

## Archaeology BSc (Hons) programme specification

|                                  |                                                                                               |                |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Academic Entry Year:</b>      | 2026/2027                                                                                     |                |
| <b>Degree Awarding Body:</b>     | The University of Bradford                                                                    |                |
| <b>Main Location:</b>            | City Campus                                                                                   |                |
| <b>Subject Benchmarks:</b>       | Archaeology (Quality Assurance Agency 2022)                                                   |                |
| <b>Qualifications Framework:</b> | HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)                               |                |
| <b>Target Degree Award:</b>      | Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) [FHEQ Level 6]                                    |                |
| <b>Intermediate/exit awards:</b> | Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc)                                                             | [FHEQ Level 6] |
|                                  | Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)                                                           | [FHEQ Level 5] |
|                                  | Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)                                                      | [FHEQ Level 4] |
| <b>Programme Admissions:</b>     | UK and international students                                                                 |                |
| <b>Programme Start Date(s):</b>  | September                                                                                     |                |
| <b>Programme Modes of Study:</b> | <a href="#">(UCAS code V400) 3 years full-time</a>                                            |                |
|                                  | <a href="#">(UCAS code V403) 4 years full-time with placement year or study abroad</a>        |                |
|                                  | <a href="#">(partner entry only) 4 years full-time (international incorporated Bachelors)</a> |                |

This programme is accredited by the [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists \(CifA\)](#) and [University Archaeology UK \(UAUK\)](#). CifA is the professional body for UK archaeologists and CifA accreditation means you'll graduate with recognised practical and professional skills. UAUK is an industrial and academic collaborative group of societies and commissioners who review degrees for modern archaeological practices and meeting the needs of the historic environment community.

**Please note:** The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

### Recent changes

1. April 2024: Annual changes for 2024 academic year.
2. July 2025: Annual changes for 2025 academic year including change to academic regulations
3. July 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including admissions and revised document.

## About this programme

BSc Archaeology is a professionally focused degree with a strong practical component and a focus on cultural archaeology, digital and landscape approaches, archaeological science, and contemporary archaeological practice. The programme prepares students for careers across the archaeological and cultural sectors, including consultancy and field investigation, heritage management, and roles within local and central government.

Archaeology is fundamental to our understanding of how we evolved, how our communities developed, and how we study, preserve and interpret our past. At Bradford, our distinctive approach emphasises the integration of the natural and physical sciences in the investigation of archaeology. A characteristic of Bradford's approach is the examination of human environment interactions within a chronological framework, which provides a time-depth perspective of contemporary concerns such as ecosystems, globalisation and sustainability. The programme of study will provide students with a sound knowledge of current archaeological thinking on many cultures and regions whilst also providing an understanding of professional practice and how relevant techniques are used and integrated within commercial and research archaeology. Transferable skills equip graduates for employment in many sectors.

The staff in Archaeological and Forensic Sciences have an excellent research profile, which supports our teaching in all areas. Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills that will be useful not only in Archaeology, but in whatever profession they choose to follow. These include project and time management, critical review and analytical thinking, presentation skills, computer and other applied IT skills and the management of data. These will be taught, practised and assessed. Our graduates typically enter employment within 6 months of completing studies or continue to postgraduate level studies at the University of Bradford or other institutions.

Archaeological Sciences has an excellent research profile, which supports our teaching in all areas (78% of our last Research Excellence Framework submission ([REF 2021](#)) was judged to be 'internationally excellent', including 25% which was judged to be 'world leading'). Archaeological and Forensic Sciences at Bradford has also secured [significant research investment](#), which enhances our [facilities](#) and strengthens the research-informed teaching that students experience across the BSc programme.

Fieldwork contributes to the award and takes place during the summer vacation between stages 1 and 2. Recent field courses have taken place in [Orkney](#), Portugal, Slovenia and the Yorkshire Dales. When students have completed the placement, they will have acquired the following:

- **Professional Skills**, according to the specific options chosen, including aerial survey; excavation/fieldwork; post-excavation; artefact conservation and finds management; artefact analysis, geophysical survey; Historic Environment Record management; education, heritage and museum work.
- **Personal Transferable Skills**, including further development of communication, problem-solving, administrative and IT skills; time management; the ability to work independently; self-motivation; adaptability; team working.

## Programme aims

### The programme is intended to:

- A1. enable the student to become an autonomous learner and equip them with the lifelong learning skills required to be adaptable over the course of the student's career
- A2. provide educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students, and traditionally qualified students
- A3. provide students with the opportunity to enhance their learning and professional awareness by applying their knowledge and understanding in employment through a sandwich placement year (4-year programme), or to study abroad (3- or 4-year programmes)
- A4. deliver a programme of study in Archaeology that is designed to meet the rigorous benchmarking standards developed by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- A5. deliver a broad and research-informed programme of study that reflects areas of staff expertise, for example in cultural archaeology, bioarchaeology, landscape archaeology and archaeological science
- A6. encourage the development of independent learning skills, by providing a supportive, structured environment
- A7. develop wide subject knowledge and understanding, and provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in archaeology or related practice
- A8. develop personal transferable skills to enable a significant proportion of graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in non-cognate fields
- A9. provide a degree that equips students with oversight of new technologies in archaeology, and the skills to continue their continued professional development in their chosen career.

## Programme learning outcomes

### To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to:

- 1. Describe theories that relate to past societies from a range of geographical contexts and chronological periods.
- 2. Recognise and appropriately handle a range of archaeological artefacts and materials.
- 3. Identify the relevance of scientific techniques in archaeology.
- 4. Apply basic field archaeology methods and interpretation.

### Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

- 5. Assess theories that relate to past societies from a range of geographical contexts and chronological periods.

6. Demonstrate practical archaeology skills.
7. Review archaeology in its broader cultural and legislative frameworks.
8. Apply scientific techniques and theories relevant to archaeology.
9. Articulate the relevance of archaeology for contemporary society.

**Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:**

10. Critically evaluate theories that relate to past societies from a range of geographical contexts and chronological periods.
11. Critically evaluate scientific techniques and theories relevant to archaeology.
12. Critically evaluate the processes involved in the creation and dissemination of archaeological knowledge.
13. Design and complete a substantial work of independent research.

## **Programme learning and teaching strategy**

The Department of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has developed its programmes around the principles of inclusivity and diversity, offering student choice and direction in learning, and development of autonomous skills. Our programmes integrate assessment for learning, in which learning sessions, assessment activities, intended outcomes and employability relevance are closely correlated and supported by formative feedback, aimed at student development.

Teaching on programmes across Archaeological and Forensic Sciences incorporates innovative practice and technologies. We undergo regular formal review both by the University of Bradford and our professional accrediting bodies to assure high standards in our teaching quality and maintain relevancy in our subject material and professional context. Our teaching occurs on a foundation of trust and expectation; we expect and trust that students participate and engage with all learning and teaching activities, whether they occur on campus or online, and students can expect and trust that staff will create engaging and productive learning and teaching environments. The learning and teaching strategy takes into consideration the learning outcomes, progression through the levels of study, the nature of the subject and the student intake, and the need for students to take greater responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the programme. Stage 1 is introductory, introducing you to a range of archaeological periods, regions and materials and the development of archaeology as a discipline. Practical modules allow the student to handle real archaeological materials and explore methods of field survey and the principles of stratigraphy. You will also be introduced to the main scientific techniques used in modern archaeology.

Stage 2 develops critical thinking, including a strong grounding in key theoretical perspectives in archaeology. Fieldwork projects will provide first-hand experience of excavation, recording, and other practical skills, under supervision. You will logically follow the excavation stage and the

processes needed to understand archaeological artefacts and how they inform wider archaeological debates, as well as examine the legal, financial, ethical and socio-political contexts of the discipline. Other core modules examine scientific issues and cultural archaeology in a range of geographical regions, time periods and themes.

Stage 3 develops specialist archaeological skills and core disciplinary knowledge through an integrated suite of modules. This stage of the programme encourages critical engagement with varied disciplinary traditions, enabling discourse and an enrichment of perspective provided by the dialogue between the arts/humanities, vocational and scientific approaches. The degree culminates in a substantial dissertation, developing critical thinking and demonstrating individual research capacity.

We pride ourselves on our research-informed teaching, where our lecturers are active, world leading researchers in the fields of heritage, archaeology, and related disciplines (including interdisciplinary research).

Student choice is facilitated within the degree through optionality within some module assignments. This allows selection of topic and subject for coursework during certain modules, allowing diversity of focus in learning material, development of autonomous learning, and self-selection of degree focus.

## **Programme assessment strategy**

The assessment strategy is designed to similarly support the learning outcomes of the programme and each specific module. A wide range of formative and summative assessment methods are used, including essays, portfolios, worksheets, critiques, laboratory reports, group-work, poster (in the placement year), oral presentations, research designs, reflective journals and examinations. The research design and dissertation develop your ability to undertake independent research and plan this research effectively. Our assessments replicate real-world situations and demands, including the need for high-level writing skills and oral presentation. Assessment demands increase at the appropriate rate for each level of the programme.

Formalised formative assessment opportunities are available on a selection of modules across all stages of the degree, to offer informative feedback on specific assignments. Additionally, within our learning and teaching philosophy, formative feedback encompasses much more, including: discussions during lectures, seminars and tutorials; during practical and laboratory activities; verbal comments after presentations; and many other situations throughout your degree. A key skill that you will develop during the degree is the ability to identify feedback beyond that given as written comments on submitted assignments; in fact, the most beneficial feedback you will receive is that given prior to assignments, allowing you to reflect and adapt, rather than just formal written feedback after assignments have been submitted and marked.

## **Curriculum**

BSc (Hons) Archaeology consists of 360 credits, made up of core modules and optional modules. Each levelled 'Stage' or taught 'academic year' of an Honours programme consists of two semesters. Students take 120 credits from modules at each Stage. There are three stages. This

course provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Students wishing to take this option will be registered for the 4-year programme.

All students begin the programme in Stage 1, including direct entry students and transfers from the [Foundation Year in Archaeology](#), and [UBIC](#) International Foundation Year & International Year 0 courses. Students at Stage 1 will study 120 core credits as follows:

**Table 1: Archaeology Stage 1 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 4)**

| Module Code | Module Title                                                           | Credit | Study Period |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| ARC4021-B   | Biological Anthropology: From Human Evolution to Forensic Anthropology | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC4025-B   | British Archaeology and Heritage                                       | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC4018-B   | Introduction to Archaeological Methods                                 | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC4022-B   | Field Recording Skills                                                 | 20     | Semester 2   |
| ARC4013-B   | Scientific Frameworks                                                  | 20     | Semester 2   |
| ARC4024-B   | Themes in World Archaeology and Heritage                               | 20     | Semester 2   |

Students at Stage 2 will study 120 core credits:

**Table 2: Archaeology Stage 2 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 5)**

| Module Code | Module Title                                  | Credit | Study Period |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| ARC5025-B   | Interpreting the Past                         | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC5027-B   | Prehistoric Societies                         | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC5037-B   | Understanding Artefacts and Ecofacts          | 20     | Semester 1   |
| ARC5038-B   | Archaeologies of Transformation and Migration | 20     | Semester 2   |
| ARC5016-B   | Heritage Management with GIS                  | 20     | Semester 2   |
| ARC5035-B   | Archaeological Practice                       | 20     | NS Year      |

At the end of Stage 2, students who have completed the year may progress to Stage 3 or to the optional sandwich year in work or study abroad. Students who progress to stage 3 but have a referral in one or more modules will not normally be able to go on placement or study abroad, particularly if that referral requires attendance. In such cases students on the 4-year course should discuss options with the Placement Tutor. Further information about [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

**Table 3: Archaeology Elective Placement/Study Abroad (Full Year)**

| Module Code | Module Title            | Selection               |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ARC5013-Z   | Placement               | Placement Year Route    |
| ARC5014-Z   | Study Abroad Experience | Study Abroad Year Route |

Students at Stage 3 will take a final 120 credits of core modules including the final dissertation:

**Table 4: Archaeology Stage 3 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 6)**

| Module Code | Module Title                                     | Credit | Study Period  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| ARC6030-B   | Bones, Bodies and Burials                        | 20     | Semester 1    |
| ARC6032-B   | Landscapes, Climate and Society                  | 20     | Semester 1    |
| ARC6025-D   | Dissertation                                     | 40     | Academic Year |
| ARC6040-B   | Dating, Diet and Identity                        | 20     | Semester 2    |
| ARC6039-B   | Archaeology and Heritage in Contemporary Society | 20     | Semester 2    |

## Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for undergraduate taught courses published on the University's Website ([Regulation 2](#))

## Admission requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

## Minimum entry requirements

All UK applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English. Alternative, equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications like Functional Skills are accepted.

For international students, the standard English language requirement applies and this is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#).

International applicants who do not meet the English language requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#), which takes 3 to 10 weeks, or can look at taking a pathway with our [International College](#) from one term to a year.

## Academic requirements

Applicants typically have 112 Ucas points. There are no specific subject requirements as many subjects form a good foundation for archaeology.

- A-Levels: BBC
- T-Levels: Merit
- BTEC Extended Diploma: Distinction/Merit/Merit
- Access to Higher Education: at least 45 Merit and other combination.
- International Baccalaureate: meet the Ucas points

Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

We are committed to raising aspirations and widening access to higher education, regardless of your background. The [University of Bradford Progression Scheme](#) welcomes Ucas applicants from a number of groups including adult learners who are 21+ on the first day of term, British armed forces families, carers and care experienced learners, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller family members.

UK/home students can progress to this course from the Bradford [Archaeology Foundation Year](#). Foundation Year entry requires 64 Ucas points.

On completion of a UCAS form students will be invited to the School for an Open Day when the student will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss “the Bradford experience” with current students.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/archaeology-bsc/>

Information about entry to UBI provision for this programme including available pathways is published online by Oxford International Education Group:

<https://www.oxfordinternational.com/courses/detail/degree-university-of-bradford-bsc-hons-archaeology/>