

Council for British Archaeology

CBA Factsheet 3d: Studying archaeology in Continuing Education

Part-time archaeology courses are available at many university Continuing Education, or Lifelong Learning, centres and provide a good opportunity for those with an interest in archaeology to gain academic qualifications. Many of the courses offered are intended to provide vocational opportunities and academic awards, such as Certificates and Diplomas. Many universities offer students the option of taking the accredited qualification, or to just taking the class without the final qualification.

Most modules are run as weekly evening classes over a period of 10 or 20 weeks, occasionally including field trips. There are also day schools, weekend residential, and non-residential, courses, week-long residential summer schools, and study tours visiting a range of sites in parts of Britain, or abroad. Recent years have seen an increase in Distance Learning courses (Internet-based home-study), at certificate and postgraduate level, and these are offered by the universities of Cambridge, Birmingham, Exeter, Leicester and Oxford. Archaeology courses cover a wide variety of topics, sometimes a particular period or culture, such as Ancient Egypt, Prehistoric Britain or Classical Greece. There are courses in practical archaeology with topics of field walking, excavation, surveying, nautical archaeology, artefact illustration or computing. Others may examine the archaeology of a particular place, often the local area where the course is being held. Other popular topics are industrial archaeology, the study of landscapes, and buildings.

Courses for leisure interest, usually without qualifications, are also offered by two other organisations:

- The [Workers' Educational Association](http://www.wea.org.uk) (WEA) (www.wea.org.uk)
- The [University of the Third Age](http://www.u3a.org.uk) (U3A) (www.u3a.org.uk)

Award-bearing courses, such as the Certificate or Diploma in Higher Education, can be particularly useful for those who have been working for some years and are looking for a change of career. They are also useful to those who may not have studied at that level before, and act as a good introduction to the subject. Certificates and Diplomas can contribute to the entry requirement for a BA or BSc degree for those wanting to continue their studies. A Certificate or Diploma can be taken as the equivalent to first or second year undergraduate study in some cases. Certificates and

Diplomas are valid in their own right for those who do not wish to continue into higher education but are interested in studying a particular topic to a recognised standard.

There are three kinds of qualification that can be taken:

- Credits awarded for successful completion of a single course module; these vary according to the length and type of course. Typically, a 10-week course will lead to 10 credits
- To gain the certificate a student needs to complete four 30 CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme) point modules, or an equivalent, to a total of 120 CATS points at level four (equivalent to a first year level of an undergraduate degree).
- The Diploma of Higher Education is a nationally recognised qualification offered throughout the UK, equivalent to the second year of an undergraduate degree (level two). The diploma is achieved by accumulating 240 credits, of which at least 120 must be at level two.

The precise details of credit points and higher education certificate courses vary from one university to another, but the description above is a typical picture of accreditation at present. The type of study required to gain a credit also varies between universities with most requiring course work rather than exams. Course work usually entails compiling a dossier of evidence indicating that the student has done some reading, visited sites, or undertaken practical work as part of the course, or completed short written tasks. The assessment of students is designed to be flexible and take into account the fact that many students may not have written essays or taken exams for many years, if at all.

The programme of courses offered by departments varies greatly from year to year, and the university that you are interested in studying with should be contacted for the most up-to-date information, either through their prospectus or website. The CBA keeps a database of courses nationwide and the CBA office can be [contacted](#) for information by visiting the website at www.britarch.ac.uk/contact

University Certificate, Diploma & other courses

The list below should be regarded as provisional and only lists accredited courses ie Certificates, Diplomas, undergraduate degrees, masters degrees etc. Numerous modules are available at most Continuing Education departments, with new alternating modules being offered annually at most universities. Contact the department concerned for up to date information, or alternatively visit TORC at www.torc.org.uk

University of Aberdeen, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Flexible Archaeology

Certificate/Diploma in Scottish Studies

Certificate/Diploma in Scottish Archaeology

Aberdeen offers many of its modules and courses as WebCT with Video Conference links.

University of Bath, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Certificate in Archaeology

University of Birmingham, Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity

See the Distance Learning section, below, for courses offered in this

format. A program of Historic Environment Conservation Practical

Workshops is also held at the University's Ironbridge Institute, Shropshire

(www.ironbridge.bham.ac.uk)

University of Bristol, Lifelong Learning

BA (Hons) in Archaeological Studies (PT), and other short courses

University of Cambridge, Institute of Continuing Education

Certificate/Diploma/Advanced Diploma in Archaeology

Certificate/Diploma/Advanced Diploma in Historic Environment

Certificate of Higher Education in Historic Building Conservation

Cardiff University, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeology

Durham University, Foundation Centre

Archaeology with Foundation, (Fda) 4 years

University of East Anglia, Dept of Continuing Education

Has some part-time study of Archaeology, and Anthropology

University of Edinburgh, Office of Lifelong Learning

Certificate in Archaeology

University of Essex, Department of History

Certificate in Local Historical Studies

University of Exeter, Department of Lifelong Learning

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeological Studies

Certificate of Egyptology

University of Glasgow, Department of Adult & Continuing Education

Certificate in Ancient Studies

Certificate in Egyptology

Certificate in Environmental Studies

Certificate in Field Archaeology

Certificate in Historical Studies

Keele University, Continuing & Professional Education

History (including archaeological modules)

University of Kent, Part-time study

Certificate/Diploma/BA in Archaeological Studies

University of Leicester, School of Archaeology & Ancient History

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeology

Certificate in Architectural History

See also Distance Learning, below

University of Liverpool, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeological Studies

University of London, Birkbeck College

Certificate in Archaeology

Certificate in the Archaeology of Britain

Certificate in Archaeological Practice & Techniques

Certificate in Ancient Near Eastern & Aegean Studies

Certificate in Egyptology

University of Nottingham, Centre for Continuing Education

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeology

Oxford University, Department for Continuing Education

Advanced Diploma in Archaeological Practice

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeology

DPhil in Archaeology

MSc in Professional Archaeology

MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology

University of Plymouth, Truro College Campus

FdSc Archaeology (FT/PT)

- Full-time students should apply via UCAS, part-time students should apply directly to the institution.

University of Sussex, Centre for Continuing Education

Certificate in Practical Archaeology

Postgraduate Diploma in Field Archaeology

MA in Field Archaeology

MPhil/DPhil in Archaeology

Warwick University, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Open Studies Certificate in Archaeology

Open Studies Certificate in Ancient Egypt

University of York, Centre for Lifelong Learning

Accredited modules in Archaeology

Learning for Pleasure: History & Heritage

Distance Learning

The following provides a list of distance learning courses available from UK institutions:

University of Birmingham, Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity

MA, P/G Diploma Landscape Archaeology, GIA & Virtual Environments
MA, P/G Diploma Practical Archaeology

University of Cambridge, Institute of Continuing Education

A number of modules including English Prehistory, Roman archaeology, and Egyptology are being offered among others.
MSt Historic Environment, requires some residential sessions.

University of Exeter, Department of Lifelong Learning

MA Archaeology & Heritage Management
Non-Credit Bearing (NCB) short courses

University of Leicester, School of Archaeology & Ancient History

Certificate/Diploma in Archaeology
Postgraduate Certificate in Archaeology:

- Landscape Archaeology
- Planning and Management of Archaeological Projects
- Archaeology of Standing Buildings
- Interpretation and Presentation of the Archaeological Heritage
- Classical Landscapes: Rural, Urban and Domestic Space

MA Archaeology and Heritage
MA Historical Archaeology
PhD Research

Open University

World Archaeology, code OU A251. Tied to the Thames & Hudson book
The Human Past, edited by Chris Scarre.
Archaeology: the science of investigation, code OU SA188.
Heritage, Whose Heritage, code A180.
Understanding Global Heritage, code AD281.

Oxford University, Department for Continuing Education

The Department of Continuing Education has a series of archaeology modules available only as a Distance Learning option and many other short courses.

Other organisations providing part-time courses in archaeology:

The Open University

The OU offers a variety of short courses with modules in World Archaeology and Archaeology: the investigation of science; Identity and power in the Roman Empire, and modules in Heritage.

Website: www.open.ac.uk

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA)

WEA offers a variety of short courses at its regional centres throughout the UK.

Website: www.wea.org.uk

U3A

U3A is the University of the Third Age, which is a self-help organization for people no longer in full-time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. It consists of local U3As throughout the UK, which are charities in their own right and are run entirely by volunteers.

Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Nautical Archaeology Society

The NAS is a registered charity to promote local, national and international interest in our nautical heritage, maritime, and underwater archaeology. This registered charity also offers a full training programme of diving qualifications, plus the Certificate and Diploma in Foreshore and Underwater Archaeology.

Website: www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org

For further information, please contact:

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tel 01904 671417, visit www.britarch.ac.uk or email info@britarch.ac.uk

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