

BA (Hons)

Archaeology of Ancient Civilisations

UCAS code V401

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration	Apply by: 14 January 2026
A level: BBB	Full-time	3 years	Starts on: 28 September 2026

About this course

If you are fascinated by the ancient civilisations of Egypt, the Mediterranean and the Near East, this programme allows you to study these civilisations with a unique range and depth. You will be introduced to the archaeology, culture, society and history of the key civilisations of Ancient Greece, Egypt, Rome and the Near East, combined with training in the latest archaeological techniques and methods.

Introduction

A rich variety of archaeological remains and literary sources reveals a world of poets, historians, artists, politicians, emperors, priests, administrators, slaves, soldiers, aristocrats and ordinary men and women. Understanding the ambitions, beliefs and lives of this world enriches our understanding of what it is to be human and the rise of our societies. Year one provides a broad introduction to archaeological methods and the archaeology and history of Egypt, Greece, Rome and the ancient Near East. In years two and three you study subjects central to our understanding of ancient civilisations, social and political organisation, art, religion and texts, combined with a detailed study of at least two civilisations (the Near East, Egypt, or Greece and Rome). This programme requires four weeks of archaeological experience spread over years one and two. Year one fieldwork consists of participation in the department field school. In year two, many students work on overseas research excavations, currently these are based in Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Zambia as well as the UK.

What you'll learn

- Detailed knowledge of the practice and theory of archaeology as an approach to understanding past societies
- Knowledge of the history and culture of three Ancient Civilisations (Egypt, Greece and Rome, the Near East)
- An in-depth knowledge of the nature and development of the culture, society, history and religion of at least two interrelated Ancient Civilisations
- A practical knowledge of the techniques of archaeological excavation and recording
- 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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Course content

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

Year one

Year one provides a broad introduction to archaeological methods and the archaeology and history of Egypt, Greece, Rome and the ancient Near East.

All modules in Year 1 are required.

Students taking a programme with an Archaeology component at 50% or higher will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450**, ACE Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY101)</u>	15
<u>BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATIONS: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN (ALGY106)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPT I (ALGY109)</u>	15
<u>FROM VILLAGE TO CITY: THE ORIGINS OF CHINESE CIVILISATION (ALGY112)</u>	15
<u>THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY102)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPT II (ALGY116)</u>	15
<u>EMPIRES AND CITIZENS: THE CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND THE NEAR</u>	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>EAST (ALGY131)</u>	
<u>VISUAL CULTURE (CLAH114)</u>	15

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

Year two

In year two you study subjects central to our understanding of ancient civilisations, social and political organisation, art, religion and texts, combined with a detailed study of at least two civilisations (the Near East, Egypt, or Greece and Rome).

Students take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in each semester. Optional modules must be chosen from **TWO** pathways (1-3) across the session – 30 credits in each pathway. Students must then take 30 credits from any pathway (1-4) across the session.

Pathway 1 – Archaeology of the Near East

Pathway 2 – Archaeology of Ancient Greece and Rome

Pathway 3 – Egyptian Archaeology

Pathway 4 – Archaeological Methods and Practice

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 only for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year.

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**.

Students taking a programme with an Archaeology component at 50% or higher will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450**, ACE Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>WORKING WITH THE PAST (ALGY248)</u>	15
<u>ARTEFACTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ALGY250)</u>	15
Optional modules	
<u>AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)</u>	15
<u>PLANTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PAST: METHOD AND PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOBOTANY (ALGY220)</u>	15
<u>NOMADS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EURASIA (ALGY223)</u>	15
<u>ANCIENT WARFARE (ALGY210)</u>	15
<u>EGYPTIAN RELIGION (ALGY257)</u>	15
<u>PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)</u>	15
<u>CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND CULTURE: SICILY FROM PROTOHISTORY TO THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD (CLAH225)</u>	15
<u>SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)</u>	15
<u>RETHINKING STONEHENGE (BRITISH AND IRISH PREHISTORY) (ALGY283)</u>	15
<u>THE ROMAN EXPERIENCE: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND HERITAGE (CLAH263)</u>	15
<u>DEATH AND MORTUARY PRACTICES (ALGY224)</u>	15
<u>DEATH IN ANCIENT EGYPT: IMAGE, TEXT AND ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY270)</u>	15
<u>OLD WORLDS AND WORK FUTURES: PLACEMENTS IN ACE (CLAH222)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY266)</u>	15
<u>MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)</u>	15

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

Year three

Year three includes a required dissertation on a subject of your choice, and also gives you the opportunity to choose modules relating to two of the civilisations studied in year two (Near East, and/or Greece and/or Rome and/or Egypt).

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

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

Optional modules must be chosen from **TWO** pathways (1-3) across the session – 30 credits in each pathway. Students must then take 30 credits from any pathway (1-4) across the session.

Pathway 1 – Archaeology of the Near East

Pathway 2 – Archaeology of Ancient Greece and Rome

Pathway 3 – Egyptian Archaeology

Pathway 4 – Archaeological Methods and Practice

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 in year two to fit the themed pathway or support your dissertation.

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

Students taking a programme with an Archaeology component at 50% or higher will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450**, ACE Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES (ALGY399)</u>	15
<u>DISSERTATION (ALGY450)</u>	30
Optional modules	
<u>ARCHAEOMATERIALS: ANALYTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS (ALGY397)</u>	15
<u>AKKADIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY213)</u>	15
<u>THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE AND SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST (ALGY356)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD (ALGY364)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT (ALGY376)</u>	15
<u>ARCHAIC GREEK COLONISATION AND BRITISH COLONIAL THOUGHT (ALGY336)</u>	15
<u>SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ALGY288)</u>	15
<u>THE FIRST CIVILISATION: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE SUMERIANS (ALGY386)</u>	15
<u>PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST (ALGY383)</u>	15
<u>THE CELTS (IRON AGE EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN) (ALGY358)</u>	15
<u>BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY342)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL LIFE IN EGYPT (ALGY377)</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
- 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

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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 **BBC** 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

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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