

Programme Specification

BA Archaeology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: V400

UFARCHBA

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Archaeology with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: V402) BA Archaeology with Professional Placement - 4 years (UCAS Code: V401)
Accreditation	Not applicable

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a long-term perspective on the diversity and richness of past human experience, combining a degree-level education in archaeology with the development of numerous academic and personal transferable skills in preparation for a wide range of career choices. The programme integrates practical experience (in the field and laboratory) with the academic study of the archaeology of pre- and protohistoric, Classical, and medieval periods, in Britain, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Near East and globally. It is distinctive in its emphasis on experiential learning through the Department's Archaeology Field School and vocational options (e.g. bone and artefacts analysis utilising our excellent teaching collections). The programme's strengths lie in the combination of methodologies from the humanities and sciences and the application of theoretical concepts and analytical skills to material evidence in order to understand the human past in all its spatial and temporal dimensions, and to lend past perspectives to contemporary global challenges. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge and skills within the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the discipline of archaeology and its methodology and provides a broad overview of past lifestyles and human social development in a diachronic perspective.
Part 2:	Provides you with the engagement with primary archaeological data, the development of analytical skills and the nature of archaeological interpretation through participation in the departmental field school and a combination of vocational, techniques- and period-based modules.
Placement/Study abroad year:	A placement year, if undertaken, provides the opportunity to obtain practical experience and apply academic knowledge. It also helps provide

	focus in the final year of academic study. Students gain transferable skills demanded by graduate employers and on return to university are better informed about future career paths. A year abroad provides the opportunity for students to broaden both their academic and cultural awareness.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to increase specialisation through the provision of a range of specialist subjects from which a choice is made, and lets you conduct an original research project through the dissertation.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AR1EMP	Early Empires: Mesopotamia, Egypt & Rome	20	4
AR1MET	Archaeology today: methods and practice	20	4
AR1RAT	Revolutions and Transitions: The Human Journey from 6 Million Years Ago to the Present Day	20	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology, Museum Studies or elsewhere in the University.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AR2F12	Archaeology Fieldschool Single Honours	20	5
AR2F20	Professional Practice	10	5
AR2FAO	Ancient objects: materials and meanings	10	5
AR2TAH	Archaeology and heritage: past, present and future	20	5

Students with significant prior experience in archaeological fieldwork may apply for an exemption from AR2F12 and choose alternative modules.

You must also take: A minimum of 20 credits worth of 'Period Options', focussing on the archaeology of specific time periods or regions.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology or cross-listed modules in other Departments, including vocational, techniques- and science-based options. Under certain circumstances, up to 20 credits may be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students permitted to undertake a placement/study abroad year will take 120 credits in either Work Experience and/or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AR3D1	Dissertation	40	6

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in Archaeology or cross-listed modules in other Departments. Under certain circumstances, up to 20 credits may be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

You will be expected to be equipped with suitable outdoor clothing, footwear and some camping gear for the Archaeology Field School. There are no compulsory textbooks, but you may expect to want to spend around £75/year on books. Discounted second hand copies may be available. Depending on your module combination, you may be asked to contribute to the costs of non-compulsory fieldtrips and museum visits (c. £50/year).

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2021.

Placement opportunities

You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during

your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, practicals, fieldtrips and laboratory based sessions.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 650 hours, depending upon your module combination; information about contact hours for individual modules can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written coursework (including an independent research dissertation), oral presentations, practical tests, and fieldwork.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits;
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/ work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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

Four year programmes, including professional/ work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Archaeology for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

17 June 2022

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