

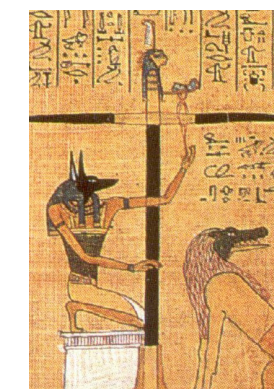
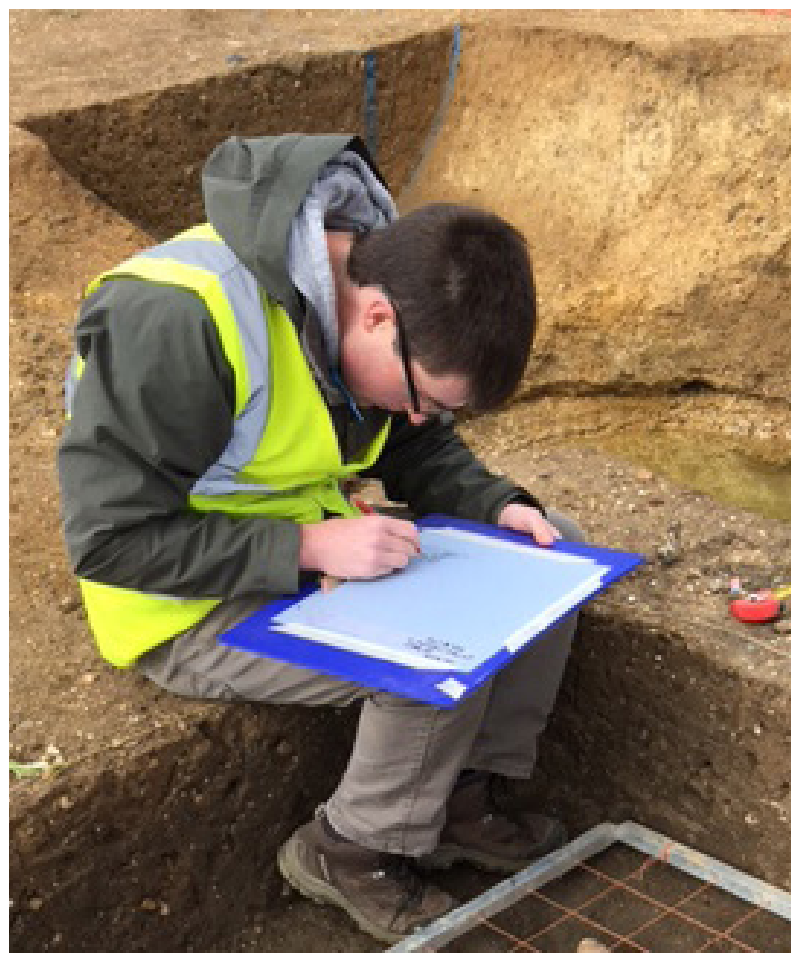


What are we looking for?

We welcome your application if you have a real passion for Archaeology, Biological Anthropology or the languages and cultures of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. What we look for in applicants is academic ability, motivation, and intellectual curiosity; because Archaeology is such a broad field, our students have backgrounds in everything from History to Biology, English to Physics, Philosophy to Geography. We value diversity, of background and outlook, and we welcome talented students from around the world.

We do not expect particular combinations of A-level subjects. A typical offer (made by the College you apply to) will be A*AA; for the International Baccalaureate: 40-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level; for the Scottish Advanced Higher Grade, the usual requirement is AAA.

If you are not sure about the process, just get in touch with us!



How do I apply?

The process of applying to study at Cambridge is much the same as that for other universities. However, at Cambridge the process starts earlier and the UCAS application deadline is 15th October. The UCAS code for studying Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Assyriology and Egyptology is V400. You can find detailed application information on the main Cambridge undergraduate website. Admissions Tutors and Directors of Studies in the Colleges are always happy to answer your questions.

"The course gave me a broad, scientific base with which to continue studies of the human past, including ideas of genetics and the complexity of our family. But the ability to study the anatomy of the past and present undoubtedly provides the most challenging and interesting parts of my degree, which in turn gives me skills which are generalisable and I can carry on into my future career."

Helen, current undergraduate student

ARCHAEOLOGY
ASSYRIOLOGY
EGYPTOLOGY
BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Get in touch

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www.arch.cam.ac.uk

BASICS

The research we do ranges widely across time and space, from discovering where the gold from Tutankhamun's mask came from, to studying the population genetics of south-east Asian islands, to uncovering the impact of plague on medieval Cambridge. If you study with us, you will have the opportunity to take part in this research as it evolves.

Our degree programme is outstandingly broad and exciting, equally rewarding for those who feel at home in the sciences, the humanities, or both.

After a joint first year, it allows you to specialise in one or more of Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Assyriology and Egyptology.

- Archaeology uses material evidence to explore the nature and development of particular societies and to explain the variations and commonalities of the human past.
- Biological Anthropology explores human evolution, biology and behaviour, and the interaction between biology and culture.
- Assyriology is the study of the languages, cultures, history, archaeology and religion of ancient Mesopotamia (Sumer, Babylonia and Assyria).
- Egyptology is the study of the history, languages, society, archaeology and religion of ancient Egypt.

Over the course of your degree, you might find yourself studying the behaviour of chimpanzees, learning about our oldest human ancestors, translating Egyptian hieroglyphs, learning about radiocarbon dating, or examining imagery in a Babylonian poem.

You will gain insights into many of the most important challenges for human life on earth in the present day, from climate change to economic inequality, from pandemic diseases to the politics of archaeological heritage in wartime.

By the end of your degree you will have engaged in the detailed study of primary sources, you may have studied an ancient language, and you will probably have written your first piece of independent research (in the form of a 10,000 word dissertation).

STRUCTURE

You have between six and eight lectures per week, as well as practicals and language classes (where appropriate), plus one or two small-group tutorials. You're assessed each year through written exams, as well as essays, practical work or lab portfolios. Most students also write a 10,000 word dissertation in Year 3.

Year 1

You pick three from six core archaeology, language and biological anthropology modules. Your fourth can be another core module, or a module from psychology, social anthropology, sociology or politics.

Core modules

- World Archaeology
- Archaeology in action
- Introduction to the cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Babylonian language 1
- Egyptian language 1
- Humans in biological perspective

Years 2 and 3

You can pursue one of four single-subject tracks. They can also be combined as Archaeology and Biological Anthropology or Assyriology and Egyptology.



Archaeology

Year 2

You take modules on theory and practice, data analysis, and the archaeology of a particular period or region. The fourth is either another period/region option, a biological anthropology module or one from another department such as Classics or Social Anthropology. Fieldwork consists of excavation training as well as a week-long fieldtrip.

Year 3

You complete four weeks of fieldwork in the summer before Year 3. All students study advanced archaeological thought, archaeology in the wider world, plus additional modules from Archaeology, or from another department such as Classics or Social Anthropology. All students also write a dissertation.

Egyptology

Year 2

You take modules in Egyptian language and archaeological methods and concepts, plus two modules on society, religion and death in Ancient Egypt. You also undertake a four-week study tour and/or fieldwork.

Year 3

Alongside a core Egyptian language module and two Egyptian archaeology modules, all students write a dissertation.

Teaching

We offer you research-led teaching. That means that the content of our modules is often at the cutting-edge of ongoing research. Our teaching combines lectures, seminars, practical work, language classes, and lab experience. You will have extensive contact with staff through our small-group tutorials. Fieldwork experience is a vital element of the Archaeology course, and there are many opportunities for students to join Department-based research projects.

Community

As a student of Archaeology at Cambridge, you will work closely with and alongside teaching staff, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students. You will be able to experience a dynamic and diverse research environment. With your dissertation or lab projects you might have the opportunity to contribute to one of the big research projects hosted by our Department. We are a friendly Department with students and staff members from all over the world.

Assyriology

Year 2

You take four modules: Mesopotamian archaeology, Babylonian language, and two from other course options (one can be from another department). You also undertake a four-week study tour and/or fieldwork.

Year 3

You take modules in advanced Babylonian language with Assyrian, and Mesopotamian archaeology; and one on Mesopotamian history or culture, or Sumerian language. The fourth is one of around 20 options available or a dissertation.

Biological Anthropology

Year 2

You take two of three modules exploring human ecology and behaviour, human evolution and human comparative biology, plus a module on data analysis and interpretation. You select your fourth from options offered elsewhere in this course, or from another department such as Psychology or Social Anthropology.

Year 3

You take a module on major topics in human evolutionary studies, and four more option modules surveying current issues across biological anthropology, plus a dissertation. You can swap two option modules for a module in Archaeology or Psychology.

Resources

Our excellent resources include the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, a well-equipped IT suite, purpose built laboratories and dedicated libraries. In addition, the Duckworth Collection of human and primate skeletal remains and fossil hominin casts, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Fitzwilliam Museum provide access to extensive collections of primary sources of world importance.

Employability

Whatever interests you pursue and develop, our degree will refine your existing skills and build new ones, making you an informed and intelligent analyst of complex evidence, as well as a critical thinker, and an articulate presenter and writer of your ideas. These are skills highly valued by employers, opening the way to many careers as a graduate. As well as continuing on to graduate study, our graduates have gone on to careers in the media, commerce, diplomacy, advertising, museums, conservation and health, among others.