

**BA Archaeology and History (part time)  
For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Archaeology and History
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	5 years
Date of specification:	19/Jun/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Rob Hosfield
Programme Advisor:	Dr Elizabeth Matthew
Board of Studies:	Archaeology
Accreditation:	Not appropriate

**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/or 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**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team-working, and use of information technology, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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/or 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**

Part-time Degree Structure:

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called modules. The size of a module is measured in terms of credits, a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size).

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling 360 credits. Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

- Level 4: 100 credits minimum
- Level 5: 100 credits minimum
- Level 6: 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 (Level 4) involves studying modules totalling at least 100 credits and no more than 120 Level 4 credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study). Students must complete at least 80 credits at Level 4

before they can proceed to study any Level 5 (Part 2) module. Students must take those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at Level 4.

Parts 2 & 3: Students must complete at least 80 credits at Level 5 before they can proceed to study any Level 6 modules.

BA Archaeology & History (Part-Time) Programme Content:

The profile which follows outlines the compulsory modules together with optional modules from which the student must make a selection in consultation with their programme advisor, to make 120 credits in each Part of the programme. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title. In Part 1, students may opt to take all the remaining optional credits in Archaeology and/or History or choose modules from another Department. In Part 2 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (Level 4) 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 (Level 5) in 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, the Near East, 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. Career learning is also emphasised, and there is an opportunity to apply for an accredited placement.

In Part 3 (Level 6), there is an increasing specialisation and progression in both Archaeology and History to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth.

The precise list of modules available may vary from year to year according to staff availability.

### Part 1 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

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.

#### *Compulsory modules*

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AR1RM2	From Rome to the Reformation: an introduction to historical archaeology	20	4
AR1TS3	Practising Archaeology: methods and approaches	20	4
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

#### *Optional modules*

AR1P2	Primates to Pyramids: an introduction to world prehistory	20	4
AR1TS2	Bones, Bodies and Burials: the archaeology of death	20	4
MC1AM	Analysing Museum Displays	20	4

Modules chosen from elsewhere in the University can include the language modules offered by the Institution-Wide Language Programme (IWLP). Students may take up to 20 Archaeology credits from the level above (i.e. Part 2), **although any such choices must first be discussed with, and approved by, the Programme Director.**

### In the Department of History

*Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied*

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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### Part 2 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

There is one compulsory module in Archaeology (10 credits), plus a number of optional modules totalling 50 credits, while in History students should take THREE Period modules at 20 credits each, representing 60 credits in total (at least ONE of these History modules must be from the 'Early'

period). 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, career learning and the opportunity to undertake a placement for credit is taught within the module AR2F10

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AR2F10	Careers in Archaeology	10	5

### **In the Department of Archaeology [60 credits]**

*Optional modules (totalling 50 credits) chosen from a list approved each year. Those approved in 2011/12 (as an example) included:*

AR2F4	Silchester Field School Joint Honours (summer vacation)	10	5
AR2P5	The Middle Palaeolithic of Europe and SW Asia	20	5
AR2P20	People and Societies of the Ancient Near East	20	5
AR2P21	The Mesolithic of North-West Europe	10	5
AR2P6	Later Prehistoric Europe	20	5
AR2R8	Rome's Mediterranean Empire	20	5
AR2R9	Celts & Romans: Northern Europe & Britain	20	5
AR2M4	Later Medieval Europe	20	5
AR2M3	Post-Roman & Early Medieval Europe	20	5
AR2S1	Archaeological Science	20	5
AR2T1	Archaeological Thought	10	5
GG2P3	Human Activity & Environmental Change	10	5
AR2F5	Techniques in Artefact Interpretation	10	5
AR2F6	Techniques in Skeletal Interpretation	10	5
AR2F9	Geophysics	10	5
AR2Z1	Introduction to Zooarchaeology	10	5
MC2OA	Object Analysis & Museum Interpretation	20	5
AR2L1	Study Abroad	50	5

The Study Abroad option (ARL1) must be discussed with the Study Abroad Co-ordinator (currently Dr Anna Boozer).

Credits (up to 20) chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University may include include the language modules offered by the Institution-Wide Language Programme (IWLP). Students may take up to 20 Archaeology credits from the level below (i.e. Part 1) or above (i.e. Part 3), **although any such choices must first be discussed with, and approved by, the Programme Director.**

### **In the Department of History [60 credits]**

Students should take THREE Period modules at 20 credits each, representing 60 credits in total. At least ONE of these modules must be from the 'Early' (Medieval and Early Modern) era. Normally students should take TWO Period modules in the Autumn and ONE in the Spring.

A complete list of Period modules is available from the Department of History. Not all Period modules will necessarily be available in any year.

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

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*

AR3D1	Dissertation in Archaeology	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Level</i>
		40	6
Or			
HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6

### **In the Archaeology Department**

Two modules (totalling 40 credits) chosen from a list approved each year. Those currently planned for 2013-4 include:

AR3S4	Micromorphology & the study of early agricultural & urban	20	6
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	settlements & landscapes		
AR3S6	Palaeopathology	20	6
AR3S10	The Archaeology of Food and Nutrition	20	6
AR3S15	People, Plants and Environment Change	20	6
AR3S9	Coastal and Maritime Archaeology	20	6
AR3S16	Climate Change and Human Society	20	6
AR3P17	Hominins, Hearths and Handaxes: studies in the Lower Palaeolithic of North-west Europe	20	6
AR3P19	The Archaeology of Early Iran	20	6
AR3V1	Vikings in the West	20	6
AR3R10	The Archaeology of Money: Coins, Power and Society	20	6
AR3R8	Imperial Encounters in the Roman World	20	6
AR3R4	Roman Material Culture Studies	20	6
AR3M7	The Archaeology of Crusading	20	6
AR3M3	Expansion or Contraction in the Twelfth Century?	20	6
AR3M12	Artefacts and Medieval Daily Life	20	6

Students may take up to 20 Archaeology or History credits from the level below (i.e. Part 2), **although any such choices must first be discussed with, and approved by, the Programme Director.**

### **In the Department of History [40 credits]**

Students choose TWO optional 20 credit Topic modules, representing 40 credits in total. Normally ONE module will be taken in the Autumn, the other in the Spring. A complete list of Topic modules is available from the Department of History. Not all Topic modules necessarily run every year.

### **Progression requirements**

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

- Obtain a mark of at least 40% in **each** of the compulsory modules in Archaeology (AR1RM2 and AR1TS3) and History (HS1APH and HS1LMH); and
- Achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- Achieve 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:

- Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
  - Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken at Part 2.
- Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

- Certificate of Higher Education: 100 credits at Level 4 and 20 credits at any Level.
- Diploma of Higher Education: 240 credits, with at least 100 credits at Level 5 or above.

### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third (33%)

### Part 3 two-thirds (67%)

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve (i) both lectures and seminars or workshops (Levels 4 & 5); (ii) work in the field and/or the laboratory (Level 5); and (iii) principally seminars and small-group lectures (Level 6). 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 entirely by coursework, including a self-assessment document, an on-site examination, and performance in the field. The final year dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through a series of one-to-one tutorials, and assessed entirely by coursework (including a research design and an oral presentation).

#### **Admission requirements**

No previous experience of Archaeology is required for admission. Because Archaeology draws on many elements of the Arts and Sciences, a range of combinations of A-Levels will be appropriate.

Entrants should have achieved:

UCAS Tariff: 280 points from 3 full A-levels. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma and achieve 5, 5, 5 in three higher level subjects

Scottish Highers: BBBB

Scottish Advanced Highers: BBC

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB

We welcome deferred-entry applications from those wanting to take a gap year between School and University, and applications from mature students and students with special needs, for whom we may take a broader view of entry requirements. 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 A-levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. For those with special needs, we are happy, where necessary to take a flexible approach to field-work and practical work requirements, and to make appropriate arrangements for note taking and examinations.

Applications from international students are welcomed. If you are not offering A-levels or an International Baccalaureate, 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 is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

The Departmental Programme Handbooks issued to students in both Departments provide extensive information on resources and study skills. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices at the beginning of Part 1 and at the end of Part 1 and Part 2. There is full written feedback on essay work and other coursework. The personal tutor 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 with diverse teaching collections, computer laboratories (undergraduate access), and space for undergraduates to work in the Department (including a Reading Room). There are also traditional and digital drawing office facilities; geophysical and Total Station/GPS surveying equipment; excavation equipment; soil and sediment coring equipment; and audio-visual resources. There is a Resource

Room in History which provides quiet study space and a photocopier. 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, 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 or for placements**

Students may spend a period of study abroad, normally during Part 2, through the Department of Archaeology's exchange with the University of Lund, Sweden.

During your time in the Archaeology Department you will have the opportunity to develop your archaeological employability through various placements. You will be able to develop your fieldwork skills (e.g. excavation and recording, geophysics and other scientific techniques, planning and post-excavation, presentation to the public) through the Silchester Field School module and, in your second and third years, through the Placement and Trainee Schemes at Silchester.

Other optional placements are provided by fieldwork projects run by different members of the Department (these currently include: The Ecology of Crusading [<http://www.ecologyofcrusading.com/>], the Central Zagros Archaeological Project [<http://www.czap.org/>], and the Inner Hebrides Archaeological Project [<http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/research/Projects/arch-project-IHAP.aspx>]). A limited number of placements are also available to graduating 3rd year students within our commercial scientific company (QUEST), which provides archaeological, forensic, and environmental services to the commercial sector (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/afess/>). You will also have the opportunity to develop curatorial skills through voluntary work placements at the University's museums (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/about/merl-support.aspx>): the Ure Museum of Classical Archaeology (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/Ure/index.php>), the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/>), and the Coles Museum of Zoology (<http://www.colemuseum.reading.ac.uk/>). Voluntary post-excavation opportunities are also available in the form of finds processing and assisting with human bone curation.

During your time at Reading you will also have the opportunity to develop non-vocational skills, gain new work experiences, and further boost your employability through a diverse range of other placement opportunities. The University's Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/>), including the Reading Internship Scheme, the Reading Experience and Development Award, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme. Placements can also be taken for credit, through the Careers for Archaeologists module (AR2F11).

### **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;  
the broad sweep of history and the development of selected western societies and cultures focusing on the post-classical period;  
the contextualisation of forces, events, and

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and group and/or individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and other coursework and a dissertation. Knowledge of practical techniques and methodologies are further developed through participation in the

individual experiences in the historical process; a diverse range of primary archaeological and historical source material and evidence, their variability and reliability; a range of problems of dating, interpretation and evaluation of primary materials in their historical, political and social context; a range of techniques and methodologies, including scientific methods in Archaeology and the nature of debate and dispute in historical writing.

Silchester Field School, and/or in dedicated modules by problem-oriented class work.

At Level 4 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. At all Levels 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 examinations, except that in most practical-based modules it is examined entirely by coursework; the dissertation is by coursework and oral presentation. At Level 6, oral presentations also contribute to some modules.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **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.

#### **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 develop the capacity for critical judgement, including self-awareness as a working historian;

#### **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 Level 6 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 subsequent progress are supported by workshops and supervisions.

#### *Assessment*

These skills are assessed at all Levels of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, the dissertation and examinations.

#### **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 and other coursework, the dissertation and examinations. Modules in History consist of various

3. to select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data;
4. 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.

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/or by problem-oriented class work in dedicated Level 5 modules. Group and/or 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 subsequent progress are supported by workshops and supervisions.

#### *Assessment*

These skills are assessed at all Levels of the programme by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, the dissertation and examinations.

#### **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**

Developed in lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments, as well as through the Field School and/or in the practical elements of several Archaeology modules. Career management is taught through a distinct Part 2 careers and placements module.

#### *Assessment*

Skills assessed through 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**