

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is the study of people and their material worlds in the past. Archaeologists at Cambridge are interested in humans, their societies and their interactions with the environment from our earliest human ancestors to the present day. We study every aspect of people's lives, from the mundane to the sacred, whether that is parasites left behind in Roman toilets, or a prehistoric sanctuary on a remote Greek island.

The Archaeology track at Cambridge is extraordinarily broad and intellectually challenging.

If you are interested in what the stone tools that people discarded sitting around a fireplace can tell us about how people learnt new skills in the Palaeolithic or what medieval fishbones can tell us about emerging North Atlantic trade networks, then Archaeology is the degree for you.

Our modules range in time from the Palaeolithic to the modern day and cover the UK and Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. We also offer modules on archaeological theory and practice, archaeological science, and on archaeology in the contemporary world.

Many modules have a practical element: you can learn how to take a 3D image of a human skull, how to analyse data statistically, how to extract DNA, or how to identify seeds under a microscope. You will even get to make and fire your own pottery!

In Year 3, you have the opportunity to conduct research for your dissertation. You design your own research question, with the help of your supervisor, and you will have the space and time to fully immerse yourself in a topic that interests you.

Fieldwork is a vital element of the Archaeology track, and there are many opportunities for you to join department-based research projects. There are a number of field trips, including a week-long excursion in the second year. In recent years, these trips took us to Serbia, Montenegro and northern Italy. You will have the opportunity to spend four weeks on an excavation of your choice, approved by the Department. The Department subsidises all these activities.



STRUCTURE

Modules can either be one or two terms long. In each year you choose the equivalent of four two-term modules:

Year 1

- World Archaeology
- Archaeology in Action
- Introduction to the Cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Babylonian Language 1
- Egyptian Language
- Humans in Biological Perspective
- A module in another department, including Social Anthropology or Psychology

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

- Archaeological Theory and Practice 1
- From Data to Interpretation

Optional modules may include:

- Palaeolithic Archaeology
- The Medieval Globe
- Mesopotamian Archaeology
- The Archaeology of Mesoamerica and North America
- The Archaeology of Africa
- Archaeological Science
- A module in another department including Social Anthropology or Psychology

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

- Archaeological Theory and Practice 2
- The Past in the Present
- Dissertation

Optional modules may include:

- Archaeology of Colonialism
- Britain AD 300-800
- British Prehistory
- Historical Ecology
- Molecular Archaeology
- Decoding the Skeleton

