

Forensic Anthropology BSc (Hons) programme specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Target Degree Award:	Honours Degree, Bachelor of Science in (BSc Hons) Forensic Anthropology [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 6]
Interim/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree, Bachelor of Science (BSc) Forensic Anthropology [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) Forensic Anthropology [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Forensic Anthropology [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admission:	UK and international students
Programme Start Date:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code F404) 3 years full-time (UCAS code F405) 4 years full-time with placement year or study abroad (partner entry only) 4-5 years full-time (international incorporated Bachelors)

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.

BSc (Hons) Forensic Anthropology is accredited by [The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences \(CSoFS\)](#), the progressional body for forensic scientists, in respect of the following component standards: IEPE (Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence), Anth (Forensic Anthropology) and Arch (Forensic Archaeology).

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. March 2025: Programme with revised title endorsed by faculty portfolio monitoring group.
2. July 2025: Annual programme changes for the 2025/6 academic year including change to the new academic regulations. Programme specification made accessible and moved to new template.
3. July 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including admissions.

Programme overview

BSc Forensic Anthropology focuses on the locating and recording of crime scenes, the excavation of buried remains and the analysis of the skeletal materials recovered. It emphasises the combined application of scientific method, advanced anatomy and osteology and the importance of quality assurance procedures in a forensic setting. A characteristic of the University of Bradford's approach is in the integration of practical skills training within a good theoretical framework – whether in terms of crime scene investigation, the collection, examination and interpretation of physical evidence, building a biological profile, understanding taphonomic processes or the analysis of human remains and other recovered artefacts.

This programme of study provides the student with a sound knowledge of how scientific techniques can be used within forensic investigations and allows students to explore a challenging area of applied science. The programme will develop the student into a professional with the scientific skills to work within areas such as crime scene investigation and related areas.

BSc Forensic Anthropology encompasses three key themes: forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and interpretation and evaluation of physical evidence. Each theme is addressed via one or more modules at each stage of the degree, some modules bridge the gap between themes (e.g. Forensic Archaeology and Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science at Stage 3). The range of topics within each theme and the depth of analysis required increases with each stage. Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills that will be useful in their future career. These include project and time management, critical review and analytical thinking, presentation skills, IT skills and the analysis and management of data. These will be taught, practised and assessed.

A large proportion of modules include the recording and analysis of materials from a variety of simulated crime scenes, making use of the Crime Scene facility and the Oxenhope Taphonomy Field Station. The dedicated Biological Anthropology Research Center (BARC) is the hub of the osteology teaching programme where BSc Forensic Anthropology students have the opportunity to work with archaeological human remains from their first year of study at Bradford.

BSc Forensic Anthropology teaching is strongly research led with staff that both practise and publish in forensic and archaeological arenas. Archaeological Sciences has an excellent research profile at Bradford, which supports our teaching in all areas (78% of our 2021 school Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission was judged to be 'internationally excellent', including 25% which was judged to be 'world leading'). The school has also secured significant investment through CapCo, which has a trickle-down research impact to teaching activities.

Programme aims

- To provide educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students, school leavers, and traditionally qualified students.
- To 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).
- To deliver a programme of study in Forensic Anthropology, that is designed to meet the rigorous benchmarking standards developed by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- To provide a degree in forensic anthropology with a distinctive profile, reflecting the professional and research expertise of staff and thus giving it a unique Bradford identity.
- To enable the student to become an autonomous learner and prepare the student for the lifelong learning skills required to be adaptable over the course of the student's career.
- To encourage the development of independent learning skills, by providing a supportive, structured environment.
- To develop students' ability to think critically and creatively and foster collaborative and group working skills.
- To develop wide subject knowledge and understanding and provide training in subject discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in forensic anthropology, crime scene investigation or related practice.
- To develop personal transferable skills to enable a significant proportion of graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in non-cognate fields.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate award will be able to:

1. Recognise and describe human variation in the contexts of forensic identification and of evolutionary change.
2. Describe archaeological methods of excavation and surveying.
3. Recall a range of methods of forensic enquiry and recognise the importance of rigorous scientific process.
4. Employ appropriate numerical and statistical techniques, scientific formulae and calculations.
5. Manage time and learning effectively both independently and when working as part of a group.

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma award will additionally be able to:

6. Describe and evaluate methods of scientific investigation within a forensic context.

7. Compare and apply methods of human identification and of other biological materials found within forensic contexts.
8. Assess and apply a range of forensic and archaeological methods within different forensic contexts.
9. Apply forensic examination techniques to a variety of physical evidence.
10. Undertake critical thinking and data evaluation within a range of archaeological and forensic scenarios.

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Honours Degree award will additionally be able to:

11. Summarise the concepts and key processes of taphonomic change and evaluate how they can affect the interpretation of materials within a forensic context.
12. Recognise the importance and function of quality assurance and employ it within archaeological and forensic contexts.
13. Evaluate forensic recording protocols and defend a witness statement.
14. Critically evaluate and select appropriate methods for human identification and trauma analysis based upon different forensic scenarios.
15. Plan and undertake a substantial piece of independent research.
16. Present written and oral evidence in a professional manner.

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 teaching and learning 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. Formal lectures and the completion of a portfolio will facilitate students' acquisition of

knowledge and understanding (LO 1-3, 6-8, 11 & 14) and discipline specific professional skills (LO 7-10). Laboratory sessions run in conjunction with the theoretical components will give students the opportunity to enhance their understanding of particular topics (LO 1-2, 7-9, 11 & 14). Field courses and simulated crime scenarios allow students to develop core scene-based skills (LO 6-9). These will also help to develop professional skills (LO 8, 9, 10 & 13) and personal transferable skills (LO 4, 5, 10, 15 & 16). Directed study, involving directed reading of appropriate texts and the preparation of assessed work, is used to develop all learning outcomes.

Student choice is further 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.

This programme provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Placements are a fantastic way of building on the professional skills developed during the programme and boosting students' practical industry experience prior to graduating. Equally, study abroad opportunities can be very valuable in giving students experience of academic and/or industrial contexts in other countries. Students wishing to take this option can register directly for, or can transfer to, the 4-year variant of the programme.

Any placement or period of study abroad is subject to approval by the Programme Team. Students who wish to participate in a placement or period of study abroad will be required to find, apply for and make the most of their chosen opportunity, and will be supported in doing so by the Programme Team as well as the central University Careers and Employability Service.

Programme assessment strategy

Assessments have been designed to allow demonstration of achievement of the learning outcomes of an individual module appropriate to their level of study and the learning outcomes of the programme. The assessment strategy is designed to assess knowledge and understanding of the three Forensic Anthropology BSc themes: forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and interpretation and evaluation of physical evidence.

A wide range of formative and summative assessment methods are used, including essays, worksheets, laboratory reports, reflective journals and examinations, to help students develop a wide range of subject specific, personal transferable and professional skills.

At Stage 1, students will be examined, primarily, on their breadth of knowledge using a mixture of examination formats including short answer examinations, and laboratory tests (LO1-3). Essays and journal critiques allow students to explore the key themes of the degree and develop their critical awareness and writing skills (LO1-3). The field notebook, field report and reflective journal help to develop field recording skills, self-awareness and the appreciation of key quality assurance skills required in a forensic setting (LO2-5). An expert witness report helps develop professional presentation skills. Group presentations and posters allow you to develop team working and presentation skills.

At Stage 2, assessments address understanding and knowledge of the key subjects via short answer questions and essays (LO6-9). Essays and other coursework allow you to analyse and assess aspects of all three themes of the degree (LO6-10). Practical portfolios and laboratory reports allow students to develop their practical skills and present methods and results in a professional manner (LO8-10). The reflective journal encourages you to document archaeological skills and reflect on quality assurance in recording methods (LO6).

At Stage 3, essays, the journal critique and essay-based assessments provide a format to critically evaluate the key themes of the degree (LO11, 13 & 14). Practical portfolios and worksheets allow you to demonstrate understanding of forensic anthropology and archaeological stratigraphy (LO11 , LO14). The research design and dissertation project develop students' ability to undertake independent research and plan this research effectively (LO15). Presentations, the witness statement and the mock court exercise develop your professional oral and written presentation skills (LO16).

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 school 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.

Course curriculum

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

Table 1: Forensic Anthropology Stage 1 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 4)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
ARC4014-B	Independent Study for Forensic Scientists	20	Academic Year
ARC4016-B	Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	20	Academic Year
ARC4018-B	Introduction to Archaeological Methods	20	Semester 1
ARC4021-B	Biological Anthropology: From Human Evolution to Forensic Anthropology	20	Semester 1
ARC4013-B	Scientific Frameworks	20	Semester 2
ARC4022-B	Field Recording Skills	20	Semester 2

Students at Stage 2 will study 120 core credits:

Table 2: Forensic Anthropology Stage 2 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 5)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
ARC5017-B	Virtual Anatomy for Forensic Sciences	20	Academic Year
ARC5020-B	Forensic Examination & Analysis of Physical Evidence	20	Academic Year
ARC5022-B	Statistics and Databases for Forensic Scientists	20	Academic Year
ARC5036-B	Forensic Chemistry	20	Semester 1
ARC5030-B	Comparative Osteology	20	Semester 2
ARC5032-B	Forensic Biology	20	Semester 2

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. Further information about [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

Table 3: Forensic Anthropology 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

In Stage 3, students study 100 core credits and select 1 optional module:

Table 4: Forensic Anthropology Stage 3 Modules (cores/options) FHEQ Level 6

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Selection
ARC6024-B	Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science	20	Ac. Year	Core
ARC6025-D	Dissertation	40	Ac. Year	Core
ARC6011-B	Forensic Anthropology	20	Sem 1	Core
ARC6017-B	Forensic Archaeology	20	Sem 1	Core
ARC6013-B	Forensic Taphonomy: the degradation of human remains and death-scene materials	20	Sem 2	Option 1
ARC6040-B	Dating, Diet and Identity	20	Sem 2	Option 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](#))

CSFS accreditation applies to the target BSc degree with Honours. Achieving these component standards means graduates will have industry-relevant and globally recognised specialist skills in excavating, examining and analysing remains and other evidence from crime scenes, from recent events to historic sites.

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 Language, Mathematics and a Science. 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 and should have studied science at Level 3.

- A-Levels: BBC to include B in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Geology, Anthropology or Archaeology.
- T-Levels: Merit, including scientific subjects
- BTEC Extended Diploma: Distinction/Merit/Merit, including scientific subjects or Forensic and Criminal Investigation.
- Access to Higher Education: meet the Ucas points from Science, Social Science or Health Science subjects
- International Baccalaureate: meet the Ucas points with Higher science at 6/7 and English and Maths passed at Standard 5 or Higher 4 or above.

UK/home students can progress to this course from the [Foundation Year in Health and Life Sciences](#). Foundation Year entry requires 64 Ucas points with GCSE English/Science achieved at grade 4/C (no Maths requirement).

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.

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/forensic-anthropology/>

Information about entry to UBIG 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-forensic-anthropology/>