



Master of Arts in Archives and Records Management

Learning outcomes:

a) Subject knowledge and understanding

The Master of Arts in Archives and Records Management offers a well-structured programme of learning through which you will acquire the theoretical and practical skills of the records management and archives management disciplines. The course is built in a way to cater for whether you:

- are a newcomer in the sector who wants to build on your previous academic qualification and specialise in archives and records management.
- Have already attended the Bachelor of Knowledge and Information Management, and are seeking specialised training and upskilling.

The course will be structured around the concept of a one-year common compulsory component that covers the main theories, concepts, and practical skills of the two disciplines focusing on both traditional and digital knowledge management; the second year offers the opportunity to choose between:

Stream A - Information Governance

Stream B - Historical and Ecclesiastical Archives.

Stream A will equip you with the ability to deal with the ever-growing issues of information security, authenticity of records, GDPR, digital preservation, web and audio-visual archiving, appraisal, and accession practices.

Stream B will provide you with strong knowledge in the administrative history of the main historical institutions of the island and their archives also placing you in the international contemporary scenario. The stream also includes preservation and conservation skills.

As a graduate of this Master, you will be able to:

- Define theories and apply practices of the archival profession in the fields of archival history and science, modern records management, and digital technologies and preservation to become active members of the international archival community;
- Interpret the local dimension of the Maltese archival scenario with its peculiarities and place it in the international context;
- Dialogue and collaborate with other information professionals like librarians and museum curators.

b) Intellectual development

This Master course aims to address the challenges of teaching the archival profession and provide the best training to different kinds of audiences. The proposals to address these issues can be summarised as follows:

- The main aspect of the archival profession is that it is grounded in a strong knowledge of concepts, theories, and standards but it requires most of all exercising best practices in the field of managing, preserving, arranging and describing records, planning outreach activities, and creating access to the archival heritage. For this reason, most study units will include both the theoretical and the practical side of the discipline (cataloguing, surveys, site visits);
- The archival scenario is extremely complex and diverse, and archivists and records managers today have a multifaceted role both towards holding institutions/administration and the society/users. For this reason, it is essential to offer both the across-the-board theories, principles and awareness of the main concepts and problems (first year) but also a specialized approach according to the areas of expertise (second year, Stream A and Stream B). Stream B also includes a half semester dedicated to ecclesiastical archives that are the largest category of holding institutions on the island, most still awaiting to be described, studied and accessed. This focus on the archives of the Church in Malta is also functional to a broad comprehension of ecclesiastical archives outside the island. Moreover, studying the archival heritage of the Order of Saint John place our students in a unique position by equipping them with the ability of interpreting, arranging, describing, and making accessible the Hospitaller archives scattered all over Europe.

c) Key/transferable skills

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- value and interpret the diversity and unity of the archival profession and its main theories, concepts, standards and best practices;
- formulate specialized solutions in different settings including historical archives or contemporary records management environments;
- synthesize a wide range of theoretical knowledge in the practical aspects of the profession;
- interact within the dual nature of Maltese archives, their international dimension and the local specialty in terms of the uniqueness in supporting Maltese national identity.

Moreover, this course will foster intellectual, analytical, critical and organizational skills that will be of value in any future career.

d) Other skills

As a graduate, you will be able to:

- critically evaluate ideas and approaches applied in the broad information sector;
- argue in favour of records and archives management solutions especially in view of emerging technologies and new regulatory frameworks for public administration and the private sector;

- produce well-structured written policies and strategies for the vast arrays of documents and information management at the national and international level.

Furthermore, this Master aims to address an intellectual and cultural gap in Maltese society at a challenging moment when traditional and digital accessibility to learning sources and community services are assuming a more demanding approach. Libraries, archives, and museums play an important role in the cultural and memory fabric of modern societies.