

**BA Archaeology (part time)**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Archaeology
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	5 years
Date of specification:	23/Jul/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Rob Hosfield
Programme Advisor:	Prof Martin Bell
Board of Studies:	Archaeology
Accreditation:	Not applicable

**Summary of programme aims**

This programme provides a thorough degree-level education in Archaeology. It integrates practical experience (in the field and laboratory) with the academic study of the archaeology of prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, primarily in Britain, continental Europe, the Mediterranean region and the Near East. This programme is distinctive in its emphasis on experiential learning through excavations at Silchester Roman town and vocational options in Part 2 (i.e. human remains and artefacts analysis). Its strengths lie in the application of theoretical concepts, knowledge and philosophies in understanding past peoples and landscapes. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of archaeology within the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

**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, 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. By the end of the programme, students also should have acquired: a basic competence in empirical research and the critical analysis of data; an ability to draw conclusions from archaeological evidence and to communicate these through written media and oral presentations; an ability to place issues in a wider context; to think comparatively and cross-culturally; an ability to relate theoretical knowledge and ideas to practical situations; independent learning skills; and writing, reasoning, verbal, information technology and presentation skills. Through practical and field work students will also have the opportunity to develop proficiency in data collection, problem-solving, and in decision-making, together with communication skills 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, with 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.

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

BA Archaeology 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 adviser, 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 choose modules from another Department. In Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (Level 4) introduces the methods of the discipline of archaeology and reviews basic evidence for past lifestyles and human social development. Part 2 (Level 5) provides the opportunity to engage with primary archaeological data, through participation on the Silchester Field School, and through the study of archaeological science and technique-based modules. Approaches to interpretation are explored, and modules are provided on Palaeolithic, prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology, primarily in Britain, continental Europe, the Mediterranean region, and the Near East. For Part 2 recommended options are suggested for students intending to take Archaeology as a vocational degree. In Part 3 (Level 6) students write a dissertation (40 credits) and select from a range of specialist modules. The actual list of modules may vary from year to year according to staffing.

### Part 1 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

Students must take

AR1TS3	Practising Archaeology: methods and approaches	20	4
And two Archaeology modules from the following (totalling 60 credits):			
AR1P2	Primates to Pyramids: an introduction to world prehistory	20	4
AR1RM2	From Rome to the Reformation: an introduction to historical archaeology	20	4
AR1TS2	Bones, Bodies and Burials: the archaeology of death	20	40

Students make up a further 60 credits chosen from the extra optional modules in Archaeology and/or from modules available elsewhere in the University, including 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.**

*Optional modules (Archaeology):*

AR1P2	Primates to Pyramids: an introduction to world prehistory**	20	4
AR1RM2	From Rome to the Reformation: an introduction to historic archaeology**	20	4
AR1TS2	Bones, Bodies and Burials: the archaeology of death**	20	4
MC1CI	Museum Communication and Interpretation	20	4
MC1HPE	History, Policy & Ethics	20	4

\*\* Unless already taken as one of the three core modules.

### Part 2 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

There are three compulsory modules (40 credits), with a further 40 credits to be chosen from the Period options. The remaining 40 credits may be made up from the recommended options for vocational students or, for those interested in a broader degree, from further period modules. Up to 20 credits may be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University.

*Compulsory modules (40 credits)*

AR2F3	Silchester Field School (summer vacation)	20	5
AR2F10	Careers with Archaeology	10	5
AR2T1	Archaeological Thought	10	5

*Period Options:*

Two period options (40 credits) chosen from a list approved each year. Those approved for 2013/14 (as an example) included:

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
AR2R9	Celts & Romans: Northern Europe & Britain	20	5
AR2R8	Rome's Mediterranean Empire	20	5
AR2M3	Post-Roman and Early Medieval Europe	20	5
AR2M4	Later Medieval Europe	20	5

*Recommended Options for Vocational Students:*

AR2F5	Techniques in Artefact Interpretation	10	5
AR2F6	Techniques in Skeletal Interpretation	10	5
AR2F9	Geophysics	10	5
AR2Z1	Introduction to Zooarchaeology	10	5
AR2S1	Archaeological Science	20	5
GV2P3	Human Activity and Environmental Change	10	5
MC2CCM	Curatorship and Collections Management	20	5
AR2L1	Study Abroad	50	5

The Study Abroad (AR2L1) module **must be discussed with the Study Abroad Co-ordinator** (currently Dr Aleks Pluwsowski). Modules chosen from elsewhere in the University (up to 20 credits) can 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 2) or the level above (i.e. Part 3), **although any such choices must be first discussed with, and approved by, the Programme Director.**

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

There is a compulsory dissertation module (40 credits) plus a choice of optional modules, totalling 120 credits.

AR3D1	Dissertation	40	6
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*Four modules (totalling 80 credits) chosen from a list approved each year. Those approved for 2013/14 (as an example) included:*

AR3S15	People, Plants & Environmental Change	20	6
AR3S4	Micromorphology & the study of early agricultural & urban settlements & landscapes	20	6
AR3S6	Palaeopathology	20	6
AR3S10	The Archaeology of Food and Nutrition	20	6
AR3S9	Coastal and Maritime Archaeology	20	6
AR3S16	Holocene Climate Change & Human Societies	20	6
AR3P19	The Archaeology of Early Iran	20	6
AR3P17	Hominins, Hearths and Handaxes: studies in the Lower Palaeolithic of North-west Europe	20	6
AR3P20	Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Britain	20	6
AR3R10	The Archaeology of Money: Coins, Power & Society	20	6
AR3R4	Roman Material Culture	20	6
AR3V1	Vikings in the West	20	6
AR3M12	The Artefacts of Medieval Daily Life	20	6
AR3M3	Expansion or contraction in 12th century England	20	6
AR3M7	The Archaeology of Crusading	20	6

Students should note that not all modules will be available in any one year. The availability of all optional modules is subject to the availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants. Modules chosen from elsewhere in the University (up to 20 credits) can 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 2), **although any such choices must be first discussed with, and approved by, the Programme Director.**

### **Progression requirements**

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.

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- a) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules in Archaeology (AR1TS3, and two of the following: AR1P2, AR1RM2 and AR1TS3); and
- b) Achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- c) 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 achieve a threshold performance. To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

### **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
- Part 3: two-thirds

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve (i) both lectures and seminars or workshops (Levels 4 & 5); (ii) work in the field and 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 performance in the field, an on-site examination, and a skills self-assessment document. The final year dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through a series of one-to-one tutorials, and is 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: 300 points (ie BBB) 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 from 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 Handbooks provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The 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. The University Library is well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of archaeology.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

The degree in Archaeology at Reading is both a route into archaeology (including field archaeology, museums and heritage management), or a good basis for other careers in the areas of the arts, media, management, administration, the civil service, local government, commerce, law, publishing, librarianship and teaching. The emphasis on field training, coupled with wide academic provision in archaeological theory, science, and period and area topics, offers a broad range of vocational skills, in addition to those of communication and problem-solving. Whether direct from a BA degree, or following graduate study, a number of graduates have found positions in UK and European archaeology.

#### **Opportunities for study abroad**

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement. The Archaeology Department currently has an ERASMUS exchange link with the University of Lund, Sweden.

#### **Placement opportunities**

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 Advisory Service (CAS) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/>), including the Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery internship scheme (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/seed/>), the Community Service Volunteering scheme (tutoring in local schools; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringinschools.aspx>), the Student Associates Scheme (work experience in local schools; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)), and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)).

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, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. the growth of archaeology as a discipline;
2. the current practice of archaeology within its wider political, social and institutional context;
3. the diverse sources of evidence used by archaeologists, their variability and reliability;
4. the main methods by which archaeologists acquire, date and analyse their primary evidence, including scientific methods;
5. the range of interpretative approaches applied to archaeological evidence in their historical, political and social context;
6. the development of selected human societies from our earliest ancestors to the medieval period, particularly in Europe and the Mediterranean.

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

At Part 1, all areas are taught largely through illustrated lectures. Aspects 3-5 are fundamental to all modules in the programme and are taught at all levels through lectures and seminars. Aspects 2-5 are further developed in Part 2 through participation in the Field School, and in dedicated modules by lectures, seminars and problem-oriented class work. There is further opportunity to pursue Aspects 1, 2 and 5 in depth through selected seminar-based options at Level 6. Aspect 6 is developed through selected period modules at Level 5, taught by lectures and seminars, and through more specialised, seminar-based, modules at Level 6. 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 assessed entirely by coursework. At Level 6, oral presentations also

contribute.

### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. to assess the character and quality of archaeological data;
2. to synthesise and integrate evidence from multiple and diverse sources;
3. to recognise and critically evaluate past and current theoretical approaches and competing interpretations;
4. to think comparatively and cross-culturally;
5. to think critically and independently;
6. to locate, extract and assemble data and information;
7. to organise material in order to synthesise and articulate an argument effectively.

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

1. to identify, excavate, record and analyse archaeological stratigraphy, features and deposits;
2. to excavate, process, identify and analyse a variety of artefacts and environmental material;
3. to recognise and interpret archaeological traces in the landscape;
4. to prepare archaeological drawings and/or other forms of visual presentation;
5. to locate, extract and appraise critically archaeological information in published sources and on the WWW;
6. to plan and carry out a primary research project, working independently.

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

1. to communicate clearly and effectively in speech and in a variety of types of writing;
2. to deal effectively with a variety of numerical data and visual material;
3. to identify and devise strategies for solving problems;
4. to work effectively in a team;
5. to locate information and use information technology;
6. to organise their own time purposefully and work independently;

#### **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, and practicals. Set essays, seminar discussions, oral presentations and examination questions frequently involve analysis and debate of intellectual problems, particularly at Level 6 and in a dedicated module on Archaeological Thought in Level 5. Awareness of current approaches is encouraged and 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 progress are supported through workshops and supervisions.

#### *Assessment*

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

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

Skills 1-4 are primarily taught through participation in the Field School and by problem-oriented class work in dedicated modules in Level 5, following preliminary lectures in Part 1. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the WWW.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1-4 are assessed by coursework. Skill 5 is assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and the dissertation. Skill 6 is assessed through the dissertation.

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

Skill 1 is developed throughout the course in the writing of essays, practical and laboratory reports, and the dissertation, and by participation in seminars.

Skills 2-5 are taught particularly through the Field School and in the practical elements of several Level 5 modules, as well as in selected Level 6 modules.

Skill 6 is essential for the successful completion of the programme, and is exercised particularly through the Field School and the dissertation.

7. to make informed career plans.

Career management is taught through a dedicated Part 2 module, and is linked with placement opportunities and the skills acquired through the Silchester Field School and other aspects of the degree.

*Assessment*

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

**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.**