

Programme Specification

BSc Archaeological Science

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: F420

UFARCSCI

UFARCSCISY

UFARCSCIWY

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	BSc Archaeological Science with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: F422) BSc Archaeological Science with Professional Placement - 4 years (UCAS Code: F421)
Accreditation	N/A

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 thorough degree-level education in archaeological science with the development of numerous academic and personal transferable skills in preparation for a wide range of career choices. The programme integrates practical experience and theoretical knowledge of key methods and approaches from the archaeological sciences (in the field and laboratory), using archaeological case studies from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, in Britain, Europe and globally. It is distinctive in its emphasis on experiential learning and applied scientific methods through the Department's Archaeology Field School and other projects and vocational options (e.g. bone, pollen and isotope analysis). The programme's strengths lie in the combination of methodologies from the humanities and sciences to reconstruct past environments, climate and societies, 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 discipline of archaeology and its methodology, with an emphasis on archaeological science, and provides a broad overview of past lifestyles and human social development.
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 (which will include training specifically geared to on-site aspects of

	archaeological science) and a combination of vocational and science-based modules, including hands-on laboratory practicals.
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 the specialisation in archaeological science 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 a field of archaeological science.

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
AR1FOR	Forensic Anthropology and the Archaeology of Death	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
GV1GS	Geomorphology	10	4

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

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AR2BIO	Bioarchaeology	20	5
AR2FSC	Archaeology Field School and Professional Practice	20	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 10 credits and maximum of 30 credits worth of 'Environmental Science' and/or 'Objects & materials' modules namely 'AR2SCF2

Changing the Face of the Earth: Past, Present and Future Sustainability’ and/or ‘AR2FAO Ancient Objects: materials and meanings’.

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 on a 4 year programme will take 120 credits of modules 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

You must also take: A minimum of 40 credits worth of science-based options from a list approved by the Department.

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 can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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 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.

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.

Part 2

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

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 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

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.

BSc Archaeological Science for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

13 May 2024

© **The University of Reading 2024**