

Archaeology MA / Diploma / Certificate Landscape Archaeology pathway

The Archaeology MA: Landscape Archaeology pathway will allow you to develop a thorough knowledge of current approaches to the investigation and interpretation of past landscapes. There are opportunities to specialise in a range of practical techniques, digital landscape studies, and interpretative approaches in thematic and period/area landscape studies. This pathway is ideal for research preparation and as a basis for career development in archaeology and heritage.

We offer the flexibility to upgrade from Certificate to Diploma level and from Diploma to Masters level during your programme as you develop your postgraduate studies. We also offer a **Cultural Archaeology pathway** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/caha/cultural-archaeology.aspx>) on the Archaeology MA.

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Taught

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: MA - 12 months full-time, 24 months part-time; Diploma - 8 months full-time, 16 months part-time, Certificate - 4 months full-time, 8 months part-time

Start date: September

Contact

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[Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx\)](/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx)

Details

You will study three core modules:

- Archaeological Theory, Method and Interpretation
- Landscape Archaeology
- GIS and spatial analysis

In addition, MA and Diploma students select three optional modules from a wide range of choices. These can include field survey, virtual landscapes, digital cultures, funerary archaeology, material culture, and cultural studies ranging from European prehistory and Egyptology to Classical and Byzantine archaeology.

Research training is provided for all postgraduate students, and MA students put this into practice by researching a topic of your own choice for a supervised 15,000-word dissertation.

Modules

You will study three core modules:

Archaeological Theory, Method and Interpretation

This module delivers a generic disciplinary introduction to the MA Archaeology programme. It focuses on key areas of theory, method and interpretation, embracing a range of cultural, landscape, professional, heritage and environment themes and how these are integrated. It is also designed to develop and enhance key practical and research skills, especially in oral presentation, teamwork and essay-writing.

Landscape Archaeology

This module aims to introduce you to the subject of landscape archaeology and themes in the documentation and analysis of landscapes. You will receive a broad introduction to landscapes through a series of thematic sessions covering field methodology and application to landscape types from townscape to islands. You will be able to develop an appreciation of a range of landscape types, the theoretical issues and present interpretative trends in landscape studies, as well as an appreciation of the techniques used by archaeologists to record and classify landscapes. You will also acquire knowledge of remote sensing techniques in landscape studies including the role of aerial photography and satellite sensing and the application of these in data collection.

GIS and Spatial Analysis

This course aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of computational landscape analysis using GIS. The course will introduce you to advanced concepts of GIS and spatial analysis and the application of GIS to landscape studies, covering concepts such as the development of data models for landscape archaeology, airborne/satellite remote sensing and issues relating to the deployment of GIS for both research and curatorial purposes.

MA and Diploma students also choose three optional modules from a range which includes:

Field Survey

This module introduces you to the theory and practice of recording the archaeological and environmental elements of ancient landscapes, from a scale of individual structures and monuments to integrated surveys of past cultural and natural landscapes. The module will include an introduction to the fundamentals of geodetic survey and students will receive practical training in basic measured survey using a variety of equipment and learn to work with survey data in both conventional and digital formats. The module will also explore the potential of survey data for analysis through assessment by a group project using data through work generated through the course Field School. The Field School will take place at an appropriate site or landscape selected by the staff.

Virtual Landscapes

The study of cultural landscapes has been greatly augmented in recent years by increased accessibility to both data and software. We are increasingly able to obtain a

greater depth of information online and in formats that can be analysed and presented in a range of exciting ways. In addition, the potential to capture information about objects and landscapes in 2D and 3D is increasing, providing new opportunities for the investigation of cultural landscapes. This module explores a range of different approaches for accessing, generating, analysing and re-presenting data using digital technologies. It introduces you to a wide variety of methods, providing practical, hands-on experience of working in this exciting field.

Funerary Archaeology

This module presents a critical review of theoretical approaches and interpretative themes in contemporary funerary archaeology, and examines the central significance of this field of study in current debates in world archaeology. As a core module for the Cultural Archaeology pathway, it uses this evidence-rich field of study to explore the relationships between cultural ideals, values, social agency and symbolic representation. There will be particular focus on a range of interpretative themes, including social interpretation, cultural identity and personhood, ritual practice, and past belief systems. It will draw widely on cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary case studies in archaeology and cognate disciplines such as anthropology and history.

Material Culture

This module provides an introduction to material culture studies and artefact analysis in Archaeology, drawing on the wide range of approaches to material culture in related disciplines such as Anthropology. It serves to create a foundation in material culture theory, analysis and interpretation that underpins the overall approach to investigation and interpretation followed by the pathway as a whole. Key themes include classification and typology, technology, functionalism, symbolism, contextual analysis, agency theory and signification, aesthetics, and the material analysis and representation of artefacts in both research and popular media. The module comprises lectures, seminar classes, and hands-on analysis of material culture in class exercises and other contexts.

Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology and Material Culture I

This module is based on the largest source of fresh evidence for the Late Roman-to- early medieval Eastern Mediterranean world (including southeastern Europe), namely archaeology. It is designed to accustom interested students to using archaeological materials in the discussion of historians' ideas about economic, social, cultural, and even political changes. The module will deal with this by exploring the history of archaeological practice as it concerns the post-Roman East. We will then focus on the new debates which archaeology stimulates about important aspects of history from ca. 300 to ca. 800 AD. These concern the multiple impacts of invaders and invasions, Christianisation, demographic changes, the transformation of urban culture, and changes in rural settlement, agriculture, and artisanal production. By the end of this module you should be able to recognise key aspects of the Late Roman and Transitional ('Dark-Age') archaeological record, understand the problems and value of different archaeological strategies, and use the burgeoning archaeological literature to discuss some of the major long-term changes that characterise the period ca. 300-800 beyond western and northern Europe.

Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology and Material Culture II

This module is based on the burgeoning archaeology of the medieval eastern Mediterranean and SE Europe and has the same general aims and themes as Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology I. However, taking account of the rise and spread of Islam, the Slavs, and eventually the Crusades, and the divisions which these brought to the geographical space concerned, the module concentrates on the Christian world in the Balkans, Greece, Cyprus and Anatolia. At the same time the survival of local archives from the 9th c. onwards creates new possibilities for an historical archaeology of regions and sub-regions. By the end of this module you should be able to recognise key aspects of the medieval Byzantine and Crusader ('Frankish') archaeological record, use the archaeological literature to question some of the grand narratives of historians, and see 'dramatic' short-term historical changes from new perspectives.

Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are as follows:

MA

- Home/EU: £6,210 full-time; £3,105 part-time
- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

Diploma

- Home/EU: £4,140 full-time; £2,070 part-time
- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

Certificate

- Home/EU: £2,070 full-time or part-time
- Overseas: £7,070 full-time

For part-time students studying an MA or Diploma, the above fee quoted is for year one only and tuition fees will also be payable in year two of your programme.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about [fees for international students \(/International/students/finance/fees.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/finance/fees.aspx).

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments. Learn more about [postgraduate tuition fees and funding \(/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx).

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's [Postgraduate Funding Database \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx).

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

Entry requirements

- For the MA programmes, we normally require a 2:1 degree, or equivalent, in a discipline relevant to the selected pathway
- For the PG Diploma/PG Certificate programmes, we normally require a 2:2 degree, or equivalent, in a discipline relevant to the selected pathway

Learn more about [entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx)

International students

Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our [country pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx>) to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx>)

How to apply

Before you make your application

You may wish to **register your interest with us** (<https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate>) to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

Making your application

Learn more about **applying** ([/postgraduate/courses/apply-pg/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx))

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx>)

Apply now (<https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL138.htm>)

Related news and events

[The beginning of time?](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2013/beginning-of-time.aspx) ([/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2013/beginning-of-time.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2013/beginning-of-time.aspx))

Learning and teaching

You will also become part of, and contribute to, the vibrant international community of the College of Arts and Law Graduate School, which offers dedicated research resources and a supportive working environment. Our team of academic and operational staff are on hand to offer support and advice to all postgraduate students within the College.

Support with academic writing

As a postgraduate student in the College of Arts and Law, you have access to the **Academic Writing Advisory Service (AWAS)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/awas/index.aspx>) which aims to help your transition from undergraduate to taught Masters level, or back into academia after time away. The service offers guidance on writing assignments and dissertations for your MA/MSc programme with individual support from an academic writing advisor via tutorials, email and the provision of online materials.

International students can access support through the **English for International Students Unit (EISU)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/eisu/inseasonal/index.aspx>).

Related staff

[Paul Garwood](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/caha/garwood-paul.aspx) ([/staff/profiles/caha/garwood-paul.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/caha/garwood-paul.aspx))

Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. [Get the latest Flash Player](#) [Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

Birmingham's Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology graduates develop a broad range of transferable skills including: familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; the expertise to write clearly and concisely and to tight deadlines; critical and analytical ability; the capacity for argument, debate and speculation; and the ability to base conclusions on statistical research.

In 2013, over 92% of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Many of our postgraduates enter roles for which their programme has especially prepared them, such as museum and heritage activities and archaeological posts. Elsewhere, a range of professions are undertaken by our graduates, from librarianship and teaching to accountancy. Employers that our graduates have gone on to work for include: AOC Archaeology Group; Blakesley Hall Museum; City and Borough Councils; English Heritage; KPMG; National Trust; and Sotheby's.

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