



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY

FROM THE PAST, TO THE FUTURE

Learning from the past, looking to the future.

OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES

A world-leading department, consistently the UK's No. 1 for student experience.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Practical involvement in cutting edge projects that help develop professional skills.

SHAPING A
BETTER WORLD
SINCE 1845

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY



Why study Archaeology and Palaeoecology?

If you are intrigued by past societies and past environments, then a degree in Archaeology, or Archaeology and Palaeoecology is for you. Archaeology is a broad subject area that looks at all aspects of human history from our earliest ancestors up to the recent past. It draws from many disciplines spanning the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, and studies the emergence and development of humans and societies from a variety of different perspectives. Palaeoecology investigates evidence of past environmental and climate change. Specifically, it explores how natural events and human activities have changed and altered the environment through the use of a wide range of physical and biological sciences.

You will benefit from enriching experiences, including field trips in Ireland, Britain and abroad, while the practical work of survey, excavation and laboratory study will provide you with a lifetime of interest and knowledge.

Thanks to our close links with heritage organisations and many commercial archaeology firms, we offer a wealth of opportunities for fieldwork and work experience. Using cutting edge technology, you will learn how we can use technologies like 3D scanners, satellite imagery and drones better to understand the past. Queen's also houses the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, meaning our course content is as market-responsive as it can be and our students gain unique access to employers.



Course Director
Dr Dirk Brandherm

Who will be teaching you?

Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's has an outstanding reputation for teaching and research. From excavating human remains in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean, exploring landscape change in prehistoric Malta, and unravelling the mysteries of who we are, using ancient DNA, our researchers work all over the world, bringing the latest thinking and techniques into our labs and lecture theatres in Northern Ireland.

Thanks to our exceptional teaching, our programme is ranked 7th in the UK (Guardian League Tables 2019), joint-first for student satisfaction in the UK (National Student surveys 2017, 2018), and within the top Archaeology degrees in the world (QS World Rankings by subject 2016, 2017, 2018).

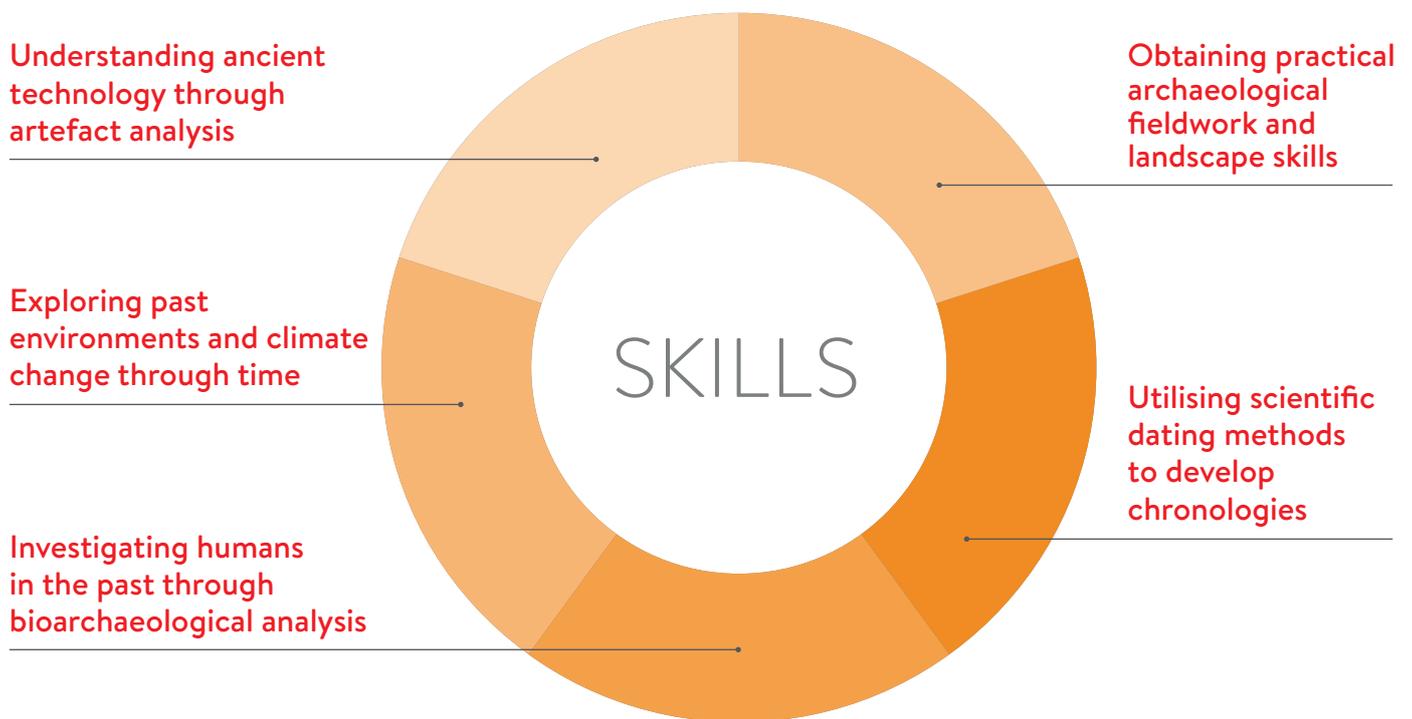
Our subject areas

Modules focus on different periods of World, European and Irish/British archaeology from early human origins to more recent periods. The geographical and chronological range of our courses extend from African origins to medieval Ireland, from the ice ages to the Anthropocene. Using exciting techniques such as survey, mapping, palynology (the study of past pollen records), osteoarchaeology (the study of human and animal remains) and metallurgical analysis, you will learn what state-of-the-art technologies can tell us about the past. With a range of specialist modules on offer, you can tailor your studies to suit your individual interests and strengths.

All students normally take six Level 1 modules. Students on Joint Honours degree programmes normally take three Archaeology/Palaeoecology modules, in addition to three modules from their second subject.

Note: some modules may be subject to change.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



Level 1

Level 1 covers both Archaeology and Palaeoecology, and the modules are introductory courses which assume no previous knowledge. Modules include:

- Ancient Humans and Landscapes;
- Archaeological Excavation;
- Themes in Historical Archaeology;
- Environmental Change: Past, Present and Future;
- Themes in European Prehistory;
- Introduction to World Archaeology;
- plus choices from Geography and other disciplines.

Levels 2 and 3

You will have the opportunity to explore in detail the themes introduced in Level 1, and Level 2 and 3 modules allow for specialisation and the development of practical skills. Level 2 modules provide skills and concepts necessary for the dissertation that is normally taken at Level 3 by all students, and for future employment in Archaeology and/or Palaeoecology.

Level 2 modules include:

- From St Patrick to the Plantation: The Archaeology of Historic Ireland;
- Ireland in Prehistory;
- Landscapes and Geographical Information Systems (GIS);
- Palaeoenvironmental Techniques;
- Archaeology of Islands (including a week-long international fieldtrip);
- Thinking Through Things: Theorising Global Archaeology;
- Archaeology in Practice;
- plus choices from Geography and other disciplines.

Level 3 modules include:

- Early Medieval Europe: Archaeologies of Kingship, Religion and Society;
- Advanced Geographical Information Systems;
- Palaeolithic Pioneers: Adaption and Colonization in Global Perspective;
- Society, Death and Disease;
- The Archaeology of Human Evolution;
- Human-Environment Dynamics in the Holocene;
- Dissertation (double module);
- plus choices from Geography and other disciplines.

MSci

Level 4 modules will enable you to deepen your theoretical knowledge, to gain additional practical experience and further to broaden your skills base.

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

Studying Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's assists students in developing the core skills and employment-related experiences that are valued by employers, professional organisations and academic institutions. Many of our graduates pursue careers in field archaeology and the heritage sector with private, charitable or government agencies, and significant numbers develop careers in a wide range of other areas.

There are many graduate opportunities within archaeological units across Ireland, Britain and Europe, as well as in government planning offices. Our graduates are also in demand across heritage and conservation agencies and museums, such as the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division (HED), Historic Environment Scotland, English Heritage and the National Trust.

Roles include curators, managers, surveyors, educational or outreach officers, scholars and scientists. The multidisciplinary approaches and skills learnt through the study of archaeology can also be applied to a range of other professional fields, such as teaching, management, publishing, marketing, commerce, law, social work, surveying, security and research.

We benefit greatly from housing the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork in the School. This self-funded private unit obtains commercial work from the Department for Communities, the police and civil engineering companies, thus exposing students to employers, but also providing our teaching with information on what the current employment market requires from Archaeology graduates.



Professional Skills

We foster strong links with a large number of employers including the Historic Environment Division at the NI Department for Communities and local as well as national conservation charities and organisations. Our professional career advisors offer support in building your CV, and practice applying and interviewing for graduate-level jobs.

Practical Skills

The combined disciplines of Archaeology and Palaeoecology develop knowledge and skills, through excavation, fieldwork, overseas fieldtrips, laboratory and practical work.

Cutting-edge Facilities

The School boasts the internationally-renowned 14CHRONO Centre for Radiocarbon Dating, the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, departmental collections and laboratories for study of artefacts, human and animal remains and other scientific materials and instruments, access to GIS, laser scanning and specialist teaching laboratories.



AFTER GRADUATION



“I graduated with a BA Hons in Archaeology at Queen’s in 2016. It was the culmination of three years of hard work and a lot of fun. Working within the archaeology department broadened my horizons, both academically and socially. I met my best friends within archaeology, and combined with the wonderful staff, my entire experience at Queen’s was warm and friendly. It inspired me to continue within academia and the staff gave me the support and the confidence to push myself to go after whatever I wanted. So after Queen’s I went on to do an MPhil in Medieval Archaeology at Cambridge University.

Since graduating from Cambridge in October 2017, I have been working part time as a Historic Property Steward at Stonehenge while also working towards starting my PhD. I’ve also been starting to write a book, combining archaeology and history with folklore so I’ve been keeping myself busy! Onwards and upwards, still with the unfailing support of Queen’s to help.”

Olivia Morris-Soper

BA Archaeology
Embarking on PhD research at Cambridge University



“Studying a BSc joint honours in Archaeology-Palaeoecology and Geography provided me with a great opportunity to develop skills that I use in my career and the opportunity to undertake fieldwork provided a good balance between theory and practice. The fieldtrip to Rome was a once in a lifetime opportunity that helped develop group work and presentation skills but most of all friendships. The support from the staff at Queen’s was extremely valuable throughout my undergraduate degree and gave me the confidence to pursue an MSc. Since leaving University I have worked on large projects throughout the UK and wouldn’t be where I am today without the skills developed at Queen’s.”

David McGall

BSc joint honours Archaeology-Palaeoecology and Geography
Environmental Engineer, AECOM



“I started Archaeology at Queen’s in 2012, after changing from another course. I was immediately welcomed into the faculty, and the support from teaching staff was wonderful. The range of modules I was able to choose as part of my BA Hons course was fantastic throughout my degree programme, and I was able to identify and explore which areas of history and prehistory interested me most. I was also on the committee of ArcPal Soc for two years, and we organised some really successful social events like movie nights and formals. Being a society member was a great way to mix with people in other years, and I made a lot of firm friends both through the society and in my classes.

In the summer of 2013, I took part in the training excavation where we uncovered and fully excavated a lime kiln at Dundrum Castle. This sparked my interest for pursuing a career in field archaeology.

After graduating in 2015 with a 2:1, I spent some time volunteering with the Forest Guides under NI Forest Service. I helped to educate young people about Northern Ireland’s rich natural and built heritage and biodiversity, by delivering short, fun talks and taking people on tours around forests. At the end of August 2017, I secured a position with a local commercial archaeology company as a field archaeologist, and have been with them ever since. In fact, the majority of our team are Queen’s alumni! Every day is different, and some days can be challenging, but my time at Queen’s really helped to guide me on to a career path that I am truly happy with.”

Hannah Parker

BA Honours Archaeology
Field Archaeologist, Gahan & Long Archaeological Services

To discuss your options in more detail
or if you have any questions contact:



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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOECOLOGY COURSES:

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/archpal>

CONTACT US

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