Archaeology BA /

In this programme some of the world’s leading researchers introduce essential archaeological concepts, issues, and analytical techniques. Through your selection of optional modules, field projects and dissertation topics you will also develop knowledge of particular chronological periods, geographical areas and specialist skills to support your own interests and development.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// UCL is ranked the second best place to study archaeology in the UK by the Guardian University Guide 2018.

// The Institute of Archaeology’s degree programmes offer a huge variety of optional modules, covering a diverse range of archaeological topics in both a theoretical and a practical manner.

// Optional modules (which may not run every year) include Greek Art & Architecture, Zooarchaeology, Archaeological Photography, Indigenous Archaeology, Archaeology of Human Evolution (to name but a few!)

// The degree includes 70 days of partially funded fieldwork: destinations have included Belize, Spain, USA, Romania, Portugal, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Wales, Scotland, Uganda & Greece (to name a few).

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The Archaeology BA and BSc share many of the same core modules in your first and second year. The routes then differ in the focus of optional modules as you choose modules with a greater (BSc) or lesser (BA) concentration on the scientific analysis of findings.

The first year provides a solid grounding in archaeological and anthropological concepts, practical methods in archaeology and an introduction to major issues in world prehistory.

The second and third years provide a more advanced understanding of archaeology and theoretical approaches, and allow you to develop your own specialised interests by choosing optional modules in particular subject areas.

In the third year you are given the chance to reflect critically on your fieldwork experience during the degree through a fieldwork portfolio, and write a 10,000-word dissertation on a detailed subject that you will choose, research and write up with the help of a supervisor.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Field Methods
// Introduction to Archaeology
// Introduction to Social Anthropology
// People and Environments
// Sites and Artefacts
// World Archaeology: The Deep History of Human Societies

Optional modules

// You will select one 15 credits optional module from the following:
// Introduction to Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology
// Introduction to European Prehistory
// Introduction to Greek Archaeology
// Introduction to Roman Archaeology
// Texts in Archaeology

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Public Archaeology
// Current Issues in Archaeological Theory
// Interpreting Archaeological Evidence
// Research and Presentation Skills

Optional modules

// You will select a total of 60 credits from the following areas:
// 15 credits in world archaeology
// 15 credits in archaeological science or skills – an updated list will be published each year
// Options in Archaeology or a related subject to the value of 30 credits
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Archaeology in the World
- Field Archaeology
- Dissertation

Optional modules

- You will select a total of 60 credits from the following areas:
  - 15 credits in world archaeology
  - 15 credits in archaeological science or skills – an updated list will be published each year
  - Options in Archaeology or a related subject to the value of 30 credits

Your learning

You will be taught using a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, either field or laboratory-based. Full use is made of our extensive teaching and reference collections and close connections to the national museums and collections of London.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a major component of the degree with 70 days of partially funded fieldwork being a compulsory element (fieldwork includes excavation / museum work / research and can take you all over the globe; other recent projects have included Montenegro, Peru, Wales, Spain, Romania and China, to name a few).

Assessment

Coursework, typically 1,500-2,500 word essays, is used to assess most modules. Most compulsory modules and some optional modules involve an examination element too. The completion of 70 days' fieldwork is a requirement for all students in archaeology.

Your career

Throughout the degree, which includes 70 days of fieldwork, students develop the ability to work collaboratively and effectively within teams as well as working independently in order to execute research. Students develop strong research and analytical skills and an appreciation of the importance of recovering primary data through practical experience.

Students learn to communicate effectively verbally, visually and in writing to diverse audiences and develop a sensitivity to different cultures.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

We use predicted grades, references, previous academic records and the personal statement on your application to assess your suitability for the programme. You should demonstrate your interest in studying archaeology and explain the measures you have taken to sustain your interest in the past. Evidence of interests and activities beyond the school curriculum will also be of benefit.

The UCAS application forms are assessed by a central UCL team and the Institute of Archaeology. The personal statement and predicted grades are used for assessment and sometimes extra information is requested.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: ABB. No specific subjects.
Contextual Offer: BBB. No specific subjects.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 34 points. A score of 16 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 32 points. A total of 15 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)
UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2020/21 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2020/21)
// Overseas: £27,540 (2020/21)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

Additional costs
If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

FUNDING
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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Brexit
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit

Disclaimer
This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus