



**BSc/MA
Archaeology**

The University of Aberdeen offers unique archaeological programmes focusing on the Archaeology of the Global North at a university with over 500 years of history. Our staff are leading scientists, researchers and fieldworkers in Northern Europe, Scandinavia, the North Atlantic and high latitude regions from Siberia and Mongolia to North America. At Aberdeen you will study in the department ranked in Scotland first for research in the last government led Research Excellence Framework. In our research and teaching students will be involved with discoveries in the field, in the lab or in the museum; helping us to shed light on our shared human past.

Why study Archaeology at Aberdeen?

The research of the department at Aberdeen takes place in one of the ancient Universities of Scotland and builds on existing strengths within the University studying the cultures and environment of the North, focusing on the archaeology of Northern Europe, the North Atlantic, Siberia and the North Pacific. This approach is unique in the United Kingdom and draws on some of the richest archaeological resources in the world.

Our staff are actively engaged in field projects in the north, including in Scotland itself, answering questions about the human past from the earliest inhabitation of the north, to the rise of early kingdoms, to modern global conflicts.

Research specialities include Viking archaeology, Arctic, North Asian and North American Archaeology, Scottish prehistory, Historical Archaeology and the ethno-archaeology of circumpolar hunter-gatherers. Our research-led undergraduate programme provides opportunities to participate in outstanding national and international department-led field research projects, from Aberdeenshire to Alaska.

Degree structure and content

FIRST YEAR

Archaeology in Action: An Introduction; Caves to Kingdoms: An Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology. Plus six courses chosen from other disciplines.

SECOND YEAR

Prehistoric Britain; Test Tubes & Trowels; Past Lives; Archaeology of the North: Lifeways and Cultural Change. Plus four courses chosen from other disciplines.

THIRD YEAR (JUNIOR HONOURS)

Professional Archaeology 1: Field Methods; Professional Archaeology 2: Post-excavation Analysis and Employment; Archaeological Fieldwork Portfolio; Archaeological Research Project Part 1.

Plus course options chosen from a range available including: Scottish Archaeology; Historical Archaeology; Geoarchaeology; Archaeologies of Landscape.

FOURTH YEAR (SENIOR HONOURS)

Archaeological Research Project Part 2; Current Issues in Archaeology. Plus course options chosen from a range available including: Viking Archaeology; Bioarchaeology; Indigenous, Community-based and Public Archaeologies; The Archaeology of East Asia.

We also offer flexible learning opportunities.

Archaeological research at Aberdeen spans the arts and humanities, physical and biological sciences, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of Archaeology and the collaborative ethos within the University. We are at the forefront of pushing the boundaries of our understanding of northern cultural diversity both in the past and present and your degree path and course choice can be tailored to your particular interests. You can also take archaeology as part of a Joint Honours Degree (typical joint subjects include Anthropology and History – other choices are also available).

The department was rated the best in Scotland in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Learning and Assessment

Classes are taught through lectures, practicals (sessions with museum or existing research collections, etc), tutorials and field trips. There will be opportunities to undertake excavation in the field in a variety of locations. In the past we have had fieldschools in Alaska, Iceland, Scotland, Mongolia and China and field visits to Orkney, the Cairngorms and local sites in Aberdeenshire.

The course will provide training important to all archaeologists, and a range of transferable skills found in few other degrees across the UK. In your third and fourth year you will undertake your own original piece of archaeological research through a guided research project.

The University contains a nationally significant museum collection at Marischal museum, and the collections and museum staff will form part of the teaching syllabus.

 @UoA_Archaeology
www.abdn.ac.uk/archaeology



Careers

The degree curriculum is designed to equip graduates with a range of professional skills that will prepare them for a career in archaeology and many other professions. Professional contract-based archaeology is now a multi-million pound business in the UK. Employment can also be gained in the museum and heritage sector; in education and historic environment agencies; in natural heritage agencies; as well as in research, planning, and the media. The degree will also encourage the development of skills such as critical thinking, research design, field methods, data analysis and communication methods that will make graduates employable in a variety of other fields and private sector businesses. An honours degree can often also lead to a higher degree. Moreover, a degree in archaeology will not only help your employment prospects, it will open up new and exciting horizons on the world around you.



How do I apply?

Applications to this degree programme are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

You apply online at www.ucas.com

Prospective students (and their parents/guardians/teachers) are welcome to visit the University at any time, or attend our University-wide Open Days. Please contact the Student Recruitment and Admissions Service, who will be happy to make arrangements for a visit.

Where can I get further information

Tel: +44 (0)1224 272090/91

E-mail: sras@abdn.ac.uk

Web: www.abdn.ac.uk/study

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