



## Important Information – Terms and Conditions

### University of Exeter MA Archaeology Ayudar Scholarship 2026/27

The University of Exeter is offering a donor-funded scholarship, worth £52,023 to support a Colombian student studying the MA Archaeology degree programme on the Streatham campus in Exeter, commencing in September 2026.

This scholarship offers the student the opportunity to focus their dissertation on exploring some of South America's earliest and most visually striking rock art, using cutting-edge AI to compare thousands of ancient motifs across distant Amazonian regions.

#### **Dissertation Project description:**

In Greater Amazonia, particularly along its southern and northern margins and in elevated or rugged settings such as the tepuis and sandstone canyons of Serranía de La Lindosa and the Serra da Capivara, an exceptionally rich and diverse rock-art record is preserved. These assemblages include figurative motifs—human figures, handprints, animals, and plants—as well as a wide range of geometric forms.

Intriguingly, striking similarities—such as dynamic, animated human and animal figures, narrative scenes, and a predominance of red pigments—are consistently observed between motifs belonging to La Lindosa's Guayabero Tradition and the Nordeste Tradition of Serra da Capivara, despite these regions being separated by more than 4,000 km of tropical forest and savannah. Importantly, both sites represent some of the earliest horizons of graphic expression on the South American continent and exhibit long-lasting painting traditions characterised by persistent motifs and imagery. Such patterns have long puzzled rock-art researchers and have prompted hypotheses invoking early shared cultural traditions or pan-Amazonian belief systems. However, despite their significance, no systematic, cross-regional comparative study has yet been undertaken.

This project addresses that gap by investigating whether recurring motifs reflect broader cultural connections, symbolic systems, or long-distance patterns of human movement. It will apply cutting-edge artificial intelligence approaches—comparable to facial-recognition technologies—to analyse and compare thousands of motifs at scale from these rock-art localities. AI enables the detection of patterns and relationships that lie beyond the limits of human visual inspection. By quantitatively comparing motifs across multiple regions, the project explores their distribution, transmission, and cultural meaning.

(There is no fieldwork associated with this project.)

#### **1. Award Amount/s**

£52,023 total award amount divided between £25,550 full MA Archaeology tuition fees waiver and £25,473 total stipend.

This award is for one year only and is not recurrent for subsequent years of study.

#### **2. Applicant eligibility**

To be eligible for this Ayudar Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a citizen and passport holder of Colombia and therefore classed as an International student for fees purposes. Citizens of other South American countries may apply, but priority will be given to Colombian applicants.
- Already hold an offer for MA Archaeology at the University of Exeter, beginning in September 2026.
- Meet the University's academic and English language requirements in order to enrol on the MA Archaeology in September 2026.

### **3. Programme eligibility**

The full-time, Streatham campus-based MA Archaeology at the University of Exeter, beginning in September 2026. No other programmes are eligible for this scholarship.

### **4. Selection criteria**

The scholarship recipient will be selected by a Panel, based on:

- Academic merit, based on the information applicants have supplied in their programme application for MA Archaeology.
- The ability to demonstrate the following as part of the application process: clear career ambitions, that are relevant to this scholarship opportunity, and progress towards them; a clear case for receiving the scholarship, demonstrating the significant impact it will have on the candidate's studies, future plans, and contribution to the University.

### **5. Scholarship application process**

Once applicants have received an offer for MA Archaeology at the University of Exeter, beginning in September 2026, they may apply for the scholarship via the online applications form linked from the Funding Database entry: [MA Archaeology Ayudar 26 | University of Exeter](#)

Candidates will be asked for a tailored, personal response to the following questions:

1. In up to 300 words, state your career ambitions and demonstrate, using specific examples, how your studies, work, and extra-curricular activities have progressed you towards them.
2. In up to 300 words, make your case for this scholarship and the impact it will have on your studies, future plans, and contribution to the University.

The deadline for applications is 29 May 2026, and all applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than 30 June 2026. The University reserves the right to request shortlisted candidates to attend an online interview.

### **6. Exclusions and Exceptions**

These scholarships are intended for self-funded students.

If your tuition fees will be financed by an external body (such as an overseas government or Chevening, Commonwealth or a partner Institution) with whom the University has a shared financing agreement then this award may be invalidated or superseded with a different fee arrangement.

If you expect to receive funding from a charity this may also make you ineligible to receive this scholarship.

It is your responsibility to inform us if you are in receipt of any external funding prior to enrolment; please email a copy of the award letter to admissions: [pg-ad@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:pg-ad@exeter.ac.uk)

You cannot normally receive more than one scholarship (tuition fee discount) from the University of Exeter; if you are eligible for multiple scholarships, then you will be awarded whichever scholarship has the higher value.

## **7. Award payment**

If you defer your 2026/27 offer or change fee status, then your scholarship offer will be invalidated.

If you transfer to an ineligible programme, then your scholarship offer will be invalidated.

The scholarship will be paid as a full tuition fees waiver for one year, with the remaining balance of the £25,473 paid as a stipend, in monthly instalments directly to the student's UK bank account, following enrolment on the specified University of Exeter programme in the 2026/27 academic year and arrival to the UK. It cannot be paid as cash or attributed to other charges such as accommodation fees.

Tuition fees deduction/s due are applied to your student account and show in your online statement within the first four weeks of study. Where multiple awards have been offered, in line with the relevant exclusions and exceptions, ineligible scholarships may be removed during the first term of study.

The scholar must carry out the dissertation project described above, under the supervision of Professor José Iriarte, and no changes may be made by the scholar to the project unless agreed in advance - any departure from the planned activity may result in the scholarship being invalidated.

In the event that you withdraw or interrupt your studies post enrolment then the University Finance regulations at that date will apply as regards any repayment or other requirements:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfinanceregulations/>

## **8. Other**

The University reserves the right not to award this scholarship if a suitable candidate is not identified.

By applying for this scholarship, you are agreeing to the details of your application being shared with the donors to the award.

Please note that if you are successful and accept this award, you will be required to provide an initial profile and progress update/s to be shared with the donor/s of this award, documenting the impact the award has had on your academic and personal development. You will also be expected to meet with the donor/s of the award (virtually or in person), at least once during your programme of study, which will be supported by members of the Global Advancement Team. In addition, you may be asked to: provide a photograph and written or video profile to appear in publicity material relating to scholarships and/or study at the University of Exeter (which may be shared with the donor); attend University events and participate in other internal and external communications or ambassador activity relating to your award. You will also be asked to agree to the University contacting you following the completion of your studies to seek updates about how the award may have impacted on or influenced your career.

The University reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time. Any changes will be communicated to applicants promptly.

Version	Date
1.1 Final	23/02/2026