Undergraduate courses
Archaeology and Ancient History
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Welcome to the School of Archaeology and Ancient History

The past is inescapable: it influences both our present and our future. Our aim, as archaeologists and ancient historians, is to enhance our understanding of the wonderful diversity of human ways of life in the past that have left fragmentary traces that we encounter in the form of landscapes, material objects and texts.

Reconstructing the past is the ultimate detective story; while we can never ‘know’ the past, both archaeology and ancient history provide enticing glimpses of past events from the every day to those that spanned millennia, enabling us to reconstruct the lives of communities and individuals in the past. Who were they? How did they view the world? How different were they from us? These are some of the questions we can begin to explore.

Studying archaeology gives you the opportunity to study the entire span of human history, from the evolution of the human species through to the twenty-first century, and much of what lies between. Through excavation, survey and the handling of archaeological materials you will be provided with a direct link to the past. It is a link that is tantalising and ephemeral, but it is one that often provides our only source of evidence for understanding individuals and communities in the past. Studying ancient history, the classical civilisations of Greece and Rome, provides you with an opportunity to explore societies that were fundamental to the development of our own. Like archaeology, ancient history provides an intellectual challenge. Only a fraction of what was written in the past has survived and what remains has to be read and understood critically within its historical context. As an ancient historian, you will be encouraged to develop skills in reading and interpreting primary sources. We will help you learn to read ‘between the lines’ and ‘behind the spin’.
Why Choose Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester?

In the most recent Government assessment of universities in the UK (REF2014) we were ranked 1st for the public impact of our research.

We pride ourselves on the high quality of our teaching and the supportive, friendly learning environment in the School. In the 2016 National Student Survey, 95% of our students were satisfied with the quality of our teaching, and 94% were satisfied with the course overall. We are currently ranked fifth in the 2018 Guardian League Table of universities offering archaeology.

We are internationally recognised for our innovative and cutting-edge research. Our involvement in the discovery of King Richard III gained worldwide attention, but the scope of our research is far broader. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, our research was ranked 5th overall and 1st in terms of research impact. Our world-class research is fundamental to the vibrant atmosphere at Leicester, and directly contributes to the excitement of learning within the School.

While diverse in scope, the School’s degrees are unified by their shared concern with the human past and with universal themes such as the human environment, elites and power, society and technology, violence and warfare, and personal and community identities.

Flexibility is central to our ethos. We deliver a range of different degree courses, which include combinations of archaeology and ancient history with study in complementary disciplines. You will have considerable freedom to design your own course of study. In your second and third years, you will have more choice in the modules studied so that you can tailor your learning to suit your own interests, whether that is particular periods, themes or analytical techniques. Fieldwork is a key part of our degrees and is offered around the UK, and worldwide. You will receive practical training from leaders in the field.

The School is housed in its own building on campus. We have specialist facilities and an outstanding range of equipment for practical teaching and research in science-based analytical techniques.

By choosing Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester, you are choosing academic quality, a commitment to excellent teaching, flexibility, and a friendly place to study.
Our Courses

BA/BSc Archaeology

The aim of this degree is to provide you with an understanding of societies and cultures in the past, based on the interpretation of their material remains.

First Year

You will study the archaeological past from the origins of the human species to the twentieth century, learning the aims and methods of archaeology along the way. You will also gain practical experience across a broad spectrum of archaeological activities. As a key part of your first year you will participate in an excavation training school at Bradgate Park in Leicestershire. At the end of the first year, you will choose whether to follow the BA or BSc pathway. The BA aims to prepare students for a career in heritage, whilst the BSc gives you the skill set for a career in professional archaeology.

Second Year

You will choose four particular archaeological periods to study in detail. Choices may include prehistory, Iron Age and Roman archaeology, the archaeology of the Mediterranean world, and medieval and colonial archaeology. You will study topics in Fieldwork and Archaeological Theory. Students taking the BA will take a core module in Heritage Skills, whilst those studying for the BSc will take a core module in Professional Archaeological Practice. At the end of the year you will participate in a research excavation, which can take place anywhere in the world.

Third Year

You will study for a core fieldwork module. You will write a dissertation on a topic of your own choice, and choose four topics to study from a wide selection. Choices vary from year to year but may include period specialisms (such as Roman Britain and the medieval city), thematic modules (covering topics such as conflict heritage, religion and warfare) and science-based methodological modules (such as archaeozoology and human skeletal analysis). These areas reflect staff research interests, enabling you to explore archaeological topics in fine detail, learning about recent advances and contemporary debates in the process.
BA Ancient History

The aim of this degree is to provide you with a strong understanding of the history of the classical world. From the Greek city-states to the Roman Empire, from kingdoms in the Near East to networks in North Africa, you will have the chance to explore a fascinating and crucial chapter of our human past.

First Year

During your first year, you will be introduced to Greek and Roman history, as well as key types of source material available for studying the classical world including literature and art, inscriptions, coins, and material culture. You will also learn about the broader contexts of Greco-Roman antiquity, exploring the diverse societies of the ancient world beyond the Mediterranean from Iron Age Europe to pharaonic Egypt, and from ancient Mesopotamia to the Berbers.

Second Year

In your second year, you will undertake an in-depth source project and learn about a wide range of approaches and methods for studying the past. You will be able to choose six option modules from a range of options covering Greek, Roman and Near Eastern antiquity. You also have the opportunity to take an optional module in Latin as well as participating in a subsidised study tour to Rome.

Your core modules will enable you to examine the theories that have shaped the writing of ancient history in the modern world, introducing you to approaches to the discipline including Economic History, Social Status and Society, Gender and Material Culture. A further six specialist modules enable you to explore topics from the Iron Age and Roman archaeology, to the late antique world and the Roman principate.

Third Year

During your third year, you will write a dissertation on a topic of your choice that may be focused on either ancient history or archaeology, although you are encouraged to use both historical and archaeological sources. You will also choose four option modules from a wide selection. These are chiefly taught through seminars to help you handle historical problems at a more advanced theoretical level, and to refine your skills in evaluating evidence and drawing conclusions from it.
BA Ancient History and Archaeology

The aim of this degree is to provide you with an understanding of societies and cultures in the past, with particular emphasis on Ancient Greece and Rome. A central theme is the interpretation of classical texts and material remains, and the sometimes paradoxical relationship between them.

**First Year**
During your first year you will be introduced to Greek and Roman history and two sources modules, which introduce the basic types of primary materials relevant to ancient history. You will also study the archaeological past from the origins of the human species to the twentieth century, and participate in an excavation training school.

**Second Year**
In your second year you will choose two aspects of Greek and Roman history to study in detail. These are taught through a combination of lectures and seminars, with a strong emphasis on ancient primary sources in translation. You will also take two compulsory modules focussing on sources and methods in ancient history and archaeological theory that will give you the key skills you need to succeed in these subjects.

In archaeology, in addition to a core modules exploring Fieldwork and Theory and Archaeology you will select two further modules to study in detail. Topics currently explore early prehistory, Iron Age and Roman archaeology, the archaeology of the Mediterranean world, medieval and early modern archaeology, environmental archaeology, and artefact analysis. At the end of the year you will participate in a research excavation, although you may be able to undertake a visit to Rome instead.

**Third Year**
You will write a dissertation on a topic of your choice that may be focused on either ancient history or archaeology, although you are encouraged to use both historical and archaeological sources. You also choose four specialist modules from a wide selection. Ancient history choices vary from year to year but may include topics such as Greek History through Monuments, textiles, dress and identity in the Roman world, the Greek world after Alexander, Fall of the Roman Republic and North Africa in late antiquity. These are chiefly taught through seminars to help you handle historical problems at a more advanced theoretical level, and to refine your skills in evaluating evidence and drawing conclusions from it.

Archaeological choices also vary from year to year but currently include period specialisms (such as Britain in the Roman Empire, the medieval city, the Archaeology of Colonialism in the Americas and early Christian Europe), thematic modules (such as the archaeology of world religion, and warfare and violence in antiquity, Archaeology/Ancient History in Education) and science-based methodological modules (such as Plants and People, and human skeletal analysis).
BA Ancient History and History

The aim of this degree is to provide you with an understanding of ancient, medieval and modern societies through the application of historical methods.

First Year
In your first year you will split your studies equally between ancient history and history, taking core modules in Greek and Roman history and choosing from history modules covering medieval, early modern and global history.

Second Year
In your second year you will continue to balance your studies equally between the two subjects. You will have more opportunity to shape the course of your degree this year as you will be able to choose option modules from the areas of ancient history and history that interest you the most. Choices vary from year to year but may include topics such as Classical and Hellenistic Greek States and Roman Social History. History offer a wide range of thematic and period-based options covering topics such as the Enlightenment, gender, and various aspects of twentieth century history. You will also take a core module focusing on sources and methods in ancient history.

Third Year
You will write a dissertation on a topic of your own choice and choose specialist modules from a wide selection. Ancient history choices vary from year to year but may include modules that explore areas such as the Greek world after Alexander, Greek and Roman Art politics in late Roman Republican society, North Africa in late antiquity, Roman and American slavery. These are chiefly taught through seminars. This part of the course is intended to help you handle historical problems at a more advanced theoretical level, and to refine your skill in evaluating evidence and drawing conclusions from it. History choices cover every aspect of history from the local to the global, and periods from the medieval to the 20th century.
BA History and Archaeology

The aim of this degree is to provide you with an understanding of societies and cultures in the past, with an emphasis on the medieval and modern periods. A central theme is the interpretation of both historical texts and material remains, and the sometimes paradoxical relationship between them.

First Year
In your first year, you will split your studies equally between archaeology and history, taking modules covering medieval, early modern and global history, providing you with a thorough grounding in historical methods and practice at university level. You will also study the archaeological past from the origins of the human species to the twenty-first century, alongside a variety of archaeological methods and techniques. As a key part of the first year, you will participate in an excavation training school.

Second Year
In your second year, you will continue to balance your studies equally between the two subjects. You will have more opportunity to shape the course of your degree this year as you will be able to choose option modules from the areas of history and archaeology that interest you the most. You will also have the opportunity to study a range of laboratory-based modules, covering subjects such as environmental archaeology and artefact analysis. At the end of your second year you will participate in a research excavation, which can take place anywhere in the world.

Third Year
In the third year, you will write a dissertation in either history or archaeology. In addition, you will build on your summer fieldwork and gain a thorough understanding of the post-excavation process in archaeology. Depending on your dissertation choice, you will be able to choose from a wide range of optional modules in history and archaeology. These will cover periods from antiquity to the twentieth century, as well as specific themes such as Warfare and Violence in Antiquity or the Archaeology of World religion.
Majors and Minors

The School now offers a new flexible degree pathway offering a Major in Archaeology, and Minors in both Archaeology and Ancient History. This allows you to build your own degree from subjects across the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

Archaeology Major (V402)

By choosing Archaeology as a Major, you will discover the richness and diversity of the human past and the key events and processes that have shaped our human worlds. A Major in Archaeology will provide you with the core knowledge and skills required of our discipline. You will be able to gain a deep understanding of core subject areas, develop practical field skills through excavation training, and you may be able to enhance your skill-set through our more science-based laboratory courses. Your pathway through the discipline will be very similar to that of a single-Honours student, though you will not complete a dissertation in Year 3. You will also have the choice to select from a wide range of complementary Minors from other disciplines in the University. This allows you to tailor your degree to your areas of interest.

Archaeology Minor/ Ancient History Minor

By choosing Archaeology or Ancient History as a Minor you will be a welcome addition to our School. In a Minor you will be taking a designed course of study with more core modules, though you will still be able to make some module choices. The Archaeology Minor is core for years 1 and 2 and allows for some module selection in Year 3. The Ancient History Minor allows you some module selection in Years 2 and 3 allowing some choice in studying more Greek or Roman themed modules or you can maintain a balance between the two.

Your learning experience

You will be offered a wide range of teaching and learning experiences. These include lectures, seminars, one-to-one supervision, practical classes and fieldwork.

Transferable skills

Throughout your degree, you will develop a range of skills that are valued by all graduate employers. You will become practised in writing clearly and accessibly in a range of formats, and you will also develop skills in planning and undertaking research projects, data collection and analysis, problem solving, critical analysis, oral presentation and team working.

Learning facilities

We have our own building on campus, with enhanced facilities including laboratories for GIS, archaeobotany, archaeozoology, human bone analysis, ceramic petrology, digital radiography, and ancient starch analysis. The University is also well-equipped with state-of-the-art information and communication technology hardware and software. Open access computer labs are located across the campus and halls of residence areas, with some open 24 hours a day. The David Wilson Library has an excellent collection of journals and books relevant to archaeology and ancient history, and an extensive digital library. We also provide online access to teaching resources for all modules, through the University’s Virtual Learning Environment.

Assessment

You will be assessed using a variety of methods to ensure that a wide variety of abilities are tested over the course of the degree. We maintain an assessment system that is both fair and transparent. Forms of assessment that we employ include seen and unseen examinations, essays, laboratory reports, practical tests and, in the final year, a dissertation.
Study abroad

You will have the opportunity to study your degree course abroad. If you choose to do this you transfer into a four-year degree version of your three year course, and spend your third year abroad. Currently, students have the opportunity to study in 9 countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- Denmark
- Germany
- Greece
- Holland
- Italy
- Spain
- Sweden

Studying abroad is a wonderful and life-changing opportunity. You will have the chance to experience a different academic climate and immerse yourself in new cultures and lifestyles. As well as enjoying a vibrant social life, your confidence, language skills and global outlook will enhance your career prospects considerably.

www.le.ac.uk/study-abroad-opportunities
Career Development

Archaeology and Ancient History are multi-disciplinary subjects, which draw together skills and knowledge from a broad range of other disciplines in both the humanities and sciences.

We are committed to your career development. We have dedicated work experience and outreach tutors who can support you in gaining professional work experience in the heritage and archaeology sector. We also run career-focussed modules and the unique ‘Archaeology and Classics in the Community’ programme, a volunteer scheme accredited on your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR). You are offered the opportunity to take part in these activities from your first year and there are opportunities for experienced volunteers to take on paid supervisory roles.

Our students have an excellent track record of securing graduate-level employment following the completion of their degrees, reflecting the transferable skills that we deliver within our teaching and the support we provide students in stepping onto the career ladder. Our graduates gain employment across a wide variety of different sectors both within and beyond the discipline. Recent examples include:

- Museums
- Field Archaeology Units
- Heritage Organisations
- Universities
- Local Councils
- Teaching
- Civil Service
- Police
- Armed Forces
- Journalism
- Banking
- Travel Industry

Typically 30% of our students go on to take postgraduate qualifications in a wide variety of fields including further study in Archaeology and Ancient History.
Entry Requirements

**A/AS-levels:** Our standard entry requirements are ABB (for BA Ancient History, BA Ancient History and Archaeology, BA History and Archaeology and BA Ancient History and History) or BBB (for BA Archaeology). Two AS-levels can be considered in place of one A-level. General Studies or Critical Thinking accepted.

**GCSE:** English and Mathematics usually required at grade C or above.

**Access to HE Diploma:** Pass diploma with 30 credits at Distinction.

**European Baccalaureate:** Pass with 75-77% overall.

**International Baccalaureate:** Pass Diploma with 28-30 points.

**Cambridge Pre-U:** D3/M2/M2 or M2/M2/M2 in principal subjects

**BTEC Nationals:** Pass Diploma with DDM, plus GCSE grade C in Maths and English.

**Mature students welcomed:** Alternative qualifications and experience considered.

**Second Year Entry:** Possible for those with advanced qualifications strictly comparable with our degree structure, such as Certificate in Archaeology level 1 or a First Year pass in an Archaeology or Ancient History degree from another university.

**Other Qualifications:** Other national and international qualifications welcomed.

Interviews not normally required. All applicants receiving an offer will be invited to visit the School.
Support structure

We are proud of our reputation for student support, friendliness and informality. Each member of academic staff has regular office hours each week during which students can have one-to-one meetings. In your third year you will be allocated a supervisor, who will help you plan, design and coordinate your research. Additionally, you will have your own personal tutor, whom you can meet whenever you wish. Personal tutors offer support not only on academic matters, but also with career planning and personal, financial or health problems where appropriate. The support offered by the School complements that offered by the University and the Students’ Union and ensures that you have the best possible chance to make the most of your time as a student. Certainly our students think so: in the 2015 National Student Survey, 95% of students studying Archaeology and Ancient History were satisfied overall with their course, with a maximum 100% for staff enthusiasm.
Student Life

**Campus**
On our bustling compact campus, it’s impossible to walk from one end to the other without bumping into someone you know along the way. Our campus is a vibrant community, with all manner of places to meet, eat and drink, as well as study. We’re committed to providing you with high quality facilities and resources that meet the needs of modern and ambitious students.

**Students’ Union**
The Students’ Union is brimming with opportunities that will make your time at Leicester unforgettable. The Percy Gee building boasts superb facilities, including the fantastic live music venue, O₂ Academy Leicester. You are encouraged to get involved with the Students’ Union – there are over 200 student societies covering a huge range – sport, politics, media, performing arts and much, much more. It’s a great way of meeting new people, gaining skills or trying something completely different!

[www.leicesterunion.com](http://www.leicesterunion.com)

**Accommodation**
Our accommodation offers you a wide variety of choice, whether you fancy self-catered or catered, en-suite or shared bathroom facilities.

[www.le.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.le.ac.uk/accommodation)

Private accommodation is available through our lettings agency, SUlets.

[www.sulets.com](http://www.sulets.com)
Sports Facilities
You can enjoy a workout, take a swim or build up a sweat in a fitness class at our modern sports centres on campus or at Manor Road (next to our accommodation). You can also get involved with our sports clubs, which welcome members of all abilities. Keen competitors can represent the University through Team Leicester, the hotly-contested Varsity matches and our thriving Intramural events.
www.le.ac.uk/sports

Library
Our award-winning David Wilson Library is a light, airy, five-storey building providing state-of-the-art services. The Library is a first-class study environment with wireless access throughout, 24/5 opening during term-time, hundreds of PCs, laptop loans, group study rooms, support staff and a café. Our digital library, available 24/7 on and off campus, contains over 800,000 eBooks, 65,000 electronic journals and online support services. The Library is home to over one million printed volumes and extensive collections of rare books and archives.
Our Librarians have created online guides to help you find information for your coursework and we invest over £7 million each year in the Library to make sure that you have the resources and services you need.
www.le.ac.uk/library

Attenborough Arts Centre
The Attenborough Arts Centre is the University’s own arts centre, offering a vibrant programme of events, music, spoken word, and exhibitions in its new gallery and performance spaces. Attenborough Arts offers you the chance to try something new, from a variety of arts courses to hula hoop dancing or creative writing. There are special discounts for students. Or if you just want a break from your studies you can enjoy free lunchtime music performances or have a drink at the café.
www.attenborougharts.com
The City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you’ll never be far from the action.

Leicester’s diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK’s longest running Comedy Festival and the University’s hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Leicester is home to several cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries, including the world-class Curve Theatre and independent Phoenix Square.

A city of sporting excellence, sports fans will need no introduction to the remarkable Leicester City and their phenomenal Premier League title victory and Champions League adventure. You can also watch top-class English and European rugby at Welford Road, home of the mighty Leicester Tigers. The Leicester Riders are a formidable presence in the British Basketball League (BBL), and during the summer months, Leicestershire County Cricket Club competes in the county championship and T20 Blast competition.

For shoppers, Highcross features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, café bars and restaurants. Those with independent tastes should explore Leicester Lanes with its variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge choice of bars, clubs and live music venues that cater for all preferences. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.
The city is large enough that it will take you three years to explore, but small enough so you’ll never feel lost... the best of both worlds.
This brochure was published in June 2017. The University of Leicester endeavours to ensure that the content of its prospectus, programme specification, website content and all other materials are complete and accurate. On occasion it may be necessary to make some alterations to particular aspects of a course or module, and where these are minor, for example altering the lecture timetable or location, then we will ensure that you have as much notice as possible of the change to ensure that the disruption to your studies is minimised. However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for the University to cancel or change a programme or part of the specification more substantially. For example, due to the unavailability of key teaching staff, changes or developments in knowledge or teaching methods, the way in which assessment is carried out, or where a course or part of it is over-subscribed to the extent that the quality of teaching would be affected to the detriment of students. In these circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible and in any event will give you 30 days written notice before the relevant change is due to take place. Where this occurs, we will also and in consultation with you, offer you an alternative course or programme (as appropriate) or the opportunity to cancel your contract with the University and obtain a refund of any advance payments that you have made. Full Terms and Conditions and Senate Regulations governing our teaching programmes can be found here: www.le.ac.uk/offer-terms.

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