



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BSc (Hons)

Archaeology

UCAS code V402

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **14 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Scientific analyses of archaeological remains are today answering some of humankind's most fundamental questions, from climate change and the origins of agriculture, to the health implications of our ancestors' diets and the economy of metals in early empires.

Introduction

If you want to learn the skills required to join this vibrant area of scholarship, the Archaeology BSc will train you in scientific methods used at the forefront of many important discoveries.

Taught by world-leading researchers in materials analysis, bioarchaeology and environmental reconstruction, this degree provides you with experience of the key issues and methods in archaeological science. As with the Archaeology BA, this degree programme will also provide you with a fundamental understanding of archaeological methods and theory combined with the study of the archaeology of specific geographical areas and chronological periods.

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
- An understanding of the development of Archaeology, specifically Archaeological science, as a discipline

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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 modules in Year 1 are required.

Modules

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

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

Year two

Year Two builds on Year One's foundation, introducing specialist modules that provide training in key concepts and techniques from the inorganic (eg metals, glass, pottery) and organic (eg human and animal bones, plants, DNA) archaeological evidence.

You will also gain knowledge of key issues and discoveries in the archaeology of many parts of Europe, Asia and Africa. This programme has an archaeological fieldwork (and/or museum-based experience) requirement that totals four weeks. Year One fieldwork usually consists of participation in a department organised training project for two weeks. In Year Two, students are placed on an appropriate excavation or relevant professional experience. Currently there are departmental research projects in Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Zambia as well as the UK.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in Semester 1.

Students must take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in Semester 1, and 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in Semester 2.

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 1 and Year 2. The fieldwork is assessed on **ALGY248**.

CLAH222 requires prior approval and is subject to a suitable placement being sourced. Students will not be able to register directly for this module.

Registration onto **HLAC220** is for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year between second and final year, or for those who are interested in developing their transferable skills in preparation for a short placement or other work experience.

Students may take 15 credits of optional cognate modules outside of their degree programme with permission from the Subject Lead.

CLAH263 includes a five-day research and learning experience in Italy. For further details please contact the Module Convenor. Students wishing to take **CLAH263** must have taken **CLAH104**, **CLAH105** or **ALGY131**.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>WORKING WITH THE PAST (ALGY248)</u>	15
<u>PLANTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PAST: METHOD AND PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOBOTANY (ALGY220)</u>	15
<u>ARTEFACTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ALGY250)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY266)</u>	15
<u>RETHINKING STONEHENGE (BRITISH AND IRISH PREHISTORY) (ALGY283)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)</u>	15
<u>ANCIENT WARFARE (ALGY210)</u>	15
<u>NOMADS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EURASIA (ALGY223)</u>	15
<u>AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)</u>	15
<u>CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND CULTURE: SICILY FROM PROTOHISTORY TO THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD (CLAH225)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INDIGENOUS AMERICAS (ALGY258)</u>	15
<u>OLD WORLDS AND WORK FUTURES: PLACEMENTS IN ACE (CLAH222)</u>	15
<u>MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)</u>	15
<u>DEATH AND MORTUARY PRACTICES (ALGY224)</u>	15
<u>SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)</u>	15
<u>THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)</u>	15
<u>THE ROMAN EXPERIENCE: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND HERITAGE (CLAH263)</u>	15

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

Year three

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

Students then choose their four remaining modules from the list of selected optional modules. At least two of the chosen modules should be related to the dissertation topic.

Students take 45 credits of required modules and 15 credits of optional modules in Semester 1, and 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in Semester 2.

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.

With the permission of the subject lead, it is also possible to choose 15 credits from those offered at Level 5 so as to fit the themed pathway or support your dissertation.

Students may take 15 credits of optional cognate modules outside of their degree programme with permission from the Subject Lead.

Students may only take **ALGY213**, **ALGY288** or **ALGY386** in their final year if they have not taken them before.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (ALGY450)</u>	30
<u>ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES (ALGY399)</u>	15
<u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIALS: ANALYTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS (ALGY397)</u>	15
<u>ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (ALGY362)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN MIND (ALGY240)</u>	15
<u>THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN EUROPE (ALGY268)</u>	15
<u>THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE AND SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST (ALGY356)</u>	15
<u>PALAEOLITHIC ART IN EUROPE (ALGY361)</u>	15
<u>AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD (ALGY364)</u>	15
<u>ARCHAIC GREEK COLONISATION AND BRITISH COLONIAL THOUGHT (ALGY336)</u>	15
<u>PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST (ALGY383)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN ORIGINS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EARLY AND MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE (ALGY229)</u>	15
<u>SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)</u>	15
<u>BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY342)</u>	15
<u>THE CELTS (IRON AGE EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN) (ALGY358)</u>	15
<u>THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)</u>	15

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

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
- Practical and laboratory sessions, primarily used for teaching techniques and knowledge for the analysis for specific classes of archaeological material. Some modules taught by practical session are examined by continuously assessed coursework alone, often comprising short practical examinations and longer reports on an assemblage of artefacts or remains.

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.

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

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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 abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £27,000

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

The UK and international full-time fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 (UK fees are subject to Parliamentary approval). UK year abroad and year in industry fees and international year in industry fees shown are for entry 2025, as 2026/27 fees have yet to be confirmed. 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 **BBB** 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 and may make offers at DDM.

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, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

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.

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

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. 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	6 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
below 5.5		
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	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 below 4.5, and no component below 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.

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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