer skills.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
S (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module title		Abbreviation
Research and career strategies in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology		04-VA-FBV-262-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
15	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The module provides a practical introduction to working methods in Near Eastern archaeology and introduces students to possible research and career perspectives. Through selected case studies or independent project proposals, students will be involved in research processes and/or familiarized with research institutions, funding opportunities and extra-university career options.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The module opens up perspectives for advanced students in view of their career start in university or extra-university institutions. It develops skills in research and career strategy development, time and project management, and academic and professional networking.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
Ü (4) Module taught in: German and/or English		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
a) term paper (6000 to 7000 words excluding bibliography) or b) log (approx. 15 pages) or c) project work (e. g. elaboration of a research proposal, approx. 50 hours total) or d) oral examination of one candidate each (approx. 20 minutes) Language of assessment: German and/or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
450 h		
Teaching cycle		
Teaching cycle: after announcement		
Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Thesis

(30 ECTS credits)

Module title		Abbreviation
Master-Thesis Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology		04-VA-MA-242-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the professorship of Near Eastern Archaeology, holder of the professorship of Digital Humanities for Near Eastern Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies		Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
30	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
The Master's thesis consists of a written research paper addressing a specific problem within the field of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, which utilises scholarly methods and is completed within the time frame stipulated by ASPO (general academic and examination regulations). Within the Master's programme with a second discipline (45 ECTS credits), the Master's thesis may be of an interdisciplinary nature.		
Intended learning outcomes		
The student will acquire the ability to address a specific problem within the field of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, using scholarly methods, and to present his/her results in an appropriate written form.		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
No courses assigned to module		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
Master's thesis (40,000 to 50,000 words) Language of assessment: German or English		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
Time to complete: 6 months.		
Workload		
900 h		
Teaching cycle		
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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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