

Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes: non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

Academic year 2026/2027

Archaeology

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

Facilities

The Department is located in the Dawson Building on the Lower Mountjoy Site. Most of the staff offices are on the first floor, which is arranged in the form of a hollow rectangle, which you can walk round. On this floor are also several teaching rooms, notably the Birley Room, the Seminar Room, the Kiln Laboratory (Computing Room) and the Fenwick Human Osteology Laboratory, all of which are used for larger or smaller classes, the Conservation Laboratory, the Administrative Staff Offices, the Stable Isotope laboratory, the Ancient DNA laboratory, the Digital Visualisation Lab and the photocopiers. On the ground floor is the Fenwick Laboratory (used for teaching), the Environmental Archaeology Research Laboratory suite supporting commercial and academic research in environmental archaeology, the Luminescence Dating laboratory, and the Environmental Archaeology Teaching Laboratory. In the basement are the rooms supporting research in biometrics, informatics and Anglo Saxon Stone Sculpture. On the second floor are more staff offices and postgraduate rooms.

A1: Exchange Coordinator

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B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for two years, while in the last year the teaching is carried out mostly in small groups. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year, except for the level 3 ones which usually run in one term. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic schedule at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and completing your Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the European Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their Learning Agreements.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take on your Learning Agreement (included in your application package) for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your Learning Agreement, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. Please note that students registered on an undergraduate programme can only take undergraduate modules (Level 1-3). It is imperative that a properly completed Learning Agreement is submitted as part of the application form. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/> .

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Archaeology Department only admits European students coming to Durham through its own links.

Please note: We accept only exchange students for the full-year (October to June) as we only offer two-term modules and a full-year provides the best possible learning experience.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please do only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

All Archaeology modules are assessed in the English language.

D1: Modules available to all European students

LEVEL 1

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
ARCH1071	ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN	10
ARCH1121	DISCOVERING WORLD PREHISTORY	10
ARCH1131	CITIES IN ANTIQUITY	10
ARCH1141	MEDIEVAL TO MODERN	10
ARCH1111	ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS OF THE EAST	10
ARCH1027	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 1*	5
ARCH1047	APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS*	5

**YOU CANNOT DO BOTH ARCH1027 AND ARCH 1047. SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 1 IS FOR THOSE WITH SOME SCIENCE BACKGROUND, APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS FOR THOSE WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE.*

LEVEL 2

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
ARCH2212/2221	ADVANCED SKILLS (SINGLE OR DOUBLE)*	10/20
ARCH2041	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 2**	10
ARCH2081	PREHISTORIC EUROPE: FROM FORAGERS TO STATE FORMATION	10
ARCH2091	BECOMING ROMAN: FROM IRON AGE TO EMPIRE IN ITALY AND THE WEST	10
ARCH2161	ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS: EAST AND WEST	10
ARCH2131	MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL BRITAIN IN ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXT	10
ARCH2141	THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN THE BRONZE AGE	10

**Advanced Skills IS MADE UP OF A SERIES OF TOPICS EACH WORTH 5 ECTS. CHOOSE TWO TOPICS TO MAKE 10 ECTS (ARCH2212), OR 4 TOPICS TO MAKE 20 ECTS (ARCH2221). TOPICS AVAILABLE VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR, BUT CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO FIND OUT (A) IF THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE (THERE IS A CAP for some topics) AND (B) WHICH TERM EACH MINI-MODULE WILL BE RUNNING*

***ARCH2041 IS ONLY APPROPRIATE IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT FIRST-YEAR LEVEL*

LEVEL 3

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
ARCH3591	CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY	10
ARCH3611	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 3*	10
ARCH3451/ARCH3472	SPECIALISED ASPECTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY**	10/20

* ARCH3611 IS ONLY APPROPRIATE IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT SECOND-YEAR LEVEL

** ARCH3451 IS MADE UP OF A SERIES OF TOPICS EACH WORTH 5 ECTS. CHOOSE TWO TOPICS TO MAKE 10 ECTS (ARCH3451), OR 4 TOPICS TO MAKE 20 ECTS (ARCH3472). TOPICS AVAILABLE VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR – THE FOLLOWING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 2021-2022, BUT CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO FIND OUT (A) IF THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE (THERE IS A CAP OF 20 STUDENTS PER MODULE) AND (B) WHICH TERM EACH MINI-MODULE WILL BE RUNNING.

SPECIALISED ASPECTS (ARCH 3451/3472) OFFERED IN 2025/26 (This list is still subject to change. Please note: Durham students have priority on spaces)

TERM 1

The early medieval Britons: AD400-1100
Art and Archaeology of the European Upper Palaeolithic
From the Indus to Asoka: the archaeology of South Asia
Greeks and Others: Art and Identity in Ancient Greece and Beyond, 700-330 BC
Chinese Heritage: Reshaping Relationships Between the Past and Present
Introducing archaeological theory: learning to identify the paradigms behind producing and interpreting data
Connecting Afro-Eurasia: understanding the long and medium distance transmission of technologies, foods and ideas c. 5000 - 500 BC
Sacred Spaces in the Roman Empire
Archaeology of Slavery and Forced Labour

TERM 2

The Vikings: Settlements and Societies
Isotope Magic!
Death and Burial in Early Medieval Britain and Ireland
A Global Pattern: From China to the World in the Middle Ages
Experimental Archaeology
The Roman Countryside in the Mediterranean
Ideologies and Imaginations: The Modern Reception of Roman Material Culture
The Ancient Near East: early complex societies
The Archaeology of Ancient Nubia

ADVANCED SKILLS (ARCH 2212/2221) OFFERED IN 2025/26 (This list is still subject to change. Please note: Durham students have priority on spaces)

TERM 1

Reading Stone Tools: An Introduction to Lithic Analysis:
Decolonial Methods
Geoarchaeological Skills for Field Archaeologists
Numismatics for Archaeologists
Zooarchaeology: Identification and Analysis of Animal Bones
Heritage Practice
Introduction to DNA Analysis
Advanced Material Analysis
Geographical Information Systems
Desk-Based Assessments and Developer - Funded Archaeology
Digital Visualisation Techniques in Archaeology: An Introduction

TERM 2

Archaeology of the Contemporary World
Experimental Approaches to Understanding Palaeolithic Art
Stable Isotope Analysis of Archaeological Fauna
Communities and Cemeteries
Ceramic Studies: Manufacturing Techniques and Identification
Remote Sensing (Airborne)
Human Bioarchaeology
(Pre) Historic Building Recording
Experimental archaeology in the Botanic Gardens
Advanced Methods in Egyptian Archaeology