

## Programme Specification

### BA Archaeology and History

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: VV14

UFARXHS

UFARXHSSY

UFARXHSWY

**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 and History with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: VV12) BA Archaeology and History with Professional Placement - 4 years (UCAS Code: VV11)
Accreditation	N/A

### Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a long-term perspective on the diversity and richness of human experience by combining a complementary degree-level education in Archaeology and History with the development of numerous academic and personal transferable skills in preparation for a wide range of career choices. The Programme offers students the opportunity to study the human past in its broadest possible dimension, from the earliest hominin ancestors some 4 million years ago to modern times, within Britain, Europe and globally. Students will have the opportunity to study using archives and collections, including those of the Reading University Museums and Special Collections Services, and to take part in experiential learning through the Archaeology Field School, vocational and technique-based 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 insight into two different academic disciplines and cultures, in order to understand the human past in all its spatial and temporal dimensions, and to lend past perspectives to 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 methodology of both disciplines through the study of themes and long-term historical change, providing a broad overview of past lifestyles and human social development in a diachronic perspective.
Part 2:	Provides you with understanding of both disciplines, individual time periods and historical problems. It encourages you to engage with primary data (documentary sources and material evidence) and develop practical

	skills through participation in the Archaeology Field School and further technique-based options.
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 a dissertation in either Archaeology or History.

### 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
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
HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20	4
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concepts'	20	4
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20	4

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

#### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
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You need to take 60 credits in the Department of Archaeology and 60 credits in the Department of History. You must choose either AR2F20: Professional Practice (10 credits) or HS2GPP: Going Public: Presenting the Past, Planning the Future (20 credits). You need to also choose a minimum of 20 credits from a list of 'Period Options' in Archaeology, focusing on specific time periods or regions.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules in History and Archaeology, including the Archaeology Field School. 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:**

You must choose one Dissertation module in either Archaeology (AR3D1: Dissertation (40 credits)) or History (HS3HLD: Dissertation in History (40 credits)). You need to also choose an additional 40 credits worth of optional modules in each Department.

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**

During your programme of study you may incur some additional costs.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

Depending on your module combinations, you may also be asked to contribute to the costs of non-compulsory fieldtrips and museum visits (c. £50/year). If you wish to participate in the Archaeology Field School you will be expected to be equipped with suitable outdoor clothing, footwear and some camping gear.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2022.

### **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. Some modules include group and one-to-one supervisions and/or study trips.

History in particular is a subject which frequently requires preparation for classes through reading and independent study. Formal classes, of whatever kind, are there to give you guidance over content and approaches, and to offer opportunities for different kinds of learning (listening/note-taking; discussions; formal and informal presentations; essay-writing; other kinds of writing) but the responsibility for study lies with you.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 500 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 examinations and written coursework (including an independent research dissertation). In Archaeology you may also be assessed through oral presentations, practical tests, and fieldwork. In History, besides formal essays, shorter written exercises such as book reviews and source analyses, the programme includes an innovative range of coursework assignments such as reflective reports, placement logs, wikis, blogs, vlogs and online galleries. Some modules may be partly assessed by oral presentation, visual presentation and/or online exercises. In the case of placement modules, a placement provider's report on the student's performance on placement may form part of the assessment process.

## 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; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules in History (HS1JH1, HS1JH2 and HS1RSO);

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 and History for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

17 June 2022

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