It’s your adventure. Make it a great one.
Sheffield is home to a community of world-class, internationally-recognized scholars who are at the cutting-edge of research and teaching in archaeology. Our staff and students come from all kinds of backgrounds, from every corner of the world.

We’re united by our love of archaeology. A fascination with history. A sense of awe at the complexity of human life. And a desire to uncover the facts. Our staff and students work together, support each other, and encourage each other to achieve great things.

As a student here, you’re involved in real research right from the start: analysing evidence, evaluating theories, writing history as you go. Through fieldwork, you get to explore ancient landscapes of huge archaeological importance, either right on your doorstep or further afield. There are opportunities to study abroad and gain valuable work experience.

Our students are adventurous. They’re also deep thinkers. In the field, and in the lab, they’re diligent and methodical. In their writing, they’re disciplined and creative, capable of making intellectual connections that advance our understanding of human life. By the time they graduate, our students are skilled archaeologists in their own right.

If that sounds like you, then come and join us!

Get in touch at:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology
ArchaeologySheffield
@UniShefArch
For the 21st-century archaeologist, Sheffield has it all.

The city’s unique topography of hills, woodland and rivers once powered industry on a massive scale and made Sheffield world famous for innovations in manufacturing. That same topography could also hold the key to its future, as a high-tech city dealing in knowledge and creativity.

One third of the city is inside the Peak District National Park. Formed from rock dating back to the Carboniferous period, the park’s plants and geological formations are strictly conserved. It has Roman landscapes, medieval villages, Bronze Age and Neolithic monuments and a network of caves, at Creswell Crags, decorated by ice-age hunters.

A city with a rich industrial heritage. And 555 square miles of ancient landscape. Two living, breathing examples of how the past speaks to the future. Two compelling reasons to choose Sheffield for your archaeology degree.

A major city in an ancient landscape – it’s an archaeologist’s dream.

It has Roman landscapes, medieval villages, Neolithic monuments, and ice-age caves.
What can archaeology do? Well, it helps address big existential questions: How did we get to where we are? Where do we go next? It can also help us to understand different cultures and different points of view. 

Our belief in archaeology’s potential to bring people together provides the context for everything we teach.

Archaeology can debunk myths, reveal truths and challenge prejudices. It can help protect the environment, our heritage, and our sense of identity.

So our students work closely with communities on projects that are important to them, for example through our second-year Archaeology Matters module.

Archaeology boosts tourism, culture and urban regeneration by helping us understand what makes a place special. It supports sustainable development by providing evidence that influences the decisions made by governments and businesses.

This is why we take an interdisciplinary approach, bringing in science, the humanities and other related areas.

We also place an emphasis on developing your communication skills. You need to be able to work closely with other experts and get your ideas across in various media, for lots of different audiences.

Archaeology at Sheffield is about the process of interpreting evidence. It’s an intellectual process. One that requires mental agility, imagination, and flair.

Lab skills, field skills, data analysis – these are all part of the archaeologist’s toolkit. But they’re just the methods we use to generate our evidence.

Then the real work begins: writing history from the evidence, communicating our ideas, engaging with people. Thinking about the future.

Get involved – Join the Archaeological Society. ArchSoc is run by our students for our students and organises seminars, events and our annual ArchSoc Ball.
If you choose a full-time course, you can apply to spend a year studying abroad or on a work placement. There are opportunities for fieldwork, here and overseas. You can also volunteer on department research projects throughout Europe.

BA Archaeology (F400)
When you choose Sheffield, you get a thorough grounding in the theory and techniques from one of the world’s top 25 Archaeology departments*. The long list of optional modules – and the chance to take some in other departments – means you can specialise in just about anything that captures your imagination.

BSc Archaeology (F410)
The BSc Archaeology gives you the same excellent all-round education as the BA, with slightly more emphasis on scientific techniques. The Science in Archaeology module is compulsory. Some of your choices of options in your third year have a science element. You don’t need science A Levels to take the BSc.

BA Prehistoric Archaeology (V400)
The origins of humanity: how people lived in ancient communities, how we evolved, and what it might tell us about our future. Our unusual breadth of expertise, and the incredible conserved landscape on our doorstep, make Sheffield a great choice if you want to specialise in this particular field.

BA Classical and Historical Archaeology (QV84)
Guided by experts, you’ll explore ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, the medieval Mediterranean and Europe. As you become a proficient researcher in your own right, you’ll discover why archaeology is vital to our understanding of these civilisations and their legacies.

BA Prehistoric Archaeology (V400) The origins of humanity: how people lived in ancient communities, how we evolved, and what it might tell us about our future. Our unusual breadth of expertise, and the incredible conserved landscape on our doorstep, make Sheffield a great choice if you want to specialise in this particular field.

BA Archaeology and History (VF40)
If you’re interested in two subjects, why pick just one? Especially when they go together so well. Studying in two departments will enhance your understanding of both subjects, and how they inform each other. This is a flexible dual honours course. The balance between the two subjects is, to an extent, up to you. Fieldwork is optional.

BA Archaeology with a Foundation Year
We welcome applications from mature students and have designed this four-year course in partnership with colleagues from the University’s Department for Lifelong Learning. The foundation year will introduce you to archaeology, build your confidence, and help you develop the skills you need for degree-level study. If you join us via the foundation degree, you can transfer to any of our undergraduate degree courses, provided you meet the entry requirements.

PART-TIME STUDY

The BA Archaeology and the BA Archaeology with a Foundation Year can be studied part time.

ALSO AVAILABLE

BA Archaeology and Modern Languages & Cultures (VR6g)

Our degrees are three years or four if you add in the foundation year, year abroad or employment experience.

*QS World Rankings 2018® by Subject.
Fieldwork is how we generate the evidence that underpins our knowledge. Understanding it will make you a better archaeologist. So we aim to give you as much practical experience as possible. You can learn excavation techniques, geophysical surveying, and how to analyse and interpret materials. You can also see how a field project is organised, and how different specialists work together.

If you want more experience, we can help. You can apply to work on research projects during the summer holidays. We can also put you in touch with academics and professionals around the world who might be looking for volunteers.

The field school I took part in during the summer between first and second year was incredible. I spent two weeks excavating Tudor manor houses on the site of the 14th century Thornton Abbey, Lincolnshire.

Greer Dewdney, BA Archaeology with Employment Experience

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
All the techniques you learn are recorded in your Archaeology Skills Passport, endorsed by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. So you can show your professional credentials wherever you go.

ONGOING PROJECTS

For further information about our other world-leading research projects visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/research

Experience the thrill of discovery.
Studying abroad for a year as part of your degree is a life-changing experience. And it could improve your job prospects.

All the coursework you do counts towards your final degree. You pay no fees to the partner university. And you only pay a reduced fee to Sheffield while you’re away.

There are lots of opportunities. Through Erasmus+, we have exchange agreements with seven European universities. Through the Study Abroad programme, we link with around 15 universities worldwide, including 10 in the USA.

Living and studying abroad is a great confidence builder. Your academic work will benefit from a different perspective on your subject. When you put it on your CV, it tells employers you’re independent, self-sufficient, able to work and socialise with people from different cultures – qualities that are very important to them.

I find myself incredibly grateful to the Department of Archaeology and its faculty for their support and encouragement.

Taylor Ogle (USA), BA Archaeology

Go international.
With a degree from Sheffield, a career in archaeology is achievable. But you could do anything you set your mind to. Our graduates work in financial services, the media, healthcare, IT, journalism, teaching and law.

There are around 5,000 professional archaeologists in the UK, in universities, museums, commercial archaeology units, heritage parks and government departments. So the jobs are there. Take advantage of everything Sheffield has to offer, and you’ll be able to compete for international opportunities too.

**WHAT WE OFFER**
- Workplace Learning module in Year 3.
- Optional year in industry as part of your degree.
- Opportunities for work experience during vacations.
- Tailored careers advice throughout your course.
- Access to the Careers Service for up to three years after you graduate.
- Support from the department – always!

**Degree with Employment Experience**
Spend a year in industry as part of your course and we’ll amend your degree title to reflect it. We’ll do everything we can to help you find a placement. You don’t have to choose this option when you apply – you can decide after your first year.

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**Careers and work experience.**

*Sheffield has taught me never to underestimate all the fascinating possibilities of archaeology, and never to assume that the most obvious explanation is the right one.*

Rosalind Buck
Historic Environment Record Officer
BA Archaeology and Prehistory

95% of BA Archaeology students in work or further study six months after they graduate.

When it comes to lifestyle, three major factors give Sheffield the edge over other leading universities: our accommodation, our students’ union, and the city itself.

Our University accommodation has been voted top five in the UK by students in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018 – for the fifth year running. The student residences are walking distance from campus and we have places in the city centre, just a short walk from lectures.

Our students’ union has been rated the best in the UK every year since 2009. And yes, that means the entertainment is excellent. But you don’t win an accolade like that – nine years in a row! – without listening very carefully to your students about all the other things that matter to them, like support services, representation, and volunteering.

And the city? It’s the fourth largest in the UK, with more parks and trees than any other. Its location means you can access the Peak District whenever you like. It’s also a major cultural centre: art galleries linked to the Tate and the V&A, the biggest independent cinema and the most important theatre scene outside London.

When you consider that this is also one of the safest major cities in the UK (according to the 2013 Peace Index), and your money will go further here than it would in other parts of the UK, it becomes clear: Sheffield is an inspired first choice.

ACCOLADES

Sheffield is in the Times Higher top 10 list of most popular student cities in the world
We’re top five in the UK for best overall student experience for the 8th year in a row (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018)
Our Students’ Union is number one for the 10th consecutive year (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018)

SHEFFIELD SUPPORTS ITS STUDENTS

In the Department, your personal tutor will remain with you throughout your course whilst the Student Advice Centre offers advice and information on a range of housing, financial, academic and welfare related issues.

I feel a real connection to Sheffield, it feels like home now

Esmie Carter, BA Archaeology with a Foundation Year.

Great value, superb facilities and an extraordinary city.
Mature students

We do everything we can to encourage applications from mature students (over 21). That includes running a BA Archaeology with a Foundation Year for students who don't have the usual A Levels. See page 6 for details. If you think this might be for you, please get in touch with us to discuss.

Open days

Between June and October each year, the University holds four Open Days. Book your place on our next Open Day here: www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays. And come meet our staff, students and experience our brand-new lab facilities.

Once you’ve applied for a course, and if we offer you a place, we’ll invite you to an offer-holder’s Open Day, so you can meet staff and students, and see our new facilities.

Fees

You can find information about tuition fees here: www.sheffield.ac.uk/registration/tuitionfees.
Get in touch at:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology
ArchaeologySheffield
@UniShefArch