

- BA Archaeology
- BSc Archaeology
- BA Integrated Degree
Archaeology and Ancient History
- BA Joint Schemes (With History,
Medieval History, Languages etc.)

School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University

Undergraduate Archaeology Degrees



Cardiff University and Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion

Cardiff University is one of the UK's major teaching and research universities and a member of the elite 'Russell Group'. Located in the centre of the capital city of Wales, it has an international reputation for the quality of its work that attracts staff and students from around the world.



Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion is home to four Departments: Ancient History, Archaeology & Conservation, History & Welsh History and Religious Studies & Theology. The School brings together 60 academic staff and around 800 undergraduates and 200 postgraduates in the Humanities Building, next to the Arts and Social Studies Library, and just a short walk from the heart of the capital.

Archaeology at Cardiff has been established for over 80 years and has attracted scholars such as Sir Mortimer Wheeler and Professor R.J.C. Atkinson. There are close links between the Archaeology Department and the National Museum Cardiff whose site is located only a few hundred metres from the School.

The Archaeology Department, which includes Archaeological Conservation (a separate brochure for Conservation degrees is available) has an international reputation for its teaching and research. It has long established esteem for producing professional archaeologists (including many university lecturers and professors, museum professionals and a former head of English Heritage) as well as providing a range of skills suitable for those wishing to find employment in other sectors.

The transferable skills provided by an archaeology degree, which include computing, research, illustration and writing skills, are increasingly sought after by employers and offer our graduates a wide choice of career opportunities both within and outside archaeology.

The School itself is housed in a modern building which includes purpose built conservation and archaeology laboratories, which were completely refurbished in 2001. These include a dedicated laboratory for digital photography, graphics laboratory, Scanning Electron Microscopy suite (one of the few Archaeology Departments to have such equipment), osteology laboratory and general purpose teaching and research laboratories, each with dedicated members of staff.

The range of teaching within the Archaeology Department spans from the earliest Hominids to the late Medieval

period, and covers Britain, Europe, Egypt and the Aegean. The 'when and where' modules, dealing with specific regions and periods, are supported by numerous practical and theoretical modules providing students with a broad view of the subject.

What the papers say about us

'Cardiff is long established as the front-runner in Welsh higher education and a leading player in the UK and beyond. It is a member of the Russell Group of 20 research-led universities and has two Nobel Laureates on its staff. Teaching quality is also highly rated ... the Quality Assurance Agency complimented the university on its 'powerful academic vision and well-developed and effectively articulated mission to achieve excellence in teaching and research'. Cardiff has done well in every edition of the National Student Survey, finishing just outside the top 30 in 2009.'

Times Good University Guide, June 2011

'Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside. The university is as confident and forward-looking as the city it's located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research. Almost 60% of its research is ranked as world-leading and it is a member of the Russell group of leading research universities. There are approximately 27,000 students, including more than 3,000 from over 100 countries outside the UK, helping to create a vibrant, cosmopolitan community.'

The Guardian 8 June 2010

Contacts

Information on Cardiff and the university for prospective students can be found at www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/index.html

For more information on our degrees contact the Admissions Tutor for Archaeology.

Email:
archaeologyadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4259

Which Degree is for Me?

BA Archaeology

This scheme is ideal for those whose particular interest in archaeology is historical, theoretical or field-work based. It offers a wide range of archaeological experience, including 8 weeks of fully-funded excavation, in-house where possible, and is open to students with a wide range of Arts/Humanities as well as Science A-Levels.

BSc Archaeology

Like the BA course, the BSc offers a wide range of experience, but focuses on the scientific aspects of archaeology, providing students with the opportunity to learn a range of analytical techniques and an in-depth insight into the ways in which science is used in archaeology.

The course still provides access to historically based and theoretical modules, with the 8 weeks of compulsory excavation experience provided on the BA scheme, but is normally open only to students with at least one science subject at A-Level.

BA Archaeology & Ancient History (Integrated)

This scheme provides students with the opportunity to study key elements of both archaeology and history of the Classical World, and draws on modules taught by both the Archaeology and Ancient History Departments of the School. It includes 8 weeks of fully-funded excavation experience, led by Cardiff University where possible.

BA Joint Schemes

Because of the modular nature of the Cardiff degree schemes it is possible to study archaeology in combination with a range of other subjects both within the Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion and outside it. Popular combinations include Archaeology and History, Archaeology and Medieval History, Archaeology and Education and Archaeology with a language subject. Many other combinations are also possible and students interested in these should contact the Archaeology Admissions Tutor for further information.

Field trips and excavation

Archaeology is a practical and visual subject, and as a result there are frequent field trips to archaeological sites and museums of interest. Cardiff is surrounded by important archaeological landscapes and monuments, including Roman forts and towns, Prehistoric settlements and burial sites, and Medieval castles. The city is also well placed for access to the great archaeological sites of southern England and field trips both within Wales and England are a regular feature of our courses.

Excavation forms a compulsory, and highly popular, element of the Cardiff degrees. Students undertake two 4 week periods of excavation during their degree. Fully-funded, these normally take place in the summer vacation at the end of Year One and end of Year Two, though other periods can sometimes be arranged. Unlike some other universities, Cardiff takes excavation training very seriously and includes it as part of our assessment process. This means that students are given proper credit for the work they carry out on digs, and that attendance on excavation is subsidised by the School. A wide range of excavations are available each year, and students have worked not only in Wales, but throughout the British Isles, Romania, Hungary, Greece and Egypt.

Teaching and learning

Because Archaeology is such a diverse subject it is taught using a wide range of methods. Some modules are taught using lectures which may be supplemented by seminars and field visits, whilst other modules are seminar based, and still others concentrate on practical classes where, for example, human and animal bones might be examined and assessed using a forensic report.

Science teaching takes place in the laboratories as well as lecture theatres within the School and provides students with an opportunity to use analytical techniques, and relate their results to their more historical and theoretical courses.

All teaching at Cardiff, whether on the BA or BSc courses, is research-led. This means that students are being taught by individuals whose research is shaping and re-defining the way we think about the past. Cardiff archaeology students are therefore at the forefront of new discoveries (and may be involved in making them themselves) and are well placed to undertake higher degrees in the future.

Bursaries and grants

For the latest information on scholarships and bursaries follow the links from our web page: www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/archaeology/study.html

Typical offers

(BA & BSc): BBB-BBC

(BA Integrated Degrees): ABB



Frequently Asked Questions

Views from current and past students

In choosing to study archaeology at Cardiff you may have a range of questions which can be answered by the information on our web pages.

To supplement this we offer the views of existing and past students by asking them to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

How big a change is university from school?

Joanne from Cheltenham writes...

"The change from School to Uni wasn't as big or scary as I first imagined. In the first year your tutors try to make you feel welcome and are very friendly, and in the second year you feel very settled. Making friends is easy as you are all in the same boat. There's a lot more freedom compared to school... There is plenty of work, but all tutors are happy to help in my experience."

Why should I study archaeology at Cardiff?

Sally from Shaftesbury writes...

"I was keen to take the archaeology course at Cardiff after I had viewed the department on one of the open days. The modules and excavations provided are varied and allow for a wide range of interests. Despite my degree being a BA, students are also able to do many of the science based modules (and vice versa), allowing for the opportunity to develop a wider range of skills. Many of the lecturers are leading academics in their field and it has been both motivating and challenging to be taught by those involved in current research."

Maria from Cardiff writes...

"The range of modules offered in archaeology attracted me to study at Cardiff."

Can I only study British/European archaeology?

Maria from Cardiff writes...

"As well as learning about different periods in British archaeology you can also study the archaeology of the Middle East, Rome, Greece and Egypt."

How easy is it to adjust as an overseas student?

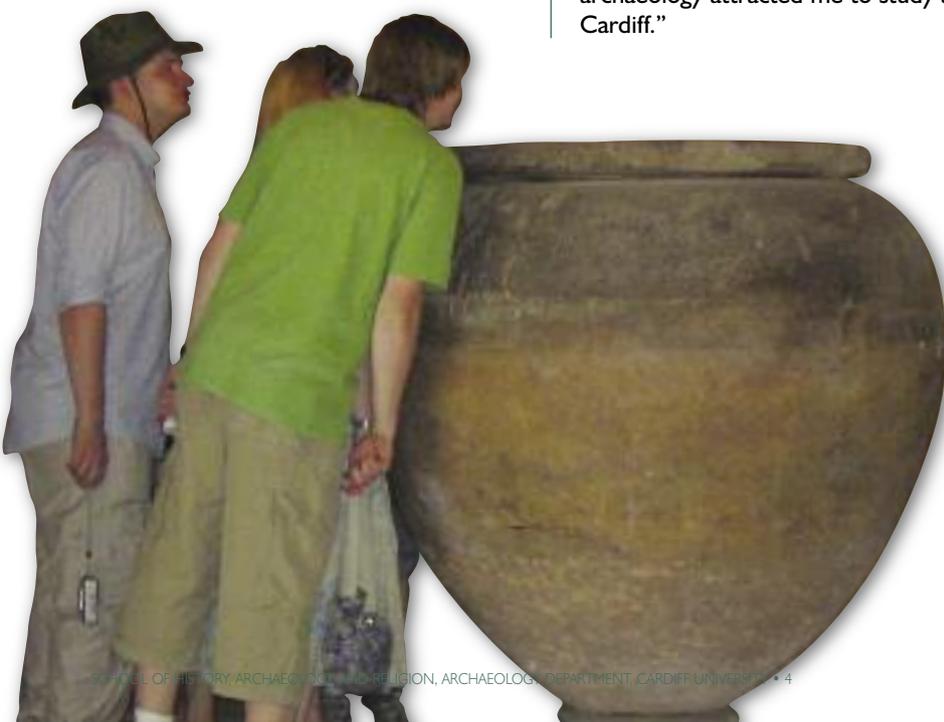
Yiota from Greece writes...

"Life in Cardiff as an undergraduate at SHARE (Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion) is particularly exciting. As a first year, I had the chance to meet many other students from Britain and all around the world. This was a fascinating experience and was a great opportunity to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. There are various student societies to cover almost, if not all, personal and intellectual interests. These are lively hubs, which link people with shared interests together. Being the first time that I was living abroad, I had to adjust myself to a different approach to organisation and study. Especially at the beginning this can be difficult, however, the support that both Cardiff University and the Students Union provide, proved invaluable, not just of social nature, but for other issues (from personal to administrative). One might find this funny, but the main problem I had to face in my first year was the rainy weather, as I come from a hot sunny country. The vibrant life in Cathays, and student commitments, make it easier to adjust. A sudden rain shower has always been a good 'excuse' to visit the National Museum, which is just around the corner!"

Will it help me find a career?

Sally from Shaftesbury writes...

"I've received a place on a primary teaching course for September, although I have found it possible to relate the skills and knowledge I have learnt to a wide range of job applications. Archaeology is most useful in providing students with the opportunity to develop both English and science skills; a balance not provided with many subjects. For those who enjoy a certain area of archaeology, the masters and PhD courses at the department also provide the opportunity to specialise."





About the Staff

The Archaeology Department of the School has 17 permanent members of staff. These include lecturers and staff dedicated to running particular areas of the School such as Photography or Graphics.

The lecturing staff can be grouped according to their research and teaching specialisms, **Miranda Aldhouse-Green**, **Dusan Boric**, **Niall Sharples** and **Alasdair Whittle** are mainly concerned with research on prehistoric Europe. This ranges from the transition to agriculture in particular regions and the development of archaeological landscapes through to the archaeology of gender and the iconography of early art. A large number of opportunities are provided to participate in the excavation of prehistoric sites.

As well as its reputation for prehistoric archaeology Cardiff is well known for the strength of its research in Roman and Medieval archaeology. Roman archaeology is covered by **Peter Guest** and **Ruth Westgate** whose teaching and research, with colleagues in the Ancient History Department, deals with various aspects of the Roman world. Peter Guest specialises in the archaeology of Roman Britain as well as ancient coinage. The Medieval period is taught and researched by **John Hines**, **Alan Lane** and **Denys Pringle**, the first two specialising in Britain and Europe, the last in the Near East and its Crusader castles and churches. Like their colleagues teaching prehistory, they also run field projects in which students participate.

Dealing with the Mediterranean and Egypt are **James Whitley**, who specialises in the archaeology of Bronze and Iron Age Greece and who excavates on Crete, and **Paul Nicholson** who runs research projects in Egypt. Again, Cardiff students have been involved in excavations in these areas.

Those specialising in particular periods or regions have, of course, broader interests which often involve those members of the Department who are involved in research into materials or the environment. Thus **Ian Freestone** is a specialist on archaeological materials and technology, and his interests link in with those of **Dave Watkinson**, **Jane Henderson** and **Phil Parkes** in Conservation as well as with **Paul Nicholson** who works on Egyptian materials. **Jacqui Mulville**, as well as conducting excavations in the

Scilly Isles, specialises in Forensic and Osteoarchaeology (the study of bones), and so trains students who can help on a variety of excavation projects, as well as conducting her own research in these areas.

Archaeological research is increasingly high-tech, and this is reflected not only in the range of scientific equipment available, but also in our commitment to the research and teaching of computer applications. **Steve Mills** specialises in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and has conducted research on soundscapes in Neolithic Romania, as well as early industrial Cornwall. Computerised illustration, as well as conventional drawing, is carried out by **Ian Dennis** and **Howard Mason** and complemented by a digital photography suite run by **John Morgan**. All three have been involved in the teaching of photography and graphics to undergraduate and postgraduate students. All computer applications are supported by **Aled Cooke** who, like Howard, John and Ian, provides this service for the whole School.

The School has a number of administrative staff, one of them dedicated to the Archaeology Department.

The many links between members of staff within Archaeology, and between Archaeology, Ancient History, History and Religion make the School a lively and dynamic research environment, and one into which students readily fit. Many future archaeologists get their first taste of real research whilst working with staff on their projects in the UK or abroad, and because our teaching is 'research-led' students are at the cutting edge of the latest discoveries in archaeology.



Modules

Archaeology modules typically on offer

Aegean Bronze Age: Emergence to Collapse
Analysis of Artefacts
Archaeological Dissertation (Year 3)
Archaeological Fieldwork 1 & 2
Archaeological Photography
Archaeological Science
Archaeological Science Dissertation
Archaeology of Crusader Palestine
Art & Archaeology of Archaic Greece
Art & Archaeology of Classical Greece
Bioarchaeology
Complex Societies in Barbarian Europe
Death and Burial in the Roman World
Early Anglo-Saxon England
Egyptian Funerary Archaeology
Environmental Archaeology
Forensic and Osteoarchaeology
Independent Archaeological Study
Independent Science Project

Introduction to the Museum Environment
Iron Age Britain
Later Bronze Age Britain
Material Study & Recording
Mediaeval Archaeology (1066-1539)
Middle and Later Saxon England
Museology
Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Britain
Neolithic Beginnings: Last Foragers and First Farmers in the Eastern Mediterranean
Neolithic Europe
Pharaohs of the Sun
Post-Roman Celtic Britain
Practical Projects 1 & 2
Roman Britain
Surveying and Prospecting
Technology & Materials
The Archaeology of Late Antiquity
The History of Archaeological Thought
Viking Age Scandinavia
Viking Britain and Ireland



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