# **BA Archaeology and History For students entering Part 1 in 2005**

Awarding Institution: Teaching Institution:

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Faculty of Science

Date of specification: April 2007 Programme Director: Dr Mary Lewis Programme Adviser: Dr R Wolfe

Board of Studies: Archaeology and History

Accreditation: Not appropriate

Http:/www.rdg.ac.uk/Archaeology

The University of Reading The University of Reading Archaeology and History Programme length: 3 years

**UCAS code: VV14** 

## **Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide a complementary balance of distinctive degree-level education in Archaeology and History. The Archaeology element combines practical experience (on the Silchester Field School and in the laboratory) and academic study of archaeology, with an opportunity to specialise in the archaeology of the historic periods, while the History element offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience covering a wide range of subjects and approaches. Students will gain knowledge of a wide range of chronological periods, as well as developing the ability to analyse change over time, the nature of causal relationships, and comparative, cross-cultural and abstract concepts. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge in both archaeology and history through the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3. They will be able to pursue their own interests through a dissertation. Subject-based and transferable skills are developed in a programme which encourages a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past.

#### Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Archaeology and History are both disciplines that lend themselves to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Students of Archaeology and History will also develop skills in the collection, collation, and critical analysis of quantities of data, and in its communication and presentation. They will be able to think historically, comparatively and cross-culturally. Through practical and field work in Archaeology they will also have the opportunity to develop proficiency in decision-making, and a sense of personal and group responsibility.

#### **Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part) together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the option modules) for each half of the combined degree. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser(s), to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in Archaeology introduces the methods of the discipline of archaeology and reviews basic evidence for past lifestyles and human social development. Part 1 in History provides a general introduction to the discipline and methodology of history through the Approaches module, and to periodisation and causation in history through the Landmarks module.

Part 2 Archaeology provides the opportunity to engage with primary archaeological data through participation on the Silchester Field School, to explore techniques, and approaches to interpretation, and to gain more detailed knowledge of the archaeology of the Mediterranean, Europe and Britain. Part 2 History provides the opportunity to study different Periods in more depth and to engage with historical problems and texts through the structured exploratory contexts of the seminar and the workshop.

In Part 3, there is an increasing specialisation and progression in both Archaeology and History to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional units and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth.

## Part 1 (three terms)

Credits ) Level

Students must take two compulsory Archaeology modules (40 credits) and two compulsory History (40 credits), and make up a further 40 credits chosen either from extra modules in Archaeology and/or History, or from modules available elsewhere in the University.

## In the Department of Archaeology

Compulsory mo	odules
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AR1RM1	Introduction to Historical Archaeology	20	C
AR1TS1	Archaeological Practice	20	C

### Optional modules

AR1P1	Introduction to World Prehistory	20	C
AR1TS2	Rones Rodies and Rurials: the archaeology of death	20	$\mathbf{C}$

## In the School of History

Compulsory modules

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C

Optional modules which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied HS1DSH Directed Study in History 20 C

## Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

There are two compulsory modules in Archaeology (10 credits each), plus a number of optional modules totalling 40 credits, while in History a total of 30 credits must be taken from a compulsory group of Period modules, together with 30 credits from any Period group. Altogether 60 credits must be taken in each subject. However, those interested in a broader degree may substitute up to 20 credits chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University. Of the 120 credits, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

# In the Department of Archaeology [60 credits]

Compulsory me	odules		
AR2F4	Silchester Field School Joint Honours (summer	10	I
	vacation)		
AR2F7	Professional Careers in Archaeology (including	10	I
	Careers Management Skills - 5 credits)		

# Modules (totalling 40 credits) to be chosen from:

AR2S1	Archaeological Science	20	I
AR2P5	The Middle Palaeolithic of Europe and SW Asia	20	I
AR2P6	Later Prehistoric Europe	20	I
AR2P9	First Civilisations: culture & society in the East	20	I
	Mediterranean c.3500-1200 BC		
AR2P10	From Collapse to Complexity: the Aegean in the first	20	I
	millennium BC and the origins of the classical polis		
AR2P11	Pharaohs, Ptolemies & Caesars: Egyptian	20	I
	archaeology		
AR2R4	Rome & the Mediterranean	20	I
AR2M1	Post-Roman & Early Medieval Europe	20	I
AR2M2	Later Medieval Europe	20	I
AR2T1	Archaeological Thought	10	I
GG2P3	Human Activity & Environmental Change	10	I
GO2P5	Crime Scene Analysis	10	I
AR2F5	Techniques in Artefact Interpretation	10	I
AR2F6	Techniques in Skeletal Interpretation	10	I
AR2L2	Study Abroad	60	I

# In the School of History [60 credits]

Two modules from Periods with their Skills co-requisites, totalling 60 credits in all must be taken from the following. One Period and Skill must be taken in Medieval History. Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year and admission to optional modules is at the discretion of the Programme Director.

# Compulsory module group

One Period chosen from:

Periods and Skill in Medieval History 30 cred			
HS2P04	England 1272-1485	20	I
HSKK04	Skills in England 1272-1485	10	I
HS2P05	Women in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds:	20	I
HS2K05	Skills in Women in the Medieval & Renaissance Worlds	∴ 10	I
HS2P06	End of the Middle Ages? England in the mid-fourteenth mid-sixteenth centuries	to 20	I
HS2K06	Skills in End of the Middle Ages? England in the mid- fourteenth to mid-sixteenth centuries	10	Ι
HS2P07	New Medieval Period	20	I
HS2K07	Skills in New Medieval Period	10	I

Period and Skills in Early Modern History 30 cre							
HS2P31	Europe 1450-1600: Government, Culture and Society	20	I				
HS2K31	Skills in Europe 1450-1600	10	I				
HS2P32	Britain in Europe, 1500-1707	20	I				
HS2K32	Skills in Britain in Europe, 1500-1707	10	I				
HS3P34	Change and Stability in Europe of the Old Regime	20	I				
HS2K34	Skills in Change and Stability in Europe Regime	10	I				
HS2P35	British History 1640-c.1800	20	I				
HS2K35	Skills in British History 1640-c.1800	10	I				
HS2P36	The Making of Early Modern Britain	20	Í				
HS2K36	Skills in The Making of Early Modern Britain	10	I				
HS2P37	The politics of religion: Britain c. 1529-1689	20	I				
HS2K37	Skills in The politics of religion: Britain c. 1529-1689	10	I				

Or:

Period and Sk	xills in Modern History	30 credits	
HS2P61	Central Europe, 1740-1919	20	I
HS2K61	Skills in Central Europe, 1740-1919	10	I
HS2P63	Themes in the Social History of Europe 1789-1914	20	I
HS2K63	Skills in Themes in the Social History of Europe	10	I
HS2P64	Socialists, Radicals & Trade Unionists – The Making &	20	I
	Development of the British Labour Party, 1880-1945		
HS2K64	Skills in Socialists, Radicals & Trade Unionists	10	I
HS2P65	Region, Nation and Global Power. The US, 1865 to the present day	v 20	I
HS2K65	Skills in Region, Nation & Global Power. US,	10	I
HS2P66	Imperial Britain, 1815-1982	20	I
HS2K66	Skills in Imperial Britain, 1815-1982	10	I
HS2P67	A People and a Nation: A Social History of the US, 1815-1945	20	I
HS2K67	Skills in A People and a Nation: A Social History of the United States, 1815-1945	10	Ι
HS2P69	Modern British History: The Changing Role of the State	20	I
HS2K69	Skills in Modern British History: The Changing Role of the State	10	I
HS2P70	American State & Society & the Wider World, 1890-1990	20	I
HS2K70	Skills in American State and Society and the Wider World, 1890- 1990	10	I
HS2P72	The Development of Modern Britain: Town and Country since 1800	0 20	I
HS2K72	Skills in The Development of Modern Britain	10	I
HS2P73	The Poor and the Masses in Britain and France, 1789-1914	20	I
HS2K73	Skills in The Poor and the Masses in Britain and France	10	I
HS2P74	Changing Perspectives in Irish History, 1801-1973	20	I
HS2K74	Skills in Changing Perspectives in Irish History, 1801-1973	10	I
HS2P75	An Historical Approach to British Rural Sociology	20	I
HS2K75	Skills in An Historical Approach to British Rural Sociology	10	I
HS2P76	Birth Control, the history of an idea from Malthus to Marie Stopes	20	I
HS2K76	Skills in Birth Control, the history of an idea from Malthus to Mari Stopes	e 10	Ι
HS2P77	New American Period	20	I
HS2K77	Skills in New American Period	10	I

# Part 3 (three terms)

Not all optional modules will be available in any one year. The availability of all optional modules is subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director

Compulsory module taken in Archaeology or History

Mod Code Module Title

AR3D1 Dissertation in Archaeology 40 H

OR

HS3HLD Dissertation in History

# In the Archaeology Department

Two of the following selected modules (to total of 40 credits):

AR3S1	Environmental Archaeology & the Cultural Landscapes of Prehistory	20	Н
AR3S2	Environment & Landscape in Historic Periods	20	Н
AR3S4	Micromorphology & the study of early agricultural & urban	20	Н
	settlements & landscapes		
AR3S6	Palaeopathology	20	Η
AR3S10	The Archaeology of Food and Nutrition	20	Η
AR3S11	Information Molecules: biomolecular methods for the archaeologist	20	Η
AR3S9	Coastal and Maritime Archaeology	20	Η
GG333	Geographic Information Systems	20	Η
AR3T1	Burial Archaeology	20	Η
AR3T2	Gender Archaeology: Sex, Sexuality & Gender in the study of the past	20	Η
MC3MT	Museum Theory, History & Ethics	20	Η
MC3OA	Object Analysis and Museum Interpretation (2007-8 only)	20	Η
AR3P4	Early Agricultural Societies in the Mediterranean	20	Η
AR3P5	Early Complex Societies in the Mediterranean	20	Η
AR3P9	British Prehistory 1: the Age of Stonehenge	20	Η
AR3P10	British Prehistory 2: the Age of Hillforts	20	Η
AR3P13	The Emergence of Civilisation in Mesopotamia	20	Η
AR3P16	Ancient Aegean Landscapes: human interaction with the natural	20	Η
	environment between the Neolithic & Classical periods		
AR3P17	Hominins, Hearths and Handaxes: studies in the Lower Palaeolithic	20	Η
	of North-west Europe		
AR3R6	Roman Britain	20	Η
AR3R4	Roman Material Culture Studies	20	Η
AR3M1	The Archaeology of Early Anglo-Saxon England	20	Η
AR3M3	Expansion or Contraction in Twelfth Century England	20	Η
AR3S1	Environmental Archaeology & the Cultural Landscapes of Prehistory	20	Η
AR3S2	Environment & Landscape in Historic Periods	20	Η
AR3S4	Micromorphology & the study of early agricultural & urban	20	Η
	settlements & landscapes		
AR3S6	Palaeopathology	20	Η

# In the Department of History [40 credits]

## Optional modules:

Students choose either two optional 20 credit Topic modules, or, a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite 20 credit modules to make a total of 40 credits. A complete list of optional modules is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be

found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally include a range of cross-disciplinary options, and languages.

## **Progression requirements**

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- a) Take a total of at least 40 credits in Part 1 Archaeology and at least 40 credits in Part 1 History.
- b) Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1, including at least 40% in two of the Part 1 Archaeology modules and 40% in 20 credits of History modules. *NB: candidates who only take 20 credits in History may progress to a joint History degree so long as they achieve 40% in their History module.*
- c) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 students must:

- a) Obtain at least 40% in the compulsory modules.
- b) Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- c) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

# **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching is delivered by a mixture of lectures, seminars, and essay tutorials. Some Archaeology modules also involve workshops and practical sessions in the field and laboratory. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination, with the proportion of coursework (including seminar performance) increasing as the degree progresses. The Silchester Field School is assessed by coursework (a self-assessment document) and an on-site examination. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study supported by workshops and individual supervisions, and is assessed entirely by coursework and oral presentation.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

## **Admission requirements**

No previous experience of Archaeology or History is required for admission. Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: 3 A levels 260pts. 3 A levels and 1 AS level 280pts, including at least one grade B at Advanced level; or

International Baccalaureat: 29 pts, preferably with History Grade 5 or 6; or

Advanced GNVQ: 12 units at Distinction and a Grade C or higher at A Level or 18 units at

Distinction; or

Scottish Highers: BBBB; or Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken or is undertaking recent study, for example one or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. You are advised to contact an Admissions Tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Applications from international students are welcomed. If you are not offering A-levels or an International Baccalaureat, we advise you to contact an Admissions Tutor before applying in

order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Admissions Tutor: Dr H Eckardt

## Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

The Departmental programme Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both Departments provide extensive information on resources and study skills. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each Module Convenor gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. The PAR scheme also assists in helping students assess their development. The Archaeology Department occupies a purpose-built structure with further shared facilities providing a research laboratory, teaching laboratories, computer laboratories, and space for undergraduates to work in the Department (including a Reading Room). There are also traditional and digital drawing office facilities; geophysical and tacheometric survey equipment; excavation equipment; soil and sediment coring equipment; audiovisual resources. There is a Departmental Library in the School of History which provides quiet study space, a photocopier and networked computers. The University Library is well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of archaeology and history.

#### Career prospects

The degree in Archaeology and History at Reading offers a firm foundation qualification in the humanities and social sciences, and a set of skills relevant to many careers and life-long learning. The interdisciplinary nature of the Archaeology and History programme, and the emphasis on development of transferable skills including teamwork, oral presentation, numeracy and IT, essay/report writing, independence and adaptability, makes Reading Archaeology and History graduates highly suitable for a wide range of professional careers in management, the civil service, local government, accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, librarianship, teaching, media, communications, and social work. A number of specialised careers are open to Archaeology and History graduates, such as jobs in field archaeology, museums, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Graduates in Archaeology and in History have also gone onto postgraduate courses at Reading and elsewhere. Whether direct from a BA degree, or following graduate study, a number of Archaeology graduates have found positions in UK and European archaeology.

## **Opportunities for study abroad**

Students may spend a period of study abroad, normally during Part 2, through either the Department of Archaeology's exchange with the University of Lund, Sweden, or the School of History's Socrates exchange with the University of Barcelona and Paris VII. History also has access to American university placements.

# Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a complementary balance of distinctive degree-level education in Archaeology and History. The Archaeology element combines practical experience (on the Silchester Field School and in the laboratory) and academic study of archaeology, with an opportunity to specialise in the archaeology of the historic periods, while the History element offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience covering a wide range of subjects and approaches. Students will gain knowledge of a wide range of chronological periods, as well as developing the ability to analyse change over time, the nature of causal relationships, and comparative, cross-cultural and abstract concepts, together with a critical awareness of the variety of ways in which the past has been interpreted in archaeological and historical writing. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge in both archaeology and history through the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3. They will be able to pursue their own interests through a dissertation. Subject-based and transferable skills are developed in a programme which encourages a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past.

The programme also aims to develop skills of critical analysis: students will be able to think comparatively and cross-culturally, to draw conclusions from historical and archaeological evidence and to communicate these through written media. Through practical experience they will gain proficiency in problem-solving and decision-making, numeracy, information technology and working with data. Experience of teamwork in the field assists in developing skills of communication and a sense of personal and group responsibility. Through their coursework students develop skills of oral expression, independent learning, and the critical analysis of data.

# **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

## Knowledge and Understanding

# A. Knowledge and understanding of:

- the growth of archaeology as a discipline, and its current practice within its wider political, social and institutional context;
- 2. the broad sweep of history and the development of selected western societies and cultures focusing on the post-classical period;
- 3. the contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process;
- 4. a diverse range of primary archaeological and historical source material and evidence, their variability and reliability;
- 5. a range of problems of dating, interpretation and evaluation of primary materials in their historical, political and social context;
- 6. a range of techniques and methodologies, including scientific methods in Archaeology and the nature of debate and dispute in historical writing.

# Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Knowledge of practical techniques and methodologies are further developed through participation in the Silchester Field School, and in dedicated modules by problemoriented class work.

At Part 1 formal lectures impart crucial information and perspective, which is reinforced by seminars. As the degree progresses, less use is made of the lecture form and students engage with primary evidence and archaeological and historical problems through the structured exploratory contexts of the seminar and the workshop. Class sizes become progressively smaller as greater emphasis is placed on student-centred learning. In all Parts students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare essays and seminar papers. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

#### Assessment

Most knowledge is tested by a combination of coursework and formal examination, except that in most practical-based modules it is examined entirely by coursework; the dissertation is by coursework and oral presentation. In Part 3, oral presentations also contribute to some modules.

#### **B. Intellectual skills** – able to:

- 1. to assess the character and quality of archaeological and historical data;
- 2. to synthesise and integrate evidence from multiple and diverse primary and secondary sources, and to formulate arguments based on evidence;
- 3. to recognise and critically evaluate past and current theoretical approaches, issues, and competing interpretations;
- 4. identify and appreciate the forces which generate historical change;
- 5. to think comparatively and cross-culturally;
- 6. to think critically and develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation;
- 7. to locate, extract and assemble data and information;
- 8. to organise material in order to synthesise and articulate an argument effectively.

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Modules at all levels deal with questions of evidence and interpretation in lectures, seminars, workshops and practicals. Set essays, seminar discussions, oral presentations and examination questions frequently involve analysis and debate of intellectual problems. Awareness of current approaches is encouraged as Part 3 options are often linked to lecturers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

#### Assessment

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and examination.

#### **C. Practical skills** – able to:

- 1. to gather, organise and synthesise large quantities of material and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence;
- 2. to identify, excavate, record and analyse archaeological stratigraphy, features and deposits, and to recognise and interpret archaeological traces in the landscape;
- 3. to develop the capacity for critical judgement, including self-awareness as a working historian;
- 4. to select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data
- 5. to engage in group discussion and debate on historical and archaeological issues
- 5. to have effective bibliographical, internet and library research skills;
- 6. to plan and carry out individual research programmes and strategies, working independently.

## Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, seminar discussion and workshop participation, and tested in the writing of essays, dissertation and examinations. The Skills in Period modules in History consist of various appropriate exercises aimed at promoting, amongst other things, research, IT and referencing skills. Practical skills in Archaeology are taught primarily through the Silchester Field School and by problemoriented class work in dedicated Part 2 modules. Individual feedback provided on content and organisation of essays encourages constructive self-criticism. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

#### Assessment

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and examination.

#### **D.** Transferable skills – able to:

- 1. to communicate clearly and effectively in speech and in a variety of types of writing, showing discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout;
- 2. to deal effectively with a variety of numerical data;
- 3. to identify and devise strategies for solving problems;
- 4. to work effectively in a team;
- 5. to locate information and use a range of information technology effectively;
- 6. to organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
- 7. to make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In lectures and seminars and applied in selfstudy and writing of assignments, as well as through the Field School and in the practical elements of several Archaeology modules. Career management is taught through a distinct Part 2 module linked with other professional skills in Archaeology.

Assessment

Coursework, oral presentations, and examinations, as well as in the dissertation.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.