



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2026/27

Date created: 15/01/2022

Last amended: 02/04/2025

Version no. 1

1. Programme title(s) and code(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology
 Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology
 BA Archaeology (no UCAS codes)
 [Short Courses (1-2 modules) may also be taken for credit only]

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100299	100

b) UCAS Code (where required)

N/A

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Flexible/blended learning

b) Type of study

Distance learning

4. Registration periods:

BA Full Time:

The normal period of registration is 3 years

The maximum period of registration 5 years

BA Part Time:

The normal period of registration is 6 years

The maximum period of registration 8 years

Diploma of Higher Education Full Time:

The normal period of registration is 2 years

The maximum period of registration 3 years

Diploma of Higher Education Part Time:

The normal period of registration is 4 years

The maximum period of registration 6 years

Certificate of Higher Education Full Time:

The normal period of registration is 1 years

The maximum period of registration 2 years

Certificate of Higher Education Part Time:

The normal period of registration is 2 years

The maximum period of registration 4 years

5. Typical entry requirements

All applicants must satisfy the University's English Language requirements (IELTS 6.5) as stipulated in the General Regulations for Taught Programmes in force for the academic year of entry to the programme. Students must also confirm that they meet the skills requirements of the course:

Students will be required to have:

- regular access to a computer with an internet connection sufficient to stream/download pre-recorded lectures
- the technological skills to
 - read and write emails
 - access and navigate the module VLE sites weekly
 - access recommended e-readings
 - perform simple data searches
 - word process and upload assignments online
 - follow staff guidance in how to use basic presentation software

Applications should be made directly to the University.

Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology

There are no specified academic requirements for application at level 1; admission in these circumstances is at the discretion of the designated individual(s) who are authorized to make admissions decisions on behalf of the Director of Distance Learning or the Programme Director.

Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology

For entry at level 2, applicants will normally have a Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology (120 credits in archaeology at Level 1) or equivalent APL (e.g. Associate degree in Anthropology in the USA), or a minimum of two years relevant professional experience.

BA in Archaeology

For entry at level 3, applicants will normally have a Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology (120 credits in archaeology at level 2).

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be recognised in accordance with the General Regulations for Taught Programmes in force for the academic year of entry to the programme. Module exemptions on the basis of APL will normally be granted on an 'ungraded' basis, meaning that students would be awarded a qualification on the basis of the average marks from modules completed at the University of Leicester.

Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology

Direct entry to level 2 would be permitted where applicants would normally have a Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology (120 credits in archaeology at Level 1) or equivalent APL (e.g.

Associate degree in Anthropology in the USA), or a minimum of two years' relevant professional experience.

BA in Archaeology

Direct entry to level 3 would be permitted where applicants would normally have a Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology or equivalent (120 credits in archaeology at level 2). Admission in these circumstances is at the discretion of the designated individual(s) who are authorized to make admissions decisions on behalf of the Director of Distance Learning or Programme Director

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to:

The Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology aims to:

- provide a stimulating and challenging learning experience for a wide range of students from a variety of social, geographic and cultural backgrounds;
- provide a rigorous and coherent curriculum, drawing on the School's research and teaching strengths and expertise in delivering distance learning;
- enable students to demonstrate a variety of approaches to understanding the past through archaeological means;
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills necessary for further study, career and life enhancement, and effective independent learning;
- enable students to develop personally in ways which will enrich their lives and facilitate their wider contributions to society.

The Diploma of Higher Education in Archaeology aims to:

- consolidate students' existing archaeological knowledge and develop a critical approach to the discipline;
- provide a rigorous and coherent curriculum, drawing on the School's research and teaching strengths and expertise in delivering distance learning;
- develop students' knowledge and understanding of the wide chronological and geographical range of the discipline;
- develop techniques and concepts towards understanding the past through archaeological approaches to the study of material culture;
- enable students to develop personally in ways which will enrich their lives and facilitate their wider contributions to society.

The BA in Archaeology aims to:

- provide a rigorous, coherent and attractive curriculum that draws on the research expertise and teaching strengths of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History;
- provide a stimulating and challenging learning experience for all students;
- develop students' knowledge and understanding of the full chronological and geographical range of their discipline;
- develop students' abilities to apply archaeological theories, techniques, and concepts to analyse and explain specific periods and themes in Archaeology;
- enable students to demonstrate a variety of approaches used by archaeologists to understand past societies;
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of skills necessary for the study of Archaeology;
- enable students to apply critical skills to produce a substantial piece of independent research;
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills necessary for successful career development and a lifetime of effective independent learning.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement in [Archaeology](#)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate knowledge of the essential terminology, principal evidence types and basic chronology for the study of archaeology	DL course materials within all core modules at Level 1, AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR1602 <i>Archaeology BCE</i> , AR1603 <i>Introduction to Classical Archaeology</i> , and AR1604 <i>Archaeology CE</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, a poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Demonstrate knowledge of the principal theoretical approaches which underpin archaeological analysis and scholarship	DL course materials within two core modules at Level 2, AR2601 <i>Archaeological Theory</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpretation of Archaeological Evidence</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, a poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Demonstrate knowledge of the processes and requirements of archaeological fieldwork	DL course material within core modules at Level 2, AR2602 <i>Field School (UoL)</i> and AR2603 <i>Field School (Self-Organised)</i> : practical fieldwork experience; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including fieldwork diary and portfolio, and essays.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate knowledge of advanced approaches and analytical tools used in the study of archaeological material	DL course material within core modules at Level 3, AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (on campus) AR3602 <i>Research Bootcamp (online)</i> and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning (in the case of AR3601 including lab-based learning); academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities, including Dissertation Proposal planning, and assignments including research report and dissertation

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Understand and apply basic chronological concepts and dating conventions	DL course materials within all core modules at Level 1 (AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR1602 <i>Archaeology BCE</i> , AR1603 <i>Introduction to Classical Archaeology</i> , and AR1604 <i>Archaeology CE</i>): directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, a poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Understand and apply essential fieldwork techniques, including data collection, processing and analysis	DL course material within core modules at Level 2, AR2602 <i>Field School (UoL)</i> and AR2603 <i>Field School (Self-Organised)</i> : practical fieldwork experience; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including fieldwork diary and portfolio, and essays.
Understand and apply advanced approaches and analytical techniques used in the study of archaeological material	DL course material within core modules at Level 3, AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (on campus) AR3602 <i>Research Bootcamp (online)</i> and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning (in the case of AR3601 including lab-based learning); academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities, including Dissertation Proposal planning, and assignments including research report and dissertation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Identify and apply a sound methodology in the design and execution of a sustained research project	DL course material within core modules at Level 3, AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (on campus) and <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (online) and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning (in the case of AR3601 including lab-based learning); academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities, including Dissertation Proposal planning, and assignments including research report and dissertation
Demonstrate a variety of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past	DL course materials; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; practical field school instruction; academic support from tutors; assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, participation in practical fieldwork, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Reflect critically on the conventional terminology used in archaeology to describe periods, places and peoples	DL course materials within all core modules at Level 1 (AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR1602 <i>Archaeology BCE</i> , AR1603 <i>Introduction to Classical Archaeology</i> , and AR1604 <i>Archaeology CE</i>): directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, a poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Critique the theoretical basis for archaeological analyses and scholarship	DL course materials within two core modules at Level 2 (AR2601 <i>Archaeological Theory</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpretation of Archaeological Evidence</i>): directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, poster, and self-assessed exercises.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically assess the presentation of archaeological data in reports and publications	DL course material within core module at Level 2, AR2604 <i>Interpretation of Archaeological Evidence</i> , and core modules at Level 3, AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (on campus) and <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (online) and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning (in the case of AR3601 including lab-based learning); academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities, including writing tasks, problem-based exercises and Dissertation Proposal planning, and assignments including a poster, data analysis report, research report and dissertation
Compare and analyse appropriate archaeological themes by period, place, material or cultural category	DL course materials; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation
Analyse historical processes over a variety of temporal and spatial scales	DL course materials, especially AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpreting Archaeological Evidence</i> and AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> ; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present archaeological materials and historical argument in a variety of written and graphical formats	DL course materials, especially core modules AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpreting Archaeological Evidence</i> , AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i>); lectures, directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Identify and critically appraise archaeological evidence using appropriate terminology	DL course materials within all core modules at Level 1 (AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR1602 <i>Archaeology BCE</i> , AR1603 <i>Introduction to Classical Archaeology</i> , and AR1604 <i>Archaeology CE</i>): directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities and assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, a poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Critically appraise archaeological evidence from a range of perspectives	DL course materials within two core modules at Level 2 (AR2601 <i>Archaeological Theory</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpretation of Archaeological Evidence</i>): directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, poster, and self-assessed exercises.
Critically appraise a range of different research methods and understand their applications in solving research problems	DL course material within core modules at Level 3, AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (on campus) and <i>Research Bootcamp</i> (online) and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i> : directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning (in the case of AR3601 including lab-based learning); academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module activities, including writing tasks, problem-based exercises and Dissertation Proposal planning, and assignments including research report and dissertation
Develop and sustain arguments, formulating appropriate questions, and identifying and evaluating appropriate techniques and approaches	DL course materials, especially core modules AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpreting Archaeological Evidence</i> , AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> and AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i>); lectures, directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Read, analyse and critically evaluate a range of source materials	DL course materials; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Reflect critically on the nature of archaeology; on its place in the contemporary world; and its relationship to cognate disciplines and methods	DL course materials especially core modules (Level 1: AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR1602 <i>Archaeology BCE</i> , AR1603 <i>Introduction to Classical Archaeology</i> , AR1604 <i>Archaeology CE</i> ; Level 2: AR2601 <i>Archaeological Theory</i> , AR2602/3 <i>Field School</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpreting Archaeological Evidence</i> ; Level 3: AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> , AR3603 <i>Dissertation</i>); lectures, directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression	In option modules only (due to incidence of accessibility and language needs in DL cohort): AR2602 <i>Field School (UoL)</i> , AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp (on campus)</i> , AR3607 <i>Britain and the Roman World</i>	Contribution to AR2602 <i>Field School</i> excavations, non-assessed presentations at AR3601 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> , assessed recorded presentation in AR3607 <i>Britain and the Roman World</i>

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and explain arguments and presentation of data in a variety of textual and graphical formats	DL course materials; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Apply IT to support research, interpretation, analysis and presentation, including bibliographic and corpora research and data production	Library induction in ebook readers and bibliographic searches; skills training in relevant software; DL course materials on Blackboard and web; independent research using recommended databases and corpora; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate analysis of archaeological data using quantitative, statistical and graphical techniques	DL course material, especially within AR1601 <i>Aims and Methods</i> , AR2604 <i>Interpreting Archaeological Evidence</i> , AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> ; independent research; resource-based learning	Module assignments including written reports, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and (where relevant) the dissertation

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Be able to work collaboratively and recognise the advantages of working with others	Core modules AR2601/2 <i>Field School</i> and AR3601/2 <i>Research Bootcamp</i> ; DL course materials; DL Forum shared spaces	Module assignments; DL Forum message boards and Virtual Common Room meetings

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address archaeological issues and problems at a variety of scales using a range of techniques and sources	DL course materials; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Gather and deploy evidence and data from a range of sources to find, retrieve, select and present information in a variety of formats	DL course materials; lectures; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate self-management of learning	DL course materials; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments; course progression
Demonstrate intellectual independence through the appropriate selection, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of evidence	DL course materials; directed reading; independent research; resource-based learning; academic support from tutors; pre-assignment guidance and assignment feedback	Module assignments including essays, critiques, written reports, writing tasks, problem-based exercises, posters and presentations, and contributions to discussions, self-assessed exercises, and the dissertation
Reflect upon learning and achievement and plan for educational, personal and career development	Online Leicester Award; SAAH Internships and Placements Programme; Careers and Employability pages within DL Forum; Personal Tutor system	Module feedback; uptake of internships and training opportunities; completion of Leicester Award

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the year of entry.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

a) Course transfers

The course transfers process is set out [here](#) on the University's web pages.

A transfer between Full-Time and Part-Time study:

- a. may not be implemented in the middle of a taught module.
- b. will usually only be granted at the half-way point in a Level (i.e. when 60 credits of the Level have been completed) OR at the end of a Level (i.e. when 120 credits of the Level have been completed).

Students are advised to contact their funding body (e.g. The Student Loans Company), and consult with the DL Hub (DLstudy@le.ac.uk) and the [Welfare Office](#) to discuss any financial implication before initiating the transfer process.

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special features

12.1 Field School (AR2602/AR2603)

All Level 2 students must take a practical fieldwork module (either AR2602 or AR2603).

AR2602 *Field School (UoL)* is organised by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, and entails travelling to Leicestershire/Midlands. You should attend this Field School in the first (UK) summer period after finishing Level 1 and complete the module's assessments in the following semester (i.e. Semester 1, Sep-Dec).

Alternatively, you may arrange your own fieldwork experience by choosing AR2603 *Field School (Self-Organized)*, provided this is approved in advance by the designated member of staff in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. You may take part in this fieldwork at any point in the year, but it is recommended that you formally enrol on the AR2603 module to complete the required assessments in the Semester immediately following your fieldwork.

12.2 Research Bootcamp (AR3601/AR3602)

All students are required to take a dedicated research methods module. You have the option to select AR3601 *Research Bootcamp (On Campus)* which entails travelling to the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, or to study remotely by selecting AR3601 *Research Bootcamp (Online)*.

You should complete Research Bootcamp at the beginning of Level 3, and before you may be enrolled on AR3603 *Dissertation*.

12.3 Transfer between DL and CB mode of study

You may transfer between mode of study with the prior agreement of the Programme Director or his/her nominee. In such cases, the normal and maximum periods of registration will be calculated accordingly.

12.4 Associate students and standalone modules (“Short courses”, “Taster Modules”)

You may register for a single Level 1 module (30 credits) on a ‘for-interest’ basis, and become an “Associate Student”. Associate students will be required to undertake all assessments associated with their chosen module. Successful completion of the module at 40% or above will entitle you to a Certificate of Achievement.

If you wish to undertake further study after this, you will be required to register for a qualification leading to award in accordance with the General Regulations governing the accreditation of prior learning.

It is also possible for students to take Associate modules at Level 2 if they can demonstrate that they have 120 credits in Archaeology at Level 1 or a suitable equivalent.

12.5 Intakes, Study Intensity and Order of Study

You may begin your programme in either September (Semester 1) or February (Semester 2). Modules are offered twice a year i.e. duplicated in Semester 1 and Semester 2, except

AR2602

Field School (UoL) which is usually only offered in Semester 1.

Full-Time students should usually study two modules per semester, and part-time student should study one module per semester. The exception is at Level 3 where students complete AR3601/2 mid-way during the semester.

You will be enrolled on your modules in the order determined by the School and commensurate with your Level.

12a. Research-inspired Education

Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:

RiE Quadrant	Narrative
<p>Research-briefed</p> <p>Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.</p>	<p>The programme provides a thorough grounding in the methods and theories underlying Archaeology, and also critical thinking through exposure to current research and real-life field practice. It draws on international published research ensuring that the knowledge and skills our graduates acquire are put into practice within the disciplines and more widely through application of critical thinking.</p> <p>Research-briefed - Module materials (lectures, readings, podcasts) introduce students to fundamental concepts in the disciplines necessary to understand current research and practice.</p>
<p>Research-based</p> <p>Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.</p>	<p>Research-based - Fieldwork is a core part of the degree and engages students in primary data collection. Fieldwork is an inquiry-based activity involving two-way exchange between research and teaching. This is reflected in the assessments (essay and critical portfolio).</p> <p>For the dissertation, supervisors provide their own specialist research input to guide students with their own dissertation research.</p>

<p>Research-oriented</p> <p>Students critique published research content and process.</p> <p>Research-apprenticed</p> <p>Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.</p>	<p>Research-oriented - Students critique research content in practical exercises and essay writing throughout the degree.</p> <p>The dissertation requires a critical reading of the materials and sources researched to generate the student's own informed assessment of the theme.</p> <p>Research-apprenticed - The degree is set up to provide students with the opportunity to experience the research process throughout, with appropriate staff support. This is exemplified in the fieldwork modules, which take the practical experiences of students themselves which they then write up in reflective portfolio assignments.</p>
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As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:

Wednesday Research seminars, a hybrid and weekly research event across the School

Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:

The School supports all staff involved in teaching to gain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their use of teaching theory to support their own practice and reflect on their current teaching and continuing professional development.

The School holds teaching Open Fora through the year. These are two-hour meetings on a particular topic (usually different each time), which all staff are invited to. The Open Fora are used to develop ideas around best practice, which can then be implemented within the curriculum

13. Indications of programme quality

In REF 2021, 94% of our research overall was classed as world-leading (4*) and internationally excellent (3*). We returned three Impact case studies, all of which were ranked as 4* placing us 1st in the country for the second REF in a row. On the measure of overall research quality we rank 3rd in the country. Our research environment (which is a mixture of our facilities and research culture) was ranked 4th in the Country (87.5% of 4*). On overall GPA we rank 5th in the country.

We deliver undergraduate and master's teaching to the highest standards. Each year, DL students go on to take master's courses at Leicester or elsewhere; many have entered teaching or archaeological careers; and many enter graduate employment soon after graduation.

In the NSS return of 2021 (a challenging teaching year by any standards) the School of Archaeology and Ancient History gained an overall satisfaction score of 82%.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2026/27

Date created: 15/01/2022

Last amended: 02/04/2025

Version no. 1

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

CertHE/DipHE/BA Archaeology

Level 1 **2026/27**

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	120	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR1601	Aims and Methods in Archaeology	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR1602	Archaeology BCE	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR1603	Introduction to Classical Archaeology	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR1604	Archaeology CE	30 credits

Notes Full-Time students study two modules per Semester, and Part-Time students study one module per semester.

DipHE/BA Archaeology

Level 2 **2027/28**

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	90 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	30 credits	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2601	Archaeological Theory	30 credits
SEM 1	AR2602	Field School (UoL)*	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2603	Field School (Self-Organised)*	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2604	Interpreting Archaeological Evidence	30 credits

Notes

*Students must take EITHER AR2602 OR AR2603. Any Self-Organised Field School must first be approved by the designated fieldwork (module)_coordinator within the School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2605	Archaeology of Human Evolution	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2606	Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age Britain and Ireland	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2607	Archaeology of the Roman World	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR2608	Medieval Mediterranean	30 credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules. **Full-Time students study two modules per Semester, and Part-Time students study one module per semester.**

BA Archaeology

Level 3 2028/29

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	60 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	60 credits	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3601	Research Bootcamp (on campus)*	15 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3602	Research Bootcamp (online)*	15 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3603	Dissertation**	45 credits

Notes

*Students must take EITHER AR3601 OR AR3602.

** Independent learning and personal research are the backbone of the Distance Learning programme, developed over three years. The large credit-weighting for the Dissertation (45 credits) reflects its importance as the culmination of a programme mostly composed of intensive 30-credit taught modules. AR3601/2 is studied over 6 weeks.

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3604	Urbanisms	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3605	Archaeology of Religion and Belief	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3606	Archaeology and Heritage	30 credits
SEM 1 and 2	AR3607	Britain and the Roman World	30 credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules

[Appendix 2: Module specifications](#) [log in required]

Demonstrate knowledge of the principal theoretical approaches which underpin archaeological analysis and scholarship					X			X												
Demonstrate knowledge of the processes and requirements of archaeological fieldwork						X	X													
Demonstrate knowledge of advanced approaches and analytical tools used in the study of archaeological material													X	X	X					
ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques																				
Understand and apply basic chronological concepts and dating conventions	X	X	X	X																
Understand and apply essential fieldwork techniques, including data collection, processing and analysis						X	X													
Understand and apply advanced approaches and analytical techniques used in the study of archaeological material													X	X	X					
Identify and apply a sound methodology in the design and execution of a sustained research project													X	X	X					
Demonstrate a variety of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
iii) Critical analysis of key issues																				
Reflect critically on the conventional terminology used in archaeology to describe periods, places and peoples	X	X	X	X																
Critique the theoretical basis for archaeological analyses and scholarship					X			X												

Critically assess the presentation of archaeological data in reports and publications								X					X	X						
Compare and analyse appropriate archaeological themes by period, place, material or cultural category	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Analyse historical processes over a variety of temporal and spatial scales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
iv) Clear and concise presentation of material																				
Present archaeological materials and historical argument in a variety of written and graphical formats	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight																				
Identify and critically appraise archaeological evidence using appropriate terminology	X	X	X	X																
Critically appraise archaeological evidence from a range of perspectives					X			X												
Critically appraise a range of different research methods and understand their applications in solving research problems													X	X	X					
Develop and sustain arguments, formulating appropriate questions, and identifying and evaluating appropriate techniques and approaches	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Read, analyse and critically evaluate a range of source materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
vi) Other discipline specific competencies																				
Reflect critically on the nature of archaeology; on its place in the contemporary world; and its relationship to cognate disciplines and methods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

b) Transferable skills																			
i) Oral communication																			
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression						X	X							X	X				X
ii) Written communication																			
Develop and explain arguments and presentation of data in a variety of textual and graphical formats	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
iii) Information technology																			
Apply IT to support research, interpretation, analysis and presentation, including bibliographic and corpora research and data production	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
iv) Numeracy																			
Demonstrate analysis of archaeological data using quantitative, statistical and graphical techniques	X							X					X	X	(X)				
v) Team working																			
Be able to work collaboratively and recognise the advantages of working with others						X	X						X	X					
vi) Problem solving																			
Address archaeological issues and problems at a variety of scales using a range of techniques and sources	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
vii) Information handling																			
Gather and deploy evidence and data from a range of sources to find, retrieve, select and present information in a variety of formats	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
viii) Skills for lifelong learning																			
Demonstrate self-management of learning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Demonstrate intellectual independence through the appropriate selection, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of evidence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reflect upon learning and achievement and plan for educational, personal and career development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Note: (X) represents skills which may apply to the module depending on the assignment(s)/topic(s) chosen by the student