

SEPTEMBER 2019 ENTRY



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of History, Classics
and Archaeology

Undergraduate opportunities



Archaeology at Edinburgh

Study at one of the world's leading universities where we've been exploring the human journey for over 100 years.

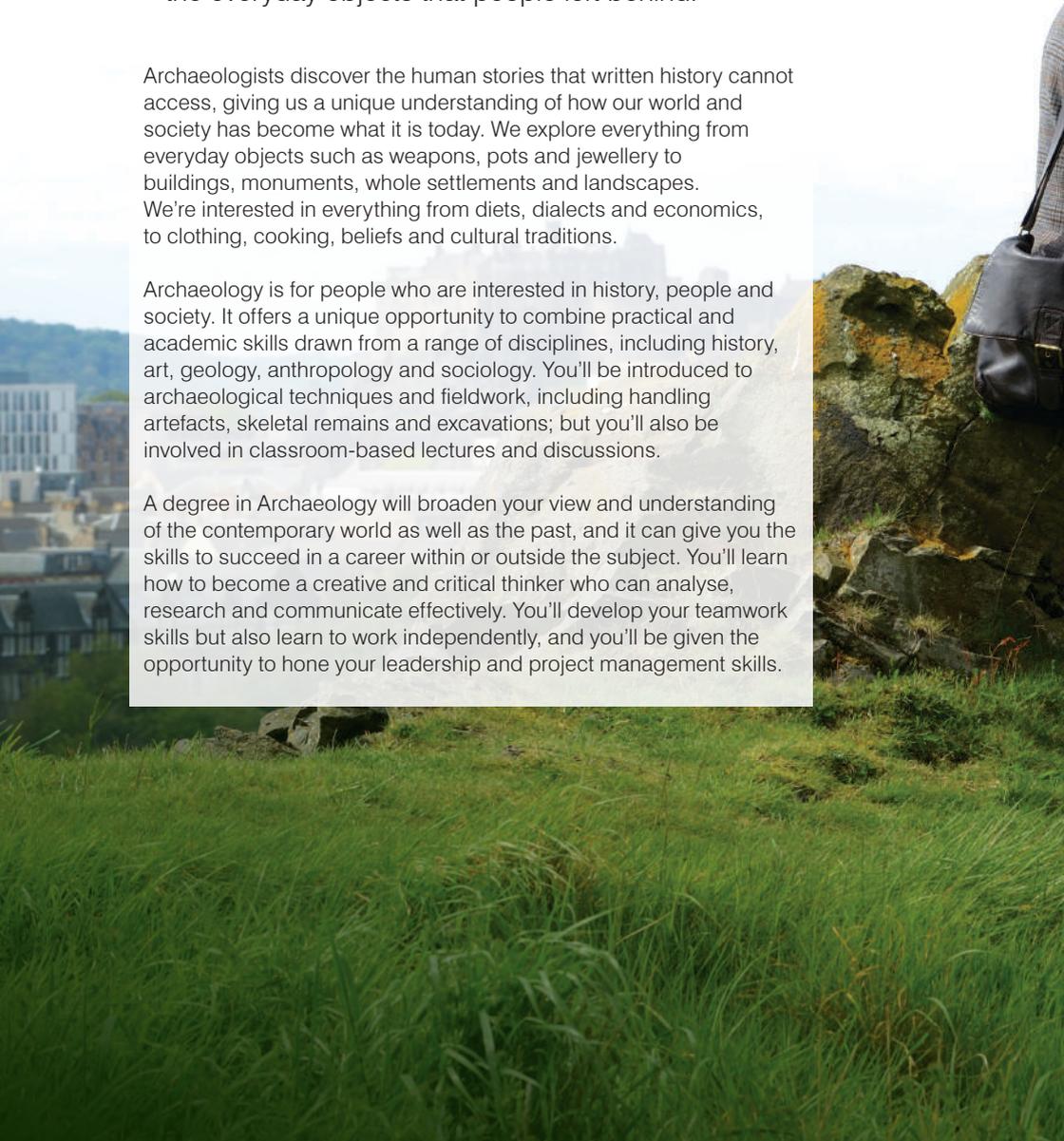
Why study Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of the human past through the medium of surviving artefacts and material culture – the everyday objects that people left behind.

Archaeologists discover the human stories that written history cannot access, giving us a unique understanding of how our world and society has become what it is today. We explore everything from everyday objects such as weapons, pots and jewellery to buildings, monuments, whole settlements and landscapes. We're interested in everything from diets, dialects and economics, to clothing, cooking, beliefs and cultural traditions.

Archaeology is for people who are interested in history, people and society. It offers a unique opportunity to combine practical and academic skills drawn from a range of disciplines, including history, art, geology, anthropology and sociology. You'll be introduced to archaeological techniques and fieldwork, including handling artefacts, skeletal remains and excavations; but you'll also be involved in classroom-based lectures and discussions.

A degree in Archaeology will broaden your view and understanding of the contemporary world as well as the past, and it can give you the skills to succeed in a career within or outside the subject. You'll learn how to become a creative and critical thinker who can analyse, research and communicate effectively. You'll develop your teamwork skills but also learn to work independently, and you'll be given the opportunity to hone your leadership and project management skills.





Why Edinburgh?

Study at Edinburgh and you'll join one of Europe's leading centres for the study of the human past.

A city filled with archaeology

Edinburgh is a thriving and cosmopolitan city but also a historic one where the earliest human habitation is traced back to a Mesolithic campsite dated to c.8500 BC. Traces of later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements have been found at a number of sites in the city including the hill fort of Din Eidyn beneath Edinburgh Castle. The rich archaeological story extends through medieval and later times and is found below and across the modern city as a constant reminder of a living archaeological record.

With archaeological sites on your doorstep and nearby, including the spectacular prehistoric henge and cairn at Cairnpapple and the World Heritage site of the Antonine Wall, Edinburgh provides the perfect setting in which to study Archaeology.

The capital city of Scotland with national institutions and museums

A particular strength of Edinburgh is the vast resources and professional expertise across the city, including National Museums Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland. Edinburgh is also home to many national commercial archaeological companies, with possible opportunities for fieldwork and work experience.

A world-leading university

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked amongst the top 50 best universities in the world. Join us and

you will experience the best in teaching, working alongside world-leading academics whose research informs your teaching.

Flexibility and choice

At Edinburgh, we offer something for everyone interested in archaeology. From prehistoric art and Egyptology, to forensic anthropology and laboratory work, to zooarchaeology and computer applications in archaeology.

The international coverage of our courses extends from the north of the British Isles and Scandinavia, through Europe and the Mediterranean basin, to Turkey and the Near East. We cover the whole of the prehistoric period and beyond into later history including the Classical World and Byzantium. You'll also have the opportunity to study bioarchaeology from year 2, working in our laboratories with human and animal skeletal remains.

Based within a wider School of History, Classics and Archaeology, we offer interdisciplinary options so that you can tailor your degree to your interests.

Unique facilities

We have five archaeological laboratories, including wet processing and bone chemistry labs. With our Vere Gordon Childe Collection, you'll be able to handle, draw and learn from artefacts from the Indus Valley, the Near East including Egypt, and Europe.

Fieldwork – at home and abroad

A key feature of our degrees is the amount of practical archaeological experience, mostly undertaken during

vacation periods. This can include excavation or archaeological survey work. Our students often get involved in staff projects during vacations or as part of their dissertation. Our staff are currently working on digs in Scotland, Spain, Sardinia, Romania, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Egypt. All students are required to take at least 3 weeks fieldwork and we encourage students to take the Archaeological Fieldwork course option in fourth year which requires a total of 10 weeks additional field experience, with some funds available to assist with travel and subsistence.

A vibrant community

We are a strong and energetic team of international specialists who are passionate about our subject and keen to share our enthusiasm with our students. As a student within the larger School of History, Classics and Archaeology, you will be part of a thriving and welcoming undergraduate community sharing an interest in the study of the human past through societies, field trips and other social activities.

A supportive environment

We want you to feel supported throughout your time with us at Edinburgh and a wide range of support is available. You will be allocated a Personal Tutor: a member of academic staff who will guide you through university life throughout the year and programme. Further support and advice are provided by the School's Student Support Office and Peer Support.



Archaeology degree programmes

Archaeology offers a range of Master of Arts (MA) degree programmes.

MA Archaeology

The MA Archaeology programme covers current thinking on some of the best-known and most spectacular archaeological sites, considers the most pressing questions in archaeological research, and provides an introduction to the tools and skills archaeologists require to reconstruct the past.

Our teaching is multidisciplinary, reflecting the broad range of disciplines (drawn from the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences) that underpin archaeological method and theory. A broad range of time periods and different approaches to reconstructing the past can be studied, including human evolution, later hunter-gatherers, the first farmers and the later prehistoric societies of the Iron Age.

Our geographical scope reaches from the north of Scotland over central and southern Europe, the western and eastern Mediterranean to Egypt and the Near East. We also specialise in osteology, the study of the skeletal remains of humans and animals, as well as forensic anthropology. In Years 3 and 4 you can choose to specialise in a specific time period, geographic area or culture.

MA Archaeology and Ancient History

Combining the study of ancient history with the theory and practice of archaeology, this interdisciplinary programme offers the opportunity to explore the ancient civilisations of the Mediterranean with a particular emphasis on Greece and Rome.

There is the opportunity to gain the historiographic and archaeological skills required to understand past societies, including the analysis of literary sources, understanding of ancient buildings and forensic evidence, as well as learning ancient and modern languages.

The rich body of literary and documentary texts that survive from ancient Greece and Rome provide fascinating insights into the culture and society of these ancient civilisations. Analysis of these compelling documentary sources forms a key component of this programme. However, historical accounts are often fragmentary, and are sometimes biased towards major events or prominent individuals. Archaeology, the study of the material remains of past peoples, offers an additional source of evidence for reconstructing and understanding the day-to-day lives of the ancient Greeks and Romans.



MA Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations

Combining the study of ancient historical sources with the theory and practice of archaeology, this interdisciplinary programme offers the opportunity to explore the ancient civilisations of Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Near East.

In the broadest sense, the ancient civilisations of the Mediterranean began with the development of farming and the growth of complex societies in western Asia and culminated with the rise of Christianity and Islam. The influence of these civilisations extended over a huge area from the northern coasts of Britain in Northwest Europe to the boundaries of Iran in the near east and beyond.

The rich body of literary and documentary texts that survive from this period provide fascinating insights into the culture and society of these ancient civilisations. Analysis of these compelling documentary sources forms a key component of this programme. However, historical accounts are often fragmentary, and are sometimes biased towards major events or prominent individuals.

Archaeology offers an additional and complementary source of evidence for reconstructing and understanding the day-to-day lives of the ancient Mediterranean people.

You will develop skills in the critical study of historical texts and the material remains of the ancient civilisations. You can choose to study the ancient languages, Greek and Latin, or modern languages.

MA Archaeology and Social Anthropology

Archaeology and Social Anthropology is the study of past and present human behaviour. This programme examines the diversity of human social and material culture both ancient and modern. Your undergraduate dissertation at the end of this programme can be in either subject.

Social anthropology is the study of human conduct and thought. Societies around the world vary enormously socially, culturally and politically. The study of these variations, and the common humanity that underlies them, is at the heart of social anthropology.

Archaeology is the study of the entirety of our human past from the origins of humans several million years ago up to recent times within living memory. Archaeologists study surviving material or physical remains to reconstruct the lives, societies and cultures of past peoples.

In contrast, social anthropology is the study of human behaviour in living societies. Understanding a living society and its members involves participant observation, spending many months or even years living with, and sharing the experiences of, the people being studied.

MA Architectural History and Archaeology

This programme aims to equip you with an understanding of architecture's formal qualities, theoretical frameworks and relationship to the wider cultural, social, economic and political circumstances in which works of art and architecture were created.

It also aims to give you an understanding of historical and archaeological methods and a sensitivity to issues of historical and cultural difference.

This includes the use of primary documentation and historical sources to illuminate works of architecture and archaeological artefacts and remains.

MA Celtic and Archaeology

This programme offers you the opportunity to study the languages, literatures and cultures of the Celtic worlds alongside the archaeology of Scotland and the wider world.

In Celtic, we work with the medieval literary tradition in Gaelic and Welsh, the most extensive in the whole of Europe, with the rich oral tradition recorded from the eighteenth century to the present day, and with poetry from the eighteenth-century golden age of Gaelic literature.

We explore nineteenth- and twentieth-century responses to the rapid social, cultural, and linguistic changes in countries where the Celtic languages are spoken, and work with the writing, song, and media production emerging from the lively and varied contemporary cultural scene in Gaelic Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Scottish Gaelic is at the heart of the study of Celtic at the University of Edinburgh, and at honours level, it is also possible to study modern Irish and the medieval Celtic languages. At all levels, we offer courses in language, literature, history, and culture, enabling you to build your programme by developing your own interests in particular areas, periods, and disciplines of Celtic studies.

Your studies in archaeology take you back in time, and help you to develop a parallel range of skills in the interpretation of social and cultural change. The programme also enables students to appreciate the material basis of archaeology, the contested nature of objects, the social relationships that are spun around them and the people who use and interpret them.

MA Geography and Archaeology

Geography is the study of the way the world works. It is a uniquely diverse and integrative discipline that spans the natural and social sciences. As a natural science, Geography focuses on the environment, mainly through landscapes and their evolution through space and time. As a social science, Geography is concerned with the relationships between people and their social, cultural, political and economic worlds. In both cases, the relationships between human and physical environments are central.

In integrating human and physical perspectives, and drawing on theoretical and practical approaches from the natural and social sciences, geography and geographers are well-placed to address issues of contemporary economics, social, and environmental concern such as climate change, environmental degradation, cultural identity, social exclusion and economic development.

Archaeology is the study of the entirety of our human past from the origins of humans several million years ago up to recent times within living memory. Archaeologists study surviving material or physical remains to reconstruct the lives, societies and cultures of past peoples.

MA History and Archaeology

This programme allows you to pursue specialist studies in history in combination with the distinctive insights and methodologies of archaeology. Edinburgh has a strong tradition in both history and archaeology and excellent collections of printed and material collections to support intensive study in these disciplines.

In history courses cover historical periods from the early Middle Ages to the most recent past; geographical regions including Britain and Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas; and a wide variety of approaches to the past, including political history, cultural history, social history, economic history, intellectual history, gender history, and global and transnational history.

MA Scottish Ethnology and Archaeology

This programme combines two related yet distinct approaches to the study of human cultures, past and present.

Ethnology is the discipline which studies the culture and traditions of developed societies and is sometimes described as being at the intersection where history and anthropology meet. While commonly offered in universities across Europe, this is the only full undergraduate programme of its kind available within the UK.

Focusing on Scotland, but introducing comparative material from elsewhere, you will study the varying ways in which a modern European nation expresses itself culturally, through such forms as its customs, beliefs, social organisation, language, music and song.

How do these help to create and shape identity in the modern world? How do we use and make sense of the past from within our present, and how can this understanding help us to shape our future?

Working with a range of rich materials, from traditional archives to modern media and digital data, you will develop the practical and intellectual tools to help navigate and indeed influence contemporary culture and society in an increasingly globalised world.

While the ethnology component allows for the study of the recent past and the present, your studies in archaeology take you a good deal further back in time, and help you to develop a parallel range of skills in the interpretation of social and cultural change.

The programme also enables you to appreciate the material basis of archaeology, the contested nature of objects, the social relationships that are spun around them and the people who use and interpret them.



What you'll study

At Edinburgh, Archaeology is a multifaceted and wide-ranging discipline. We specialise in European prehistory and the civilisations of the Mediterranean and the Near East.



Our programmes are led by dedicated staff at the cutting-edge of their disciplines, giving you access to the latest research and expertise. Staff interests range from early man through later prehistoric ranked societies, to the Byzantine world. We also have a range of scientific expertise, notably within artefact and material analysis, digital imaging techniques, computer simulation and in bioarchaeology, including osteoarchaeology and forensic anthropology.

With such a diverse range of specialisms on offer, you'll be able to tailor your programme to meet your interests and ambitions.

Our teaching

Archaeology courses are taught through a combination of lectures which provide you with a general introduction to topics, small group tutorials, practical exercises and field trips in years 1 and 2. In years 3 and 4 you will have the opportunity to select more specialised courses to focus on your favourite topics and skills. These courses are usually taught in small groups of 10-20 students and include lectures, seminar discussions, and practical training.

We use a range of assessment methods depending on the course, including a mix of coursework and formal examination. Exams are held at the end of each semester in years 1 and 2, and usually at the end of the year in years 3 and 4. All final-year students write a dissertation on a topic of their choice. Archaeology dissertations are based on student's personal research work, supervised by an academic member of staff. They may derive from library research or on some aspect of fieldwork. In the latter case, you may explore a specific topic using original material which results from a staff

research project that you have worked on as part of your practical work experience. For many students, the dissertation is the most personally fulfilling part of their programme as it allows students to build up an original and personal project together with an academic member of our staff.

Practical skills

We emphasise the importance of training in practical archaeological skills. You will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience of artefact identification and analysis in practical sessions using artefacts from our own Vere Gordon Childe collection. You will also have classes in our Computer Teaching Lab to familiarise yourself with specialised digital skills in Archaeology such as graphic programmes and Geographic Information System (GIS).

In your later years of study, you may also have the opportunity to undertake projects in heritage management and public engagement.

Fieldwork

At the end of year 1 you will undertake fieldwork during the summer period. After year 1, you may opt to undertake practical archaeological work in the vacation periods of years 2 and 3 with a view to taking the final year option course, Archaeological Fieldwork. We are able to make a contribution towards your fieldwork but the overall cost to you depends on the type of work chosen and the location, which may vary from Scotland to the Mediterranean.

Laboratory work

From year 2, you'll have the opportunity to take courses in bioarchaeology, giving you the opportunity to work in our laboratories examining skeletal remains.

A flexible four-year degree

Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge. In your first two years you can study subjects outside of your core discipline, before specialising in your third and fourth years.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- **Breadth of Study.** The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years.
- **Joint Degrees.** A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- **Third Year Abroad.** An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities can give you the chance to apply to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.
- **Final-Year Dissertation.** A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- **MA (Hons).** The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of the four-year honours undergraduate degree is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.

Study abroad

The University of Edinburgh offers students the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, transform your academic perspective, and help you to get the very most from your undergraduate career.

Meeting people with different views and lifestyles gives you new insights and widens your frame of reference. Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject. It is your chance to see something of the world, and to find out who you are!

You can apply to study overseas for Year 3 of your degree programme. We have partnerships with a large number of prestigious universities across Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Asia from which you may choose.

For further information on studying abroad visit: www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad





Life beyond the classroom

The friends you meet, places you discover and the lasting memories you create contribute as much to your university life as your formal learning.

Thousands of students across four different universities call Edinburgh home, giving the city a unique buzz and ensuring you will be in good company.

Study with us and you'll find a lively community with plenty of opportunities to meet other students socially. The School of History, Classics and Archaeology and our student union hold events regularly.

Archaeology Society

ArchSoc hosts a bi-weekly lecture series, workshops and regular trips to increase your interest, knowledge and practical skills in this diverse subject area. They have a very diverse social calendar with pub crawls and quizzes, along with an inter-society ceilidh and the annual Christmas meal.

www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies

Retrospect

Retrospect is the University's student-led History, Classics and Archaeology journal. Whether you are interested in writing about your subject outside of your studies, or simply want to gain experience in writing, editing, designing or publishing, Retrospect publishes once a semester with an excellent calendar of socials and careers events.

www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies

Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Programme

Created by one of our own students, our outreach programme gives all undergraduates the opportunity to work with local primary and secondary schools to teach pupils about archaeology. This is an excellent way to develop a range of skills and to enhance your CV.

Edinburgh University Students' Association

The Students' Association offers an array of bars, shops, cafes and entertainment venues, including the city's biggest student nightclub. Regular entertainment includes a variety of clubs, live music and comedy, plus debates and regular club meetings. The Students' Association also supports more than 260 student societies covering all areas of interest across sport, music, drama and the arts.

Advance your career

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We help students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

Six months after graduating, 94 per cent of Edinburgh students are in employment or postgraduate study. We are ranked in the top 10 in the UK and top 100 in the world for the employability of our graduates (Times Higher Education, Global Employability University Rankings 2017).

Career advice and opportunities to enhance your CV

Our award-winning Careers Service can help with your career choices, and offer practical advice about how to progress your career goals. The University proactively sources internship opportunities for students including on-campus summer internships, opportunities with local employers in a range of sectors for final year students and recent graduates, work shadowing with alumni based locally and nationally, and international summer internships, developed with our global network of employers.

Most employers expect something extra from today's graduates so the University also runs the Edinburgh Award to help set you apart – this award recognises student involvement in a wide range of co- and extra-curricular activities, and the skills and attributes demonstrated.

Stand out with a degree in Archaeology

With a degree in Archaeology from Edinburgh, you'll gain practical, social, intellectual and theoretical skills.

You'll gain rigorous mental training in a range of disciplines, enabling you to demonstrate intellectual flexibility and the ability to adapt to new situations and to learn new skills. You'll learn to think logically through developing sound research and analytical skills. You'll be able to compile and critically evaluate evidence in order to formulate and present an argument coherently.

Through fieldwork, you'll develop a range of practical archaeological skills that will enable you to appreciate more fully our human environment and its role in the contemporary world. Your laboratory work will introduce you to skills of identification, sampling and the analysis of material evidence.

Career opportunities

Professional archaeologists are in increasing demand on a range of projects across the UK and internationally. Our single and joint honours degrees will ensure you have the skills and fieldwork experience required to become a professional archaeologist for either a public body or a private firm. If you want to specialise in a particular area, you can also pursue further study at postgraduate level.

Our graduates are well-rounded people with a range of transferable skills that will give you the opportunity to pursue a broad range of careers. Our graduates have gone on to pursue a range of career paths, in heritage, the media, the civil service and finance, for example.



Drawn to
EDINBURGH
by our world-class city

You are in good company. Our 23,000-strong undergraduate community call Edinburgh home. Learn more at www.ed.ac.uk

Join us

For further information about studying Archaeology at Edinburgh, email:

**HCA-prospective-UG
@ed.ac.uk**

For further information about admissions, email:

**CAHSS.UGAdmissions
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To apply, visit:

www.ucas.com/apply



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