

Faculty of Life Sciences

BA (Hons) Heritage and Archaeology

Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2024-25
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	BA (Honours) [Framework for Higher Education Qualification Level 6]  BA [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6]  Diploma of Higher Education [ Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 5]  Certificate of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 4]
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	
Programme duration:	3 or 4 years full-time
UCAS code:	V400, V403
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Archaeology 2022
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	March 2024

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

## Introduction

The Heritage and Archaeology programme has a specific focus on modern practice in the heritage sector and the theoretical underpinnings of heritage, culture, sense of identity and place. These are intertwined into frameworks of heritage and archaeological management.

It incorporates ideas from many disciplines, including history and cultural studies, and provides a fundamental, practically led approach to understanding the role of heritage and archaeology in contemporary society.

Heritage past, present and future - sharing narratives and recognising identity to achieve cultural understanding.

We all have 'heritage', but it has widespread meaning, and the study of heritage today is vital for understanding our sense of identity and place in the world. In this programme, past, present and future narratives are interwoven with both physical features, and more intangible practices based on oral traditions and living memory that enliven and enrich cultural experience.

Diverse and multicultural communities provide a wealth of cultural experience that increasingly drive development within our great museums and galleries, facilitated by technologies, that engages and inspires our creative industries and thriving multimedia sector.

The 'Heritage and Archaeology' programme at the University of Bradford draws on our cutting-edge research, where we use innovative technologies to contribute to our understanding of the past and its value today. Our unique blend of archaeology, heritage, science, theory and application of the past to contemporary world problems, along with our commitment to diversity and inclusivity, makes for a unique Bradford experience and identity in the archaeology and heritage worlds. The School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has an excellent research profile, which supports our teaching in all areas (78% of our 2021 school Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission was judged to be 'internationally excellent', including 25% which was judged to be 'world leading'). The school has also secured significant investment through CapCo, which has a trickle-down research impact to teaching activities.

The programme will span local, regional and global heritage, investigating new methods, understanding and an appreciation of the value of heritage to contemporary society across many cultural contexts. Utilising a variety of guest lecturers and University of Bradford expertise, the programme offers a highly diverse curricula, addressing concepts of heritage, as well as contemporary heritage issues, in a variety of contexts, such as Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. Through a decolonised curriculum, we take a truly global perspective and encompass a range of cultural backgrounds in our discussions. Specific countries and scenarios may vary year to year, to make use of research collaborations and availability of external speakers, but the programme will always include global perspectives.

Our University is determined to lead within higher education in relation to diversity and inclusivity. This programme is at the forefront of initiatives that recognise the importance of heritage and culture to future social cohesion and that economic success relies on a meaningful understanding of our diverse pasts.

In addition to vocational skills in heritage and archaeology, the programme will deliver a broad range of transferable skills, including problem solving, team working, and independent research, preparing our graduates for a wide variety of careers, future study and research. We have over 40 years of success in delivering placements and employment across a very wide range of commercial and public sector partners. Throughout the programme, students will develop skills that will be useful not only in heritage and archaeology, but in whatever profession they choose to follow. These include project and time management, critical review and analytical thinking, presentation skills, computer and

other applied IT skills and the management of data. These will be taught, practised and assessed. Our graduates typically enter employment within 6 months of completing studies or continue to postgraduate level studies at the University of Bradford or other institutions. Staff research informs much of the curriculum, drawing from expertise in archaeological science, digital heritage, and the 'real-world' value of archaeology and heritage for societies today.

### **Programme Aims**

The programme is intended to:

- bring diverse cultural and social backgrounds and experience to the programme by providing educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students and traditionally qualified students;
- enable the student to become an autonomous learner and prepare the student for the lifelong learning skills required to be adaptable over the course of the student's career;
- provide students with the opportunity to enhance their learning and professional awareness by applying their knowledge and understanding in employment through a sandwich placement year (4-year programme), or to study abroad (3 and 4-year programmes);
- provide students with a grounding in core issues, debates and theories in heritage and archaeology, and relevant in-depth understanding of the main areas of theoretical and empirical knowledge;
- deliver a flexible programme of study in heritage and archaeology that provides skills for employment and further study across multiple sectors;
- provide a degree in heritage and archaeology with a distinctive profile, reflecting the professional and research expertise of staff within the School and thus giving it a unique Bradford identity;
- encourage international and transcultural perspectives through exploring the practical applications of theory in local, national and global, real-world contexts, at the heart of which sit questions around the interpretation of identity, community, place and the past in relation to contemporary needs;
- provide a degree that equips students with oversight of new heritage technologies, and the skills to continue their continued professional development in their chosen career.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to:

1. Describe key concepts and theories in the presentation and interpretation of heritage and archaeology.
2. Recognise archaeological conventions, such as stratigraphic sequences, dating, and artefacts.
3. Identify how a broad range of methods could be used in heritage and archaeology.
4. Apply basic field archaeology methods and interpretation.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

5. Assess key concepts and theories in the presentation and interpretation of heritage and archaeology.
6. Demonstrate practical heritage and archaeological skills.
7. Review heritage and archaeology in its broader cultural and legislative frameworks
8. Apply scientific and humanities-based techniques and theories relevant to heritage and archaeology.
9. Articulate the socio-political contexts of heritage and archaeology in the world today.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

10. Critically evaluate issues in the presentation and interpretation of heritage and archaeology in British and global contexts.
11. Critically apply scientific and humanities-based techniques relevant to the historic environment.
12. Critically appraise the processes involved in the creation and dissemination of heritage and archaeological knowledge.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

13. Design and complete a substantial work of independent research.

## Curriculum Stage 1

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
4	Introduction to Archaeological Methods	Core	20	1	ARC4018-B
4	British Archaeology and Heritage	Core	20	1	ARC4025-B
4	Biological Anthropology: From Human Evolution to Forensic Anthropology	Core	20	1	ARC4021-B
4	Field Recording Skills	Core	20	2	ARC4022-B
4	Themes in World Archaeology and Heritage	Core	20	2	ARC4024-B
4	Scientific Frameworks	Core	20	2	ARC4013-B

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Stage 2

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
5	Archaeological Practice	Core	20	NSYR	ARC5035-B
5	Heritage and Culture	Core	20	1	ARC5033-B
5	Understanding Artefacts	Option	20	1	ARC5026-B
5	Prehistoric Societies	Option	20	1	ARC5027-B
5	Heritage Management with GIS	Core	20	2	ARC5016-B
5	Celts, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings	Option	20	2	ARC5028-B
5	Bioarchaeology: Humans, Plants and Animals	Option	20	2	ARC5029-B

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

### Placement or Study Abroad (4-year programme)

This programme provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between stages 2 and 3. Students wishing to take this option will be registered for the 4-year programme.

Students registered on the 4-year programme who successfully progress to stage 3 at the stage 2 board of examiners will be eligible to take the placement year or study abroad. Students who progress to stage 3 but have a referral in one or more modules will not normally be able to go on placement or study abroad, particularly if that referral requires attendance. In such cases students on the 4-year course should discuss options with the Placement Tutor.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Study Period	Module Code
5	Placement	Option	FLYR	ARC5013-Z
5	Study Abroad Experience	Option	FLYR	ARC5014-Z

On successful completion of ARC5013-Z, students will be eligible for the award of University Diploma in Professional Studies.

On successful completion of ARC5014-Z, students will be eligible for the award of University Diploma in Professional Studies (International).

For further information about study abroad opportunities please refer to <https://www.brad.ac.uk/study/abroad/>

### Stage 3

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
6	Advanced Archaeological Practice	Option	20	NSYR	ARC6038-B
6	Bones, Bodies and Burials	Option	20	1	ARC6030-B
6	Landscapes, Climate and Society	Option	20	1	ARC6032-B
6	Dissertation	Core	40	1&2	ARC6025-D
6	Archaeology and Heritage in Contemporary Society	Core	20	2	ARC6039-B
6	Innovative Approaches in Heritage	Core	20	2	ARC6037-B

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5 and 60 credits at level 6 and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

### Learning and Teaching Strategy

The School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has developed its programmes around the principles of inclusivity and diversity, offering student choice and direction in learning, and development of autonomous skills. Our programmes integrate assessment for learning, in which learning sessions, assessment activities, intended outcomes and employability relevance are closely correlated and supported by formative feedback, aimed at student development.

Teaching on programmes across the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences incorporates innovative practice and technologies. We undergo regular formal review both by the University of Bradford and our professional accrediting bodies to assure high standards in our teaching quality and maintain relevancy in our subject material and professional context. Our teaching occurs on a foundation of trust and expectation; we expect and trust that students participate and engage with all learning and teaching activities, whether they occur on campus or online, and students can expect and trust that staff will create engaging and productive learning and teaching environments.

The learning and teaching strategy takes into consideration the learning outcomes, progression through the levels of study, the nature of the subject and the student intake, and the need for students to take greater responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the programme. Stage 1 is introductory, introducing you to a range of archaeological periods, regions and materials and the development of the disciplines of heritage and archaeology. Practical modules allow you to handle real archaeological materials and explore methods of field survey and the principles of stratigraphy. The student is also introduced to the main scientific techniques used in modern archaeology and heritage.

Stage 2 develops critical thinking and offers an element of optionality. Choice of fieldwork locations are allocated by a CV and letter of application, providing valuable career skills. Projects will provide first-hand experience of excavation, recording, and other practical skills, under supervision. Modules provide a strong grounding in theoretical perspectives key to heritage and archaeology. Artefact sessions logically follows the excavation stage and demonstrates the processes needed to understand archaeological artefacts and how they inform wider archaeological debates. Heritage and archaeological management, ethics, and the social, economic, and political contexts are addressed in core modules. Optional modules complement the core modules examining the archaeology and heritage of a range of geographical regions, time periods and themes.

Stage 3 promotes specialisation and core discipline knowledge through a combination of compulsory and optional modules. Some core modules bring together final year students on the BA Heritage and Archaeology and BSc Archaeology programmes, enabling discourse and an enrichment of perspective provided by the dialogue between the arts/humanities, vocational and scientific approaches. Optional modules allow specialisation in different topics. The degree culminates in a substantial dissertation, developing critical thinking and demonstrating individual research capacity.

A blended learning approach incorporates hands on learning with online content, benefiting from external expertise to complement University of Bradford staff across synchronous and asynchronous teaching sessions and mixed media formats. We pride ourselves on our research-informed teaching, where our lecturers are active, world-leading researchers in the fields of heritage, archaeology, and related disciplines (including interdisciplinary research).

Student choice is further facilitated within the degree through optionality within some module assignments. This allows selection of topic and subject for coursework during certain modules, allowing diversity of focus in learning material, development of autonomous learning, and self-selection of degree focus.

### **Assessment Strategy**

The assessment strategy is designed to similarly support the learning outcomes of the programme and each specific module. A wide range of formative and summative assessment methods are used, including essays, portfolios, worksheets, critiques, laboratory reports, group-work, poster (in the placement year), oral presentations, research designs, reflective journals and examinations. The research design and dissertation develop students' ability to undertake independent research and plan this research effectively. Our assessments

replicate real-world situations and demands, including the need for high-level writing skills and oral presentation. Assessment demands increase at the appropriate rate for each level of the programme.

Formalised formative assessment opportunities are available on a selection of modules across all stages of the degree, to offer informative feedback on specific assignments. Additionally, within our school learning and teaching philosophy, formative feedback encompasses much more, including: discussions during lectures, seminars and tutorials; during practical and laboratory activities; verbal comments after presentations; and many other situations throughout your degree. A key skill that you will develop during the degree is the ability to identify feedback beyond that given as written comments on submitted assignments; in fact, the most beneficial feedback you will receive is that given prior to assignments, allowing you to reflect and adapt, rather than just formal written feedback after assignments have been submitted and marked.

### **Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

[www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations)

### **Admission Requirements**

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond. Entrance requirements for each programme will vary but consideration of each student's application will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS main scheme would be 112 UCAS points (BBC). There are no specific subject requirements at A level, as many subjects form a good foundation for archaeology. We require GCSE English at level 4, or equivalent. Applications are welcome from mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) and from candidates with non-standard qualifications, for example BTEC Extended Diploma (typical offer DMM), Scottish Higher or Irish Leaving Certificate, International Baccalaureate or Access to Higher Education Diploma (typical offer 112 points with at least 45 level 3 credits at Merit) or, lacking academic qualifications, having significant relevant experience.

In addition, students whose first language is not English must have a minimum IELTS of level 6.0, with no sub-test less than 5.0, or the equivalent.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.



## Minor Modification Schedule

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Brief description of Modification</b>	<b>Date of Approval (Faculty Board)</b>
1	Annual changes for 2021 academic year	May 2021
2	Annual changes for 2022 academic year	March 2022
3	Annual changes for 2023 academic year	May 2023
4	Annual changes for 2024 academic year	April 2024