

Archaeology - Undergraduate - 2021/22

Award Level: BA

UCAS Code: V400

Start Date: September 2021

Mode of study: Full-time, Part-time

Duration: 3 years, 6 years

Location: Canterbury

Main quote

It's extra special to study Humanities at a University situated on a UNESCO World Heritage Site, occupying part of the same ground as the original St Augustine's Abbey.

Main quote source

Barnaby

Course overview

Our Canterbury Campus is in a World Heritage site, making it an excellent place to study Archaeology.

You will participate in funded fieldwork placements, where you will gain practical experience and transferable skills.

Our expert staff will support and inspire you in your academic journey as we explore the past, from the earliest human origins through to the present day. You will study the theories, methods and practice of archaeology including laboratory analysis of artefacts and skeletal remains, survey, excavation and computing techniques, and contemporary debates in archaeological thought.

98% of our Archaeology students were satisfied with the academic support on their course.

National Student Survey 2021

Why study (course name)

Why Study Archaeology?

Archaeology is a fascinating and varied subject. It is both practical and academic and draws upon the humanities, natural and social sciences, and the arts.

Our course will help you to consolidate a wide range of skills that will equip you for employment across a number of sectors including heritage, education, environmental policy and planning, tourism, conservation, museums, charities, and media.

Note: At the moment we are planning to run the compulsory fieldwork element in the summer as normal. We may have to adjust our plans in the light of national guidance on the COVID-19 situation. COVID-secure protocols can be established to deliver the Fieldwork if necessary, however, if there is a national lockdown, the fieldwork will be postponed until it is safe to undertake it.

Complete University Guide Subject League Table 2022

In the Top 12 for student satisfaction with the quality of teaching in the subject area of Archaeology.

Text after read more tag

Kent has a rich and distinct heritage and Canterbury is one of the most significant historic centres in Britain. Canterbury Christ Church University is situated in the heart of the World Heritage site that stretches from the Cathedral through the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey, to St Martin's Church. So what better place to study Archaeology?

Alongside modules focusing on archaeological theories, methods and practice, you can explore the prehistoric, classical, and medieval worlds. You will also apply and develop your skills during fieldwork placements.

100% of our Archaeology students were satisfied with the quality of their course.

National Student Survey 2021

Entry requirements

A typical offer would be 88-112 UCAS points.

For more information on the IELTS (International English language Testing System) requirements for this course, [please click here to visit our dedicated web page.](https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/study-here/international/english-language-requirements)

[\[More information about entry requirements.\]](/study-here/applying/entry-requirements)

All about the course Year 1 text

In Year 1, you will gain a broad understanding of the human past from early prehistory, along with training in key archaeological methods and techniques such as excavation, survey, skeletal analysis and artefact study.

You will gain skills and knowledge needed to pursue more specialised training and in-depth study in subsequent years.

All about the course Year 2 text

In Year 2, you will take part in an archaeological excavation (or equivalent practical experience) and will have the option of undertaking further technical training in, for example, osteoarchaeology, landscape studies, and data analysis techniques. You will also learn about the social and anthropological aspects of archaeological interpretation.

All about the course Year 3 text

In Year 3, teaching is specialist and research focused. You can take modules on heritage studies, the archaeology and anthropology of death and burial, and the prehistoric and historic periods.

You will have the opportunity to develop your own archaeological research project by taking a dissertation supervised one-to-one by our expert staff.

You can also enhance your fieldwork skills by participating in advanced level training.

Note: At the moment we are planning to run the compulsory fieldwork element in the summer as normal. We may have to adjust our plans in the light of national guidance on the COVID-19 situation. COVID-secure protocols can be established to deliver the Fieldwork if necessary, however, if there is a national lockdown, the fieldwork will be postponed until it is safe to undertake it.

Year 1 modules

Introduction to Archaeology

Core module - (20 Credits)

In this module you will explore the main theories and methods of archaeology and develop key study skills that you will use throughout your degree.

Archaeological Skills

Core module/single honours only - (40 Credits)

This module introduces you to the main field and laboratory techniques used in archaeological research. You will gain practical experience of a range of research methods, including Geographic Information Systems and those related to osteoarchaeology and artefact analysis.

Civilisations of the Ancient World

Core module - (20 Credits)

This module introduces you to the cultures and civilisations of the Ancient World through the examination of historical and archaeological evidence. You will explore themes including art, religion, politics, and social life.

Archaeology of Prehistoric Britain

Core module - (20 Credits)

This module is about the prehistoric world, from the arrival of early humans hundreds of thousands of years ago to the Romans in the first century AD. We will explore wide-ranging evidence from Palaeolithic art and Neolithic monuments, through to artefacts of everyday life.

Archaeology of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Core module - (20 Credits)

In this module you will explore the archaeology of the Medieval world from AD 400 to 1500.

You will look at themes such as the end of the Roman Empire, the creation of kingdoms, the Norman Conquest, and the making of the medieval landscape. We make use of Canterbury's rich medieval heritage in exploring these themes.

Year 2 modules

Fieldwork I

Core module - (20 Credits)

This module introduces you to the basic techniques and fundamental skills of archaeological fieldwork through hands-on experience over the course of a four-week placement, primarily in field archaeology but in some cases within the wider heritage sector. Placements are coordinated and administered by the Archaeology staff in cooperation with external partner organisations and projects. Standard placements take place during the summer.

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established to deliver the Fieldwork if necessary, however, if there is a national lockdown, the fieldwork will be postponed until it is safe to undertake it.

Archaeology in Context

Core module - (20 Credits)

This module introduces you to the range of approaches known as 'archaeological theory'. It emphasises that theory underpins everything we do as archaeologists, from data collection and analysis to interpretation and dissemination of knowledge about the past. Emphasis is placed upon the connections between archaeology and anthropology, philosophy, sociology, history, human geography, and literary theory.

Bones and Bodies: An Introduction to Osteoarchaeology

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module introduces you to the key methods and theoretical approaches used to explore the human skeleton in archaeology. You will gain practical experience of recording, analysing and curating human skeletal remains. The archaeology of animal bones or 'zooarchaeology' is also introduced.

Life and Death in Medieval Europe

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module you will explore what it was like to live and die in Europe during the Central and Later Middle Ages. You will integrate historical and archaeological evidence to explore the daily lives of people from the time of the Vikings through to the Black Death and the Reformation.

After the Ice: Themes in Holocene Prehistory

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module explores life in north west Europe in later prehistory through a series of themes such as death and burial, warfare, food, and architecture during the Mesolithic to the Iron Age.

Castles in Medieval Society

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module introduces you to the development of castles in the Middle Ages, and their place within medieval society. We will draw on historical, archaeological and literary sources, and examine methodologies for their study from different disciplines and how they interact.

Research Methods

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module will provide training in different methods of data analysis and communication in archaeology. You will explore a range of quantitative methods and computer applications including Geographical Information Systems and databases.

Britannia: oppida to civitates

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module examines the history and archaeology of Britain from the Late Iron Age to the third century AD, with a particular focus on the context and effects of the Roman conquest in AD 43. Textual sources and archaeological evidence are compared, contrasted, and combined to formulate a more complete understanding of this pivotal period in Britain's past.

Year 3 modules

Individual Study in Archaeology (dissertation)

Core module - (40 Credits)

In this module you will design and undertake your own research project. You will define the topic in consultation with a supervisor, and one-to-one guidance is provided as you produce the final 8,000 word dissertation. The dissertation is an excellent exercise in project management, research, and communication.

Fieldwork II

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module further develops the research and practical skills you acquired in the Fieldwork I module, with an emphasis on skills progression and increasing responsibility.

Note: At the moment we are planning to run the compulsory fieldwork element in the summer as normal. We may have to adjust our plans in the light of national guidance on the COVID-19 situation. COVID-secure protocols can be established to deliver the Fieldwork if necessary, however, if there is a national lockdown, the fieldwork will be postponed until it is safe to undertake it.

Foragers and Farmers in Prehistoric Europe

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module you will examine the shift from hunting and gathering to farming in prehistoric Europe, with special emphasis on Britain. The module includes topics such as hunter-gatherer theory, the first use of ceramic technology, and social and demographic changes associated with the onset of farming.

Roman Lives

Optional module - (20 Credits)

This module explores lived experience in the Roman world, integrating theoretical and methodological frameworks for understanding daily life. It explicitly moves away from historically driven imperial narratives to focus on human agency, and seeks to make use of compelling archaeological evidence from celebrated sites throughout the Roman empire, such as Pompeii.

Britain in the Early Medieval World

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you will explore the archaeology and history of the British Isles between the fourth and ninth centuries AD. You will examine debates surrounding religious change, migration, settlement, economy, and state formation. Topics include the Britons, Picts, Scots, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

In Search of the Past: The Meanings of Heritage

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you will explore the past through the idea of 'heritage' as it appears in history and culture. Topics covered include antiquarianism, heritage tourism, and travel writing; the development of museums and their collections; the formation of national heritage bodies in the twentieth century, popular culture and heritage in the age of global media; and archaeology and its popular appeal. The rich heritage of Kent is drawn on for case studies and field trips.

The Archaeology and Anthropology of Death and Burial

Optional module - (20 Credits)

In this module, you will study a range of themes and case-studies focusing on how people across the globe have approached death and burial, from the Palaeolithic through to present day societies. We will integrate anthropological and archaeological perspectives to explore how remains of the dead can provide important windows into funerary practices, and the interrelated social, religious, political, and economic factors that influence them.

Learning and teaching quote

I've taught at Canterbury Christ Church University since 2012. I love the opportunities that come through working in a World Heritage Site. I specialise in early medieval archaeology and particularly enjoy teaching fieldwork techniques and research methods.

Learning and teaching quote source

Dr Andy Seaman

Learning and teaching quote job title

Subject Lead, Archaeology

Learning and Teaching tab 1 label

Teaching

Learning and teaching tab 1 text

You will learn through a combination of academic and practical activities on and off campus. Some modules are centred around lectures, seminars and workshops (usually held weekly and of two-hour duration), while the majority of practical teaching is in the laboratory and field, where you can spend up to eight weeks learning archaeological techniques.

You will have one-to-one contact time with staff during your studies and for some modules, such as the optional third year dissertation, there will be small group tutorials and one-to-one supervision.

You will typically have around 12-14 contact hours per week, in addition to one-to-one sessions and day field trips.

All courses are informed by the University's [\[Learning and Teaching Strategy 20152022\]\(/asset-library/Courses/Learning-and-Teaching-Strategy-2015-2022.pdf\)](#).

100% of our Archaeology students were satisfied with the learning opportunities on their course

National Student Survey 2021

Learning and teaching tab 2 label

Independent study

Learning and teaching tab 2 text

When not attending lectures, seminars, workshops or other timetabled sessions you will continue learning through self-guided study. Typically, this involves reading journal articles and books, undertaking research in the library, local museums and heritage sites, working on projects, and preparing for coursework assignments, workshops, and seminars.

Your module tutor will direct you towards specific readings and/or activities to complete before class.

For your dissertation in Year 3, you will undertake independent research alongside workshops and one-to-one supervision from a member of the course team.

Learning and teaching tab 3 label

Overall workload

Learning and teaching tab 3 text

Your overall workload typically consists of 12-14 contact hours per week during semester time. In addition, you will undertake 13-15 hours of independent learning and assessment activity. In some weeks there will be field trips, and the fieldwork placement typically takes place five days a week (full-time) over the course of a month during the summer.

Learning and teaching tab 4 label

Academic input

Learning and teaching tab 4 text

The team consists of highly qualified academics who have a range of expertise and experience. Our staff are research-active and they have experience in delivering researchinformed teaching.

Our team members hold doctoral, teaching and professional qualifications. The majority of staff hold Higher Education Academy professional teaching qualifications and/or membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Postgraduate students and invited guest lecturers sometimes assist in teaching and assessing some modules. However, our permanent course team deliver the vast majority of teaching.

You should note members of the teaching team might change.

Assessment text

Our modules are assessed through a combination of written coursework assignments (such as essays and reports), practical exercises (such as laboratory reports and assessed work in the field), with less emphasis on exams. Support and guidance for assessments is provided throughout the course.

The balance of assessment depends to some extent on the optional modules you choose.

96% of our Archaeology students were satisfied with the assessment and feedback on their course.

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Careers text

A degree in archaeology provides training in creative and critical thinking, analysis of complex datasets, and research and communication. The study and practice of archaeology also rely on excellent teamwork, management, and problem-solving skills. This opens many opportunities for employment and further study.

Our graduates have successfully gained employment in a range of professions, including commercial archaeology, local government, museums, and industry. Recent graduates have worked for Wessex Archaeology, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Historic England, and the National Trust. The degree can also lead onto postgraduate study of archaeology or a related discipline such as history, geography, museum studies, or anthropology. Recent graduates have gone on to pursue postgraduate qualifications in specialist fields such as osteoarchaeology, heritage studies, and urban planning.

Careers quote

Since graduating I have started a Masters in Tourism and Events Management. I hope to work within the heritage sector organising community events and outreach activities. The Archaeology Team helped me to discover which career path I wanted to take, and their ongoing support helped me to expand my skill set and knowledge within the archaeological sector. They also provided great pastoral care and ensured I could reach my full potential.

Careers quote source

Beth

Careers quote job title

Class of 2019