

BA (Hons)

Archaeology

UCAS code V400

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Studying Archaeology gives you a means to investigate the past, and an opportunity to study the major developments in human society – from the origins of humans to the development of the great civilisations.

Introduction

Studying human, animal and plant remains, artefacts and art, you will learn how to reconstruct the past from its material remains. You will investigate the major social, economic, religious and technological developments in long-term human history, from Britain to South Africa and Spain to China, and learn how to carry out archaeological excavation and survey.

Optional modules will allow you to explore specific cultural areas, time periods, analytical methods or interpretive themes from an archaeological perspective.

What you'll learn

- Detailed knowledge of the practice and theory of archaeology as an approach to understanding past societies

- A practical knowledge of the techniques of archaeological excavation and recording
 - Broad comparative knowledge of the archaeology of selected geographical regions and chronological periods
 - Practical experience of the recovery of primary archaeological data
 - Analysis and critical reflection on a range of archaeological data
 - Theoretical concepts within Archaeology
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Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists \(CIfA\)](#).

Accreditation in detail

CIfA

[Chartered Institute for Archaeologists \(CIfA\)](#) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society. We are the authoritative and effective voice for archaeologists, bringing recognition and respect to our profession.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

Year one modules provide students with a broad introduction to both archaeological methods and the archaeology of particular times and places around the world (including Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, Africa and Europe).

All year one modules are required.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY101)	15
THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITY (ALGY105)	15
BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATIONS: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN (ALGY106)	15
FROM VILLAGE TO CITY: THE ORIGINS OF CHINESE CIVILISATION (ALGY112)	15
THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY102)	15
EMPIRES AND CITIZENS: THE CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND THE NEAR EAST (ALGY131)	15
ISSUES IN EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY (ALGY141)	15
VISUAL CULTURE (CLAH114)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Year two builds on the foundational modules of year one, introducing specialist modules that provide training in key concepts and techniques from the inorganic (eg metals, glass, pottery) and organic (eg human bones, plants, DNA) archaeological evidence.

Students take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in semester one.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester two.

Optional modules must be chosen from at least **TWO** pathways:

Pathway 1 – Archaeological Methods and Practice

Pathway 2 – Prehistory

Pathway 3 – Ancient Near East

Pathway 4 – Classical and pre-Classical Mediterranean

Students are required to complete 20 days of archaeological fieldwork training, normally during the summer vacation period at the end of year one and year two. The fieldwork is assessed on ALGY248.

Registration onto HLAC220 is only for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
WORKING WITH THE PAST (ALGY248)	15
ARTEFACTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ALGY250)	15
RETHINKING STONEHENGE (BRITISH AND IRISH PREHISTORY) (ALGY283)	15

Optional modules	Credits
PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)	15
PLANTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PAST: METHOD AND PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOBOTANY (ALGY220)	15
NOMADS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EURASIA (ALGY223)	15
ANCIENT WARFARE (ALGY210)	15
AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)	15
CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND CULTURE: SICILY FROM PROTOHISTORY TO THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD (CLAH225)	15
INDIGENOUS AMERICAS (ALGY258)	15
HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY266)	15
OLD WORLDS AND WORK FUTURES: PLACEMENTS IN ACE (CLAH222)	15
MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)	15
DEATH AND MORTUARY PRACTICES (ALGY224)	15
SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)	15
THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)	15
THE ROMAN EXPERIENCE: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND HERITAGE (CLAH263)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

Students take the core modules listed below including a compulsory dissertation (equivalent to two 15 credit modules), which is a subject of the student's choice researched in depth under the guidance of a staff member.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester one, and 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in semester two.

Optional modules must be chosen from at least **TWO** pathways:

Pathway 1 – Archaeological Methods and Practice

Pathway 2 – Prehistory

Pathway 3 – Ancient Near East

Pathway 4 – Classical and pre-Classical Mediterranean

ALGY450 is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES (ALGY399)	15
DISSERTATION (ALGY450)	30

Optional modules	Credits
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIALS: ANALYTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS (ALGY397)	15
EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN MIND (ALGY240)	15
PALAEOLITHIC ART IN EUROPE (ALGY361)	15

Optional modules	Credits
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN EUROPE (ALGY268)	15
AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)	15
THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE AND SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST (ALGY356)	15
SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT (ALGY376)	15
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD (ALGY364)	15
ARCHAIC GREEK COLONISATION AND BRITISH COLONIAL THOUGHT (ALGY336)	15
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST (ALGY383)	15
HUMAN ORIGINS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EARLY AND MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE (ALGY229)	15
SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)	15
THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)	15
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY342)	15
THE CELTS (IRON AGE EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN) (ALGY358)	15
SOCIAL LIFE IN EGYPT (ALGY377)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Combined degree

Choosing this subject as a combined degree

Year one modules provide you with a broad introduction to both archaeological methods and the archaeology of particular times and places around the world. Years two and three build on this foundation through a range of lecture, laboratory and practical skills-based modules. Students studying Archaeology as a joint degree can participate in additional, overseas research excavations. These are currently in Sicily, Bulgaria, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Southern Africa and Ireland as well as the UK.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Modules are delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in Year One, in Year Two the lecture element within modules is complemented by student led seminars. Finally, in Year Three, most modules are delivered by a short series of lectures with a focus on student-led seminars thereafter. Self-directed study is also expected through the course reading list and conducting research for your essays and projects. Academic staff are regularly available via their office hours for one-to-one feedback and support. Course material is available 24-hours a day on Canvas, our online learning platform, and study support is available from our dedicated student services team.

How you're assessed

Typical forms of assessment include:

- Exams – an examination may cover essay-based work or language work
- Essays or projects
- Portfolio submission – such as a critical reflection of seminars
- Presentations
- In-class tests and continuous assessment (primarily used for language modules)

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and

understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

An Archaeology degree from Liverpool provides you with a rigorous training experience that produces graduates with an exceptional breadth of knowledge.

Our graduates are well-equipped for a wide variety of private or public sector careers, including in finance, journalism, teaching, law, the police or Civil Service, tourism, and heritage management where knowledge of archaeology is a specific advantage.

Past students have successfully gained employment in universities and major museums, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Recent employers include:

- The National Trust
- English Heritage
- Civil Service
- Archaeology South East
- Police Service
- Apple

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This includes specialist equipment and fieldwork costs.

Students will be required to cover the costs listed below for year one compulsory fieldwork- two weeks in Penycloddiau, North Wales:

- Approved 4-inch WHS Spear and Jackson wood-handled trowel, such as [this one](#). Students can buy a trowel for around £10-14. Please note that gardening trowels are not appropriate.

- Students will pay a sustenance contribution for food during the trip. This was £100 in 2017.

In year two, those who must complete a further two weeks of fieldwork have several options with varying costs. Some options are based in the UK and have no additional costs, others are based abroad. For those choosing to join a site abroad, students will be expected to pay for their own flights, accommodation, and sustenance. The costs for this vary from site to site.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

BBB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBC** from A levels, with **B** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.

International Baccalaureate

30 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H2, H2, H2, H3, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are acceptable.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma(Humanities/Social Science) with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
 - If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
 - [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.
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English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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