

Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes: non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

2025/2026

Archaeology

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is located in the Dawson Building on the Lower Mountjoy Site. Most of the staff offices are on the first floor, which is arranged in the form of a hollow rectangle, which you can walk round. On this floor are also several teaching rooms, notably the Birley Room, the Seminar Room, the Kiln Laboratory (Computing Room) and the Fenwick Human Osteology Laboratory, all of which are used for larger or smaller classes, the Conservation Laboratory, the Administrative Staff Offices, the Stable Isotope laboratory, the Ancient DNA laboratory, the Digital Visualisation Lab and the photocopiers. On the ground floor is the Fenwick Laboratory (used for teaching), the Environmental Archaeology Research Laboratory suite supporting commercial and academic research in environmental archaeology, the Luminescence Dating laboratory, and the Environmental Archaeology Teaching Laboratory. In the basement are the rooms supporting research in biometrics, informatics and Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. On the second floor are more staff offices and postgraduate rooms.

A1: Exchange Coordinator

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B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for two years, while in the last year the teaching is carried out mostly in small groups. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year, except for the level 3 ones which usually run in one term. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic schedule at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and completing your Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange

Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Please note that students registered on an undergraduate programme can only take undergraduate modules (Level 1-3).

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/> .

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Archaeology Department only admits European students coming to Durham through its own links.

Please note: We accept only exchange students for the full-year (October to June) as we only offer two-term modules and a full-year provides the best possible learning experience.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please do only select from the modules listed in sections D.1 or D.2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/> .

All Archaeology modules are assessed in the English language.

D1: Modules available to all European students

LEVEL 1

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS	AVAILABLE FOR ONE?TWO TERM STUDENTS**
ARCH1071	ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN	10	Y
ARCH1121	DISCOVERING WORLD PREHISTORY	10	Y
ARCH1131	CITIES IN ANTIQUITY	10	Y
ARCH1141	MEDIEVAL TO MODERN	10	Y
ARCH1111	ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS OF THE EAST	10	Y
ARCH1041	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 1*	10	Y
ARCH1081	APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS*	10	Y

**YOU CANNOT DO BOTH ARCH1041 AND ARCH 1081. SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 1 IS FOR THOSE WITH SOME SCIENCE BACKGROUND, APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS FOR THOSE WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE.*

***THIS MEANS THAT THESE MODULES MAY BE TAKEN BY STUDENTS COMING TO DURHAM FOR ONE OR TWO TERMS ONLY. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT WILL BE OFFERED FOR THESE MODULES. THIS WOULD HOWEVER MEAN THAT OFFICIAL GRADES WILL NOT BE GIVEN ON THE OFFICIAL DURHAM TRANSCRIPT BUT AN ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PRODUCED FOR STUDENTS.*

LEVEL 2

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS	AVAILABLE FOR ONE?TWO TERM STUDENTS***
ARCH2212/2221	ADVANCED SKILLS (SINGLE OR DOUBLE)*	10/20	Y
ARCH2041	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 2**	10	Y
ARCH2081	PREHISTORIC EUROPE: FROM FORAGERS TO STATE FORMATION	10	Y
ARCH2091	BECOMING ROMAN: FROM IRON AGE TO EMPIRE IN ITALY AND THE WEST	10	Y
ARCH2161	ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS: EAST AND WEST	10	Y
ARCH2131	MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL BRITAIN IN ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXT	10	Y
ARCH2141	THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN THE BRONZE AGE	10	Y

**Advanced Skills IS MADE UP OF A SERIES OF TOPICS EACH WORTH 5 ECTS. CHOOSE TWO TOPICS TO MAKE 10 ECTS (ARCH2212), OR 4 TOPICS TO MAKE 20 ECTS (ARCH2221). TOPICS AVAILABLE VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR, BUT CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO FIND OUT (A) IF THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE (THERE IS A CAP for some topics) AND (B) WHICH TERM EACH MINI-MODULE WILL BE RUNNING*

****ARCH2041 IS ONLY APPROPRIATE IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT FIRST-YEAR LEVEL**

*****THIS MEANS THAT THESE MODULES MAY BE TAKEN BY STUDENTS COMING TO DURHAM FOR ONE OR TWO TERMS ONLY. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT WILL BE OFFERED FOR THESE MODULES. THIS WOULD HOWEVER MEAN THAT OFFICIAL GRADES WILL NOT BE GIVEN ON THE OFFICIAL DURHAM TRANSCRIPT BUT AN ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PRODUCED FOR STUDENTS.**

LEVEL 3

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS	AVAILABLE FOR ONE?TWO TERM STUDENTS***
ARCH3591	CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY	10	Y
ARCH3611	SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY 3*	10	Y
ARCH3451/ARCH3472	SPECIALISED ASPECTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY**	10/20	Y

*** ARCH3611 IS ONLY APPROPRIATE IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT SECOND-YEAR LEVEL**

**** ARCH3451 IS MADE UP OF A SERIES OF TOPICS EACH WORTH 5 ECTS. CHOOSE TWO TOPICS TO MAKE 10 ECTS (ARCH3451), OR 4 TOPICS TO MAKE 20 ECTS (ARCH3472). TOPICS AVAILABLE VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR – THE FOLLOWING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 2025-2026, BUT CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO FIND OUT (A) IF THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE (THERE IS A CAP OF 20 STUDENTS PER MODULE) AND (B) WHICH TERM EACH MINI-MODULE WILL BE RUNNING.**

*****THIS MEANS THAT THESE MODULES MAY BE TAKEN BY STUDENTS COMING TO DURHAM FOR ONE OR TWO TERMS ONLY. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT WILL BE OFFERED FOR THESE MODULES. THIS WOULD HOWEVER MEAN THAT OFFICIAL GRADES WILL NOT BE GIVEN ON THE OFFICIAL DURHAM TRANSCRIPT BUT AN ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PRODUCED FOR STUDENTS.**

ADVANCED SKILLS (ARCH 2212/2221) OFFERED IN 2024/25 (This list is still subject to change. Please note: Durham students have priority on spaces)

TERM 1

Advanced Material Analysis
Heritage Practice
Numismatics for Archaeologists
Reading Stone Tools: An Introduction to Lithic Analysis
Geographical Information Systems
Geoarchaeological Skills for Field Archaeologists
Inscriptions for Archaeologists: Egyptian Hieroglyphs
Introduction to DNA Analysis
Zooarchaeology: Identification and Analysis of Animal Bones

TERM 2

Archaeology of the Contemporary World
Experimental Approaches to Understanding Palaeolithic Art
Stable Isotope Analysis of Archaeological Fauna
Constructing C14 Chronologies
Digital Visualisation techniques in Archaeology
Communities and Cemeteries
Ceramic Studies: Manufacturing Techniques and Identification
Remote Sensing (Airborne)
Human Bioarchaeology
Historic Building Recording

SPECIALISED ASPECTS (ARCH 3451/3472) OFFERED IN 2024/25 (This list is still subject to change. Please note: Durham students have priority on spaces)

TERM 1

The early medieval Britons: AD400-1100 [DP]
Art and archaeology of the European Upper Palaeolithic [PBP]
From the Indus to Asoka: the archaeology of South Asia [RAEC]
The Ancient Near East: Early Complex Societies [GP]
Migration and movement of people in Medieval and Post-Medieval Britain [ARM]
The Roman Countryside in the Mediterranean [REW]
Greeks and Others: Art and Identity in Ancient Greece and Beyond, c. 700-330 BC [CD]
Chinese heritage: reshaping relationships between the past and the present [QG]

TERM 2

Palaeolithic Britain [MJW]
The Vikings: Settlements and Societies [KM]
Isotope Magic! Exploring the use and abuse of archaeological isotope data in the media [JM]
Death and burial in Early Medieval Britain and Ireland [SS]
Bronze Age Britain in a European Context [BWR]
Religious Life in Ancient Egypt [PW]
Forensic and Archaeological Genetics [EFD]
A Global Pattern: From China to the World in the Middle Ages [RZ]
Experimental Archaeology [KB]
Sacred Spaces in the Roman Empire [EC]