



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of History, Classics
and Archaeology

Undergraduate opportunities



Archaeology at Edinburgh

Study at one of the world's leading universities where we've been exploring the human journey for over 100 years.

Why choose Archaeology at Edinburgh?

Archaeology has a long tradition at Edinburgh and has been taught here for more than a century. Today, you will be introduced to the history of humankind in the Old World from its beginnings through the whole of prehistory and beyond into the early historic periods.

A world-leading university

The University of Edinburgh is one of the World's leading universities. We are consistently ranked amongst the top 50 best universities in the world. We're 22nd in the 2024 QS World University Rankings.

A city filled with archaeology

Edinburgh is a thriving and cosmopolitan city but also a historic one where the earliest human habitation is traced back to a Mesolithic campsite dated to c.8500 BC. Traces of later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements have been found at a number of sites in the city including the hill fort of Din Eidyn beneath Edinburgh Castle.

The department runs an annual field school in Holyrood Park, right in the heart of Edinburgh, where undergraduates work alongside commercial archaeologists examining the range of archaeological sites in the park.

The capital city of Scotland with national institutions and museums

A particular strength of Edinburgh is the vast resources and professional expertise across the city, including National Museums Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland. Edinburgh is also home to many national commercial archaeological companies, with whom we have close working ties.

Flexibility and choice

At Edinburgh, we offer something for everyone interested in archaeology spanning the whole human past from Stone Age up to present day. We have particular strengths in European prehistory, Mediterranean archaeology, Egyptology, osteoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, and marine archaeology. Our research is challenge-led and considers how data from the past can help inform solutions to problems in the present.

Unique facilities

We have five archaeological laboratories, which support archaeological science, the study of human and animal remains and computational archaeology. With our Vere Gordon Childe Collection, you will be able to handle, draw and learn from artefacts from the Indus Valley, the Near East including Egypt, and Europe.

Fieldwork – at home and abroad

A key feature of our degrees is the amount of practical archaeological experience, mostly undertaken during vacation periods. This can include excavation or archaeological survey work.

Our students often get involved in staff projects during vacations or as part of their final year's dissertation. In recent years, our staff members have worked on projects in Scotland, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey and Egypt, among others.

All students are required to take at least three weeks fieldwork, and we encourage students to take the Archaeological Fieldwork course option in their fourth year which requires additional field experience. Some funds are available to assist with travel and subsistence.

A supportive environment

We want you to feel supported throughout your time with us at Edinburgh and a wide range of services are available. The School has a dedicated Student Support and Experience Team, Wellbeing Advisor and Peer Support.



A flexible four-year degree

Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- **Breadth of study**
The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years.
- **Joint degrees**
A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- **Third year abroad**
An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities can give you the chance to apply to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.

www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad

- **Final-year dissertation**
A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- **MA (Hons)**
The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of the four-year honours undergraduate degree is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.



Archaeology degree programmes

MA (Hons) Archaeology

This degree combines a practical hands-on approach with traditional academic study. There is the opportunity to study a wide range of archaeological topics, from human origins to complex civilisations such as in Ancient Egypt, and to undertake fieldwork in Scotland, Europe and the Mediterranean.

Joint honours degree programmes with other subjects

A joint honours degree gives you the flexibility and variety of knowledge and skills offered by a combination of Archaeology with another subject.

- MA Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations
- MA Archaeology and Ancient History
- MA Archaeology and Social Anthropology
- MA Architectural History and Archaeology
- MA Celtic and Archaeology
- MA History and Archaeology
- MA Scottish Ethnology and Archaeology

Degree programmes listed are for 2025 entry and are subject to change. For the latest information visit our webpages:

edin.ac/ug-archaeology



What our students say

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“I like the independence and flexibility inherent in my programme. I love the fact that I can largely schedule my activities on my own as well as the fact that I am not limited in my courses to Archaeology and Social Anthropology (e.g., in my first and second years I chose additional courses such as Introduction to British Politics and Scandinavian Civilisations).”

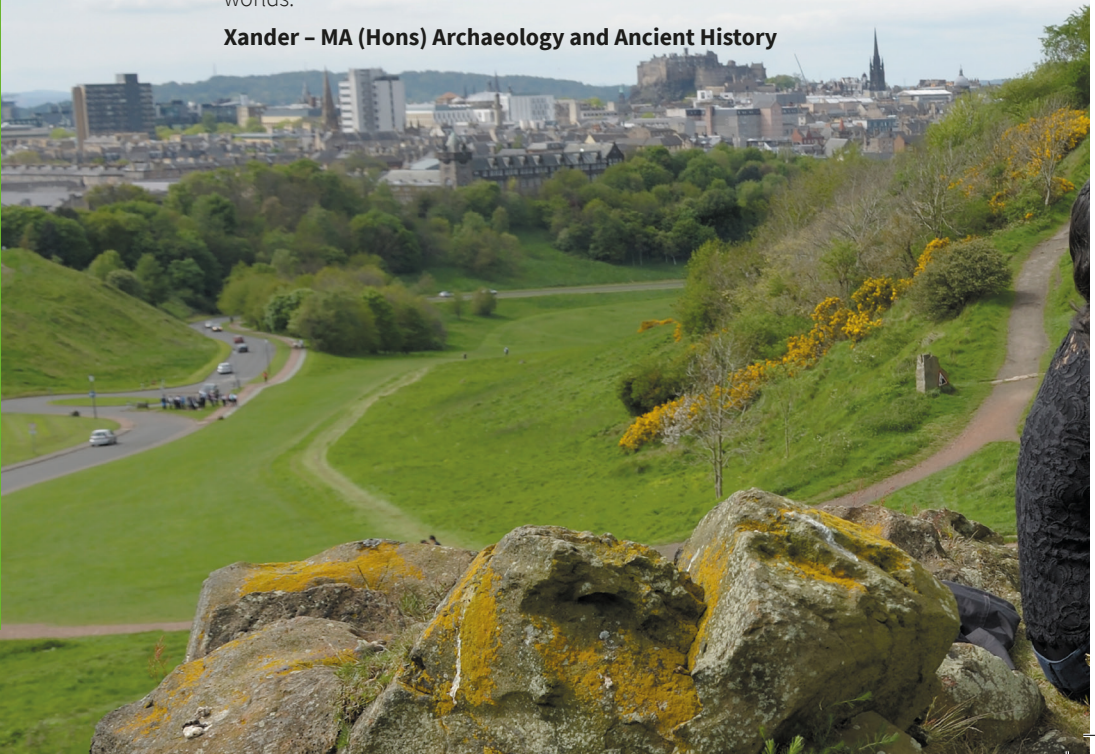
Ita - MA (Hons) Archaeology and Social Anthropology

“I felt at home in Edinburgh and the resources and course options available to students in the School appealed to me.”

Alice – MA (Hons) Archaeology

“After figuring out what I wanted to do with my life in my mid-20s, I went about researching universities that provided the course. From there I looked in to the reputations of the institutes along with the rankings, etc. After checking everything I could online, it allowed me to pick Edinburgh. A city I have always loved for its people and setting. The program itself I picked after spending much of my childhood obsessive with the idea of the ancient worlds.”

Xander – MA (Hons) Archaeology and Ancient History



Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, UniBuddy gives you the chance to chat to a current student about their experiences. You will be able to connect with a range of students studying different subjects:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/student-life/student-chat



Life beyond the classroom

The friends you meet, places you discover and the lasting memories you create contribute as much to your university life as your formal learning.

Archaeology Society

ArchSoc hosts a bi-weekly lecture series, workshops and regular trips to increase your interest, knowledge and practical skills in this diverse subject area. They have a rich social calendar with pub crawls and quizzes, along with an inter-society ceilidh and the annual Christmas meal.

edin.ac/hca-societies

Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Programme

Created by one of our own students, our outreach programme gives all undergraduates the opportunity to work with local primary and secondary schools to teach pupils about archaeology. This is an excellent way to develop a range of skills and to enhance your CV.

edin.ac/hca-societies

Retrospect

Retrospect is the University's student-led History, Classics and Archaeology journal. Whether you are interested in writing about your subject outside of your studies, or simply want to gain experience in writing, editing, designing or publishing, Retrospect publishes once a semester with an excellent calendar of socials and careers events.

<https://retrospectjournal.com>

Edinburgh University Students' Association

The Students' Association offers an array of bars, shops, cafes and entertainment venues, including the city's biggest student nightclub. Regular entertainment includes a variety of clubs, live music and comedy, plus debates and regular club meetings. The Students' Association also supports more than 280 student societies covering all areas of interest across sport, music, drama and the arts.

Sport and exercise

Whether a recreational gym-user or a performance athlete going for gold, our worldclass sports facilities and coaches cater for you.

After your degree

With an archaeology qualification from the University of Edinburgh, you will:

- gain practical, social, intellectual and theoretical skills
- learn to think logically through developing sound research and analytical skills
- be able to compile and critically evaluate evidence in order to formulate and present an argument coherently
- become familiar with a range of disciplines, enabling you to demonstrate intellectual flexibility and the ability to quickly adapt to new situations.

Through fieldwork, you will develop a range of practical archaeological skills. These will enable you to appreciate more fully our human environment and its role in the contemporary world.

Where our graduates work

Many archaeology graduates find employment as professional archaeologists working for:

- government agencies
- universities
- museums and heritage organisations
- applied archaeological companies/consultancies

Our graduates are also well-rounded people with a range of transferable skills that will give you the opportunity to pursue a broad range of careers, for example in:

- business
- management
- teaching
- journalism
- the police
- the civil service



Career advice and opportunities to enhance your CV

Our Careers Service can help with your career choices, and offer practical advice about how to advance your career goals. They organise hundreds of career events and workshops each year, including the annual Creative and Cultural Heritage Career Festival, and regularly invite employers onto campus to meet with our students. They also make occasional contributions to the curriculum ensuring students' awareness of the possibilities a History degree offers.

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology has its own dedicated careers consultant who works on a 1:1 basis with students in the School to guide and support their career needs. Most employers expect something extra from today's graduates so the University also runs the Edinburgh Award to help set you apart – this award recognises student involvement in a wide range of co- and extra-curricular activities, and the skills and attributes demonstrated.

Archaeology Skills Passport

You will be equipped with an Archaeology Skills Passport, allowing you to monitor and document the practical archaeological skills that you acquire during your studies. Widely recognised by archaeological institutions and organisations, it also demonstrates competence to potential employers at a later stage in your career.

Accreditation

You can choose to take a professionally accredited pathway through the majority of our degree programmes (MA Archaeology; MA Archaeology and Social Anthropology; MA Archaeology and Ancient History; MA Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations; MA History and Archaeology). This is accredited by the University Archaeology UK (UAUK) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas.

Accreditation recognises that the Edinburgh degree provides skills relevant to a career in the historic environment and provides you with the opportunity to join CIfA as a means of supporting your professional development.



Contact us

For further information about studying History at Edinburgh, email:

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For further information about your application,

cahss.ugadmissions@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0)131 650 3565

facebook.com/HCAatEdinburgh

twitter.com/HCAatEdinburgh

instagram.com/hcaatedinburgh

hcaatedinburghuniversity

blogs.ed.ac.uk/shca

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure before going to print (February 2024). However please check online for the most up-to-date information:

www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology

FAQs

Where do I find degree programme listings and entry requirements?

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/degrees

Where do I find out more about archaeology courses?

edin.ac/ug-archaeology

Where can I find out about visits, tours and Open Days?

www.ed.ac.uk/visit

Where can I find out about accommodation?

www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/accommodation

Where do I find out about applying?

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applying

Where do I apply and track my application?

www.ucas.com

What financial support can I apply for?

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

What information can I get about facilities and support services?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities

Where can I find out about sports facilities?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/sport

Where can I find out more about transport in and around the city?

transportforedinburgh.com

What do your students think?

edin.ac/student-life

