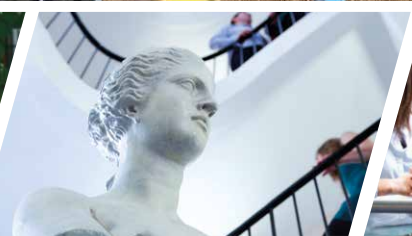


# Archaeology

Undergraduate programme  
and course information

SEPTEMBER 2019  
ENTRY

[www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology](http://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology)



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



Welcome to the University of Edinburgh! We are delighted that you are interested in joining us to study at one of the oldest Archaeology departments in Britain. Our present team consists of a very active group of researchers with a wide range of research interests. We work in many different regions across the Old World, from Scotland and the British Isles over central Europe to the western and eastern Mediterranean, the Near East and Egypt. Besides these regional studies we also have special research interest in fields such as archaeomaterials, the study of human and animal remains, health, the study of human conflict, computational archaeology, visualisation techniques, heritage studies and others.

Our undergraduate students gain a broad foundation of knowledge based on the latest archaeological research, reaching from early hunter-gatherers to urban societies, states and empires of the Bronze and Iron Ages. In later years, students develop their own research interests, supported by the wide range of expertise available among our staff. There are opportunities to include courses in Classical Archaeology in your studies, offered by the department of Classics in our School. In addition to our single-Honours Archaeology

programme, we also offer joint degrees through which you can study Archaeology side-by-side with a second subject. Popular choices are Archaeology and Ancient History, Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations or Archaeology and Social Anthropology.

We have well-equipped laboratories and rich collections of archaeological materials which are essential components of our teaching. We encourage our students to acquire a wide range of practical archaeological skills, achieved through our formal teaching and through participation in fieldwork projects, indoor and outdoors, run by our staff or partner institutions.

Edinburgh is also the home of many important national institutions engaged in archaeology, such as the National Museum of Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland, with whom we have close working ties.

Our undergraduates are a very active and highly motivated community; the student-run Archaeology Society and the Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Project engage in a variety of archaeological activities on their own initiative. We are very proud of their achievements and the high quality of our graduates when they complete their studies with us! We are pleased to welcome you to Edinburgh today and hope that you will be able to take away a good idea of what it is like to study Archaeology at Edinburgh, of our facilities, and of the wider intellectual climate in our School!

**Dr Ulf-Dietrich Schoop,**  
Head of Archaeology, Senior Lecturer

# Why study Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of the human past through the medium of surviving artefacts and material culture – the everyday objects that people left behind.

Archaeologists discover the human stories that written history cannot access, giving us a unique understanding of how our world and society has become what it is today. We explore everything from everyday objects such as weapons, pots and jewellery to buildings, monuments, whole settlements and landscapes. We are interested in all aspects of past human lives from everyday activities, diet, and economics, to clothing, cooking, beliefs and cultural traditions.

Archaeology is for people who are interested in history, people and society. It offers a unique opportunity to combine practical and academic skills drawn from a range of disciplines, including history, art, geology, anthropology and sociology. You will be introduced to archaeological techniques and fieldwork, including handling artefacts, skeletal remains and excavations; but you will also be involved in classroom-based lectures and discussions.

A degree in Archaeology will broaden your view and understanding of the contemporary world as well as the past, and it can give you the skills to succeed in a career within or outside the subject. You will learn how to become a creative and critical thinker who can analyse, research and communicate effectively. You will develop your teamwork skills but also learn to work independently, and you will be given the opportunity to hone your leadership and project management skills.



# 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.

Our students are introduced to a wide range of scientific expertise, notably artefact and materials analysis, digital imaging techniques, visualisation and modelling, the study of human and animal remains (bioarchaeology), and forensic anthropology.

## 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 rich archaeological story extends through medieval and later times and is found below and across the modern city as a constant reminder of a living archaeological record.

With archaeological sites on your doorstep and nearby, including the spectacular prehistoric henge and cairn at Cairnpapple and the World Heritage site of the Antonine Wall, Edinburgh provides the perfect setting in which to study Archaeology.

## 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 possible opportunities for fieldwork and work experience.

## 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. Join us and you will experience the best in teaching, working alongside world-leading academics whose research informs their teaching.

## Flexibility and choice

At Edinburgh, we offer something for everyone interested in archaeology. From prehistoric art and Egyptology, to forensic anthropology and laboratory work, to zooarchaeology and computer applications in archaeology.

The international coverage of our courses extends from the north of the British Isles and Scandinavia, through Europe and the Mediterranean basin, to Turkey and the Near East. We cover the whole of the prehistoric period and beyond into historical times including the Classical World and Byzantium. You will also have the opportunity to study bioarchaeology from year 2, working in our laboratories with human and animal skeletal remains.

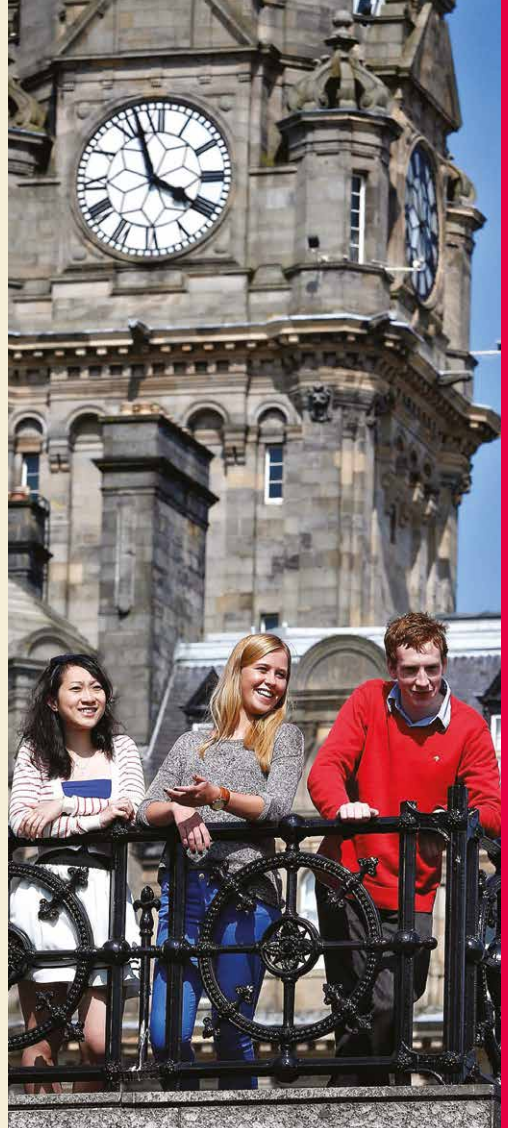
Based within a wider School of History, Classics and Archaeology, we offer interdisciplinary options so that you can tailor your degree to your interests.

### 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. Our staff are currently working on projects in Scotland, Spain, Sardinia, Romania, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey and Egypt. All students are required to take at least three weeks fieldwork and we encourage students to take the Archaeological Fieldwork course option in fourth year which requires a total of 10 weeks additional field experience. Some funds are available to assist with travel and subsistence.



# A flexible four-year degree

Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing breadth as well as depth of knowledge. In your first two years you can study subjects outside of your core discipline, before specialising in your third and fourth years.

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 gives you the chance to apply to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.
- **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 emerging 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.



# Study abroad

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The University of Edinburgh offers students the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, transform your academic perspective, and help you to get the very most from your undergraduate career.

Meeting people with different views and lifestyles gives you new insights and widens your frame of reference. Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject and this is your chance to see something of the world, and to find out who you are!

You can apply to study overseas for Year 3 of your degree programme. We have partnerships with a large number of prestigious universities across Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Asia from which you may choose.

**[www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad)**



# What you will study

At Edinburgh, Archaeology is a multifaceted and wide-ranging discipline. We specialise in European prehistory and the civilisations of the Mediterranean and the Near East.





Our programmes are led by dedicated staff at the cutting-edge of their disciplines, giving you access to the latest research and expertise. Staff interests range from early man through later prehistoric societies, to the Byzantine world. We also have a range of scientific expertise, notably within artefact and material analysis, digital imaging techniques, computer simulation and in bioarchaeology, including osteoarchaeology and forensic anthropology.

With such a diverse range of specialisms on offer, you will be able to tailor your programme to meet your interests and ambitions.

### Our teaching

Archaeology courses are taught through a combination of lectures which provide you with a general introduction to topics, small group tutorials, practical exercises and field trips in years 1 and 2. In years 3 and 4 you will have the opportunity to select more specialised courses to focus on your favourite topics and skills. These courses are usually taught in small groups of 10-20 students and include lectures, seminar discussions, and practical training.

We use a range of assessment methods depending on the course, including a mix of coursework and formal examination. Exams are held at the end of each semester in years 1 and 2, and usually at the end of the year in years 3 and 4. All final-year students write a dissertation on a topic of their choice. Archaeology dissertations are based on students' personal research, supervised by an academic member of staff. They may derive from library research or from some aspect of fieldwork. In the latter case, you may explore a specific topic using original material which results from a staff research project that you have worked on as part of your practical work experience. For many students, the dissertation is the most personally fulfilling part of their programme as it allows students to build up an original and personal project together with an academic member of our staff.

### Practical skills

We emphasise the importance of training in practical archaeological skills. You will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience of artefact identification and analysis in practical sessions using artefacts from our own Vere Gordon Childe collection. You will also have classes in our Computer Teaching Lab to familiarise yourself with specialised digital skills in Archaeology such as graphic programmes, 3D modelling and Geographic Information System (GIS).

In your later years of study, you may also have the opportunity to undertake projects in heritage management and public engagement.

### Fieldwork

At the end of year 1 you will undertake fieldwork during the summer period. After year 1, you may opt to undertake practical archaeological work in the vacation periods of years 2 and 3 with a view to taking the final year option course, Archaeological Fieldwork. We are able to make a contribution towards your fieldwork but the overall cost to you depends on the type of work chosen and the location, which may vary from Scotland to the Mediterranean.

### Laboratory work

From year 2, you will have the opportunity to take courses in bioarchaeology, enabling you to work in our laboratories examining skeletal remains.

Archaeology uses a number of dedicated laboratories for teaching and research. Our computer lab helps with the teaching of digital skills, e.g. in quantitative analysis, modelling or visualisation. Other labs serve the handling of human or animal remains, and the analysis and processing of diverse archaeological materials.

# Courses available to study in archaeology

Our course offerings vary from year to year and will depend on your degree programme. Courses for the current academic year 2018/19 include the following but for up-to-date information about programmes, structures and courses for 2019 entry, visit [www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/degrees)

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## First year courses

### Archaeology 1A

A basic introduction to archaeology for those who may or may not have studied the subject before. The course, after first outlining what archaeology is and how it is practised, looks at human evolution and early hunters of the Palaeolithic (Stone Age) period and follows their development through to the emergence of sedentism and food production in Europe and the Near East. The course develops an understanding of how to “read” material culture and introduces the most important methodologies, both traditional and more recent advances.

### Archaeology 1B

This course focusses on the emergence of complex societies in the Old World. It looks at the rise of urbanism and statehood, the development of technologies and trade, which develop at different times and locations during the Bronze and Iron Ages. At the same time, the course further develops your knowledge of practical and methodological concepts and key themes in modern archaeological research, which will help you to understand the nature of archaeological evidence.

### Archaeological Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a fundamental part of archaeology. During the summer after your first year you will undertake a minimum of three weeks of archaeological fieldwork, either on a project run by staff within the School, or on an approved project outside the School.

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## Second year courses

### Archaeology 2A:

#### Scotland before History

You will study the archaeology and prehistory of Scotland from the very earliest human settlement in the tenth millennium BC until the end of the Iron Age and the Roman occupation in the first millennium AD.

### Archaeology 2B:

#### Archaeology in Action

You will be introduced to the approaches, techniques, concepts and real-world applications that archaeologists use to reconstruct the past. You will develop an understanding of professional archaeological methods and the use of scientific techniques to further your understanding of the human past.

## The Human Skeleton in Archaeology and Forensic Science: Investigating Death and the Dead

You will study archaeological and forensic human skeletal remains and become familiar with various topics associated with this discipline. You will be introduced to skeletal anatomy and gain insight into the methods used by osteologists in assessing demographic information.

### Third and fourth year courses

All third year students currently take the following compulsory courses:

#### Archaeology in Practice

This course aims to increase your understanding and experience of the contemporary practice of and issues in archaeology within the United Kingdom and internationally. You will also be introduced to the range of research resources available to you in Edinburgh and elsewhere.

#### Theoretical Archaeology

Explores the diverse and changing nature of the discipline of archaeology from the 19th century to the present day. You will study the construction of chronologies, data recovery, classification and interpretation and the developing role of archaeological and environmental sciences.

### Archaeology honours course options

You will choose option courses in your third and fourth (honours) years from a wide selection available across the subject area. Our courses vary from year to year but may include some of the following.

#### Course name

Ancient Egyptian Religion
Archaeological Fieldwork (available annually)
Archaeological Illustration
The Archaeology of Animal Remains
Archaeology of Architecture
The Archaeology and History of Egypt
Bronze Age Civilisations of the Near East & Greece
Byzantine Archaeology: The Archaeology of the Byzantine Empire and its neighbours AD 500–850
Conflict Archaeology
Death, Decay and Reconstruction: Discovering Past Lifeways through Archaeological Human Remains
Etruscan Italy 1000–300 BC
From Foraging to Farming: the Beginnings of Agriculture in the Mediterranean and Europe
Gallia from the Third Century BC to Augustus
GIS for Archaeologists
Human Origins
The Hittites: The Archaeology of an Ancient Near Eastern Civilisation
The Iron Age of Western Temperate Europe Until the Third Century BC
Island Worlds: Prehistoric Societies in the Western Mediterranean from Malta to Minorca
Late Hunter-Gatherers in Europe
Ritual and Monumentality in North-West Europe: mid-6 <sup>th</sup> to mid-3 <sup>rd</sup> Millennium BC
Scientific Methods in Bio-Archaeology
The Scottish Lowlands: Archaeology and Landscape Before the Normans
Villains, Victims and Forensic Evidence
Visualising the Past

*Other courses taught outside the School may also be available such as Principles of Geographical Information Science and approved courses in Classical Art / Classical Archaeology.*

# 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.

Thousands of students across four different universities call Edinburgh home, giving the city a unique buzz and ensuring you will be in good company.

Study with us and you will find a lively community with plenty of opportunities to meet other students socially. The School of History, Classics and Archaeology and our student union hold events regularly.

## 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.

[www.shca.ed.ac.uk/archaeologysociety](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/archaeologysociety)

## 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.

[www.shca.ed.ac.uk/retrospect](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/retrospect)

## 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.

## 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 world-class sports facilities and coaches cater for you.

# Advance your career

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you will be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We help students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

Six months after graduating, 94 per cent of Edinburgh students are in employment or postgraduate study. We are ranked in the top 10 in the UK and top 100 in the world for the employability of our graduates (Times Higher Education, Global Employability University Rankings 2018).

## Career advice and opportunities

Our award-winning Careers Service can help with your career choices, and offer practical advice about how to progress your career goals. Many archaeology graduates find employment as professional archaeologists working for government agencies, universities, museums and heritage organisations or applied archaeological companies/consultancies in the UK or elsewhere. Our graduates are also wellrounded people with a range of transferable skills that enables them to pursue a broad range of careers, for example, in business, management, teaching, journalism, the police and the civil service.

## Professional skills

The courses we currently offer give you the opportunity to use the equipment archaeology professionals rely on, such as drones and differential GPS, and work through hands-on practical exercises using artefacts drawn from our departmental Gordon Childe Teaching Collection. You can learn how to use industry standard software packages to create illustrations, process images, produce 3D photogrammetric models, or explore spatial data with GIS mapping.

Our mandatory archaeological fieldwork course, undertaken in the summer vacation between your first and second year, will give you valuable experience in the fundamentals of archaeological fieldwork, including survey and excavation techniques, sampling strategies for environmental investigations, artefact recovery and recording, and post-excavation cataloguing and recording of material. The ethical and professional conduct expected of archaeologists dealing with human skeletal remains is explored in our anatomy/osteology courses.

Our courses will teach you the theory and concepts in archaeology and how they apply to modern professional archaeological practice. Course material can include: artefact and materials identification; molecular and radiometric dating methods; analytical methods in zooarchaeology; taphonomy; forensic anthropology; and conflict and violence from the past to the present. For your dissertation you will have the opportunity to develop your own project in collaboration with professional archaeologists working in museums or archaeology services.

## 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.

# Get ready for Archaeology

We've put together a list of resources to get you thinking about archaeology before you arrive:

Gamble, C. (2001).

**Archaeology: The basics.** London: Routledge.

Grant, J., & Gorin, S. (2015).

**The Archaeology Coursebook: An Introduction to Themes, Sites, Methods and Skills**

(4th ed.). London: Taylor and Francis.

Greene, K., & Moore, T. (2010).

**Archaeology: An introduction.**

(Fifth edition / Kevin Greene and Tom Moore. ed.). Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Renfrew, Colin, & Paul G. Bahn (2016).

**Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice.**

London: Thames & Hudson.

Scarre, C. (2013).

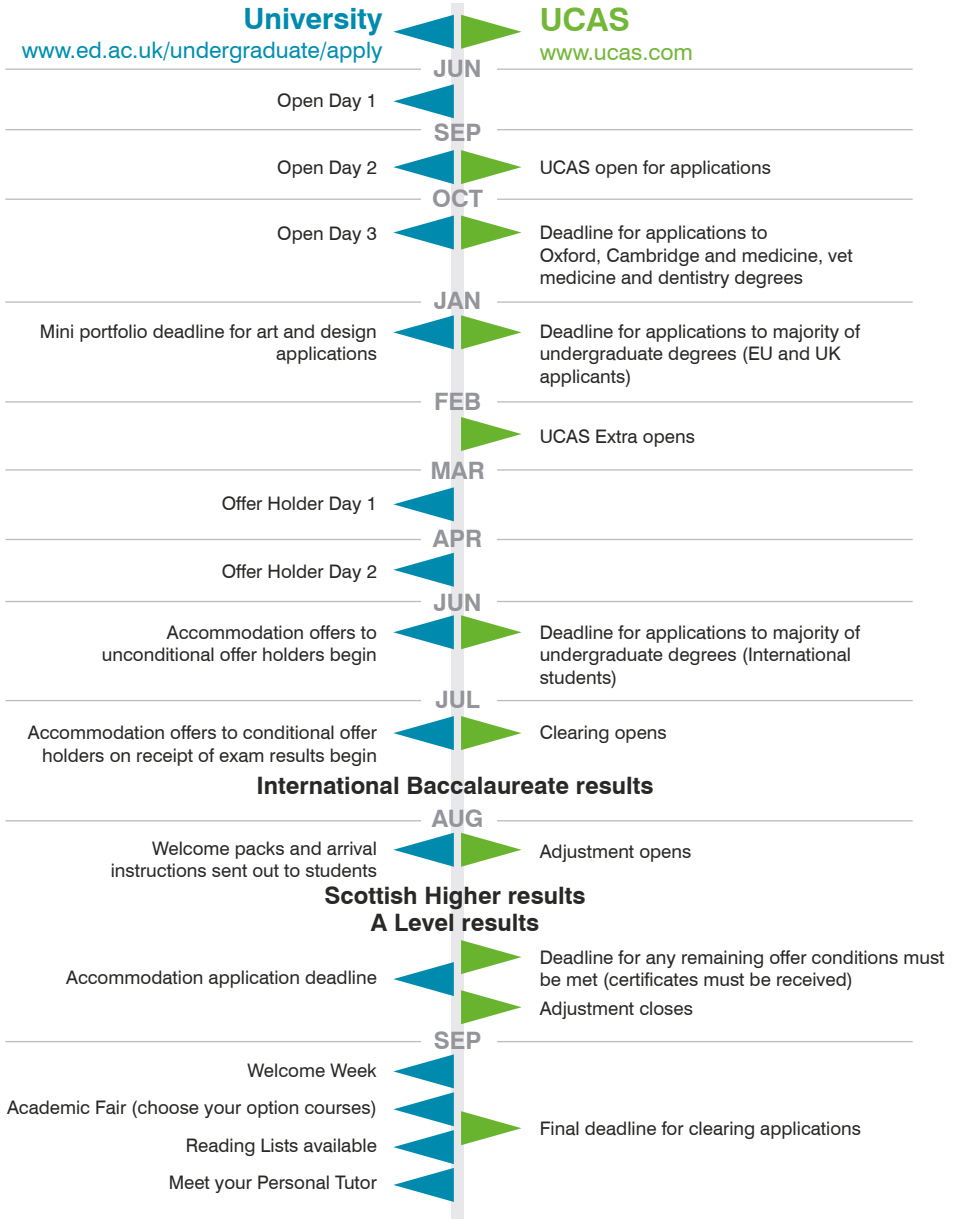
**The human past: World prehistory and the development of human societies**

(Third ed.). London: Thames & Hudson.

Please note these resources are for interest only. Your academic reading lists will be available once you arrive.



# Application timeline



## Contact us

For further information about studying archaeology at Edinburgh,

**email: [hca-prospective-ug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:hca-prospective-ug@ed.ac.uk)**

For further information about your application,

**[cahss.ugadmissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:cahss.ugadmissions@ed.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)131 650 3565**

**[facebook.com/HCAatEdinburgh](https://facebook.com/HCAatEdinburgh)**

**[twitter.com/HCAatEdinburgh](https://twitter.com/HCAatEdinburgh)**

**[instagram.com/](https://instagram.com/hcaatedinburghuniversity)**

**[hcaatedinburghuniversity](https://hcaatedinburghuniversity)**

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

**[www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology](http://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology)**

This document is available in alternative formats upon request such as large print, please email

**[hca-prospective-ug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:hca-prospective-ug@ed.ac.uk)**

## FAQs

### Where do I find degree programme listings and entry requirements?

[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/degrees)

### Where do I find out more about archaeology courses?

[www.shca.ed.ac.uk/ma-archaeology](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/ma-archaeology)

### Where can I find out about accommodation?

[www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/accommodation](http://www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/accommodation)

### Where do I find out about applying?

[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/applying](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/2019/applying)

### Where do I find out about my offer?

[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/my-offer](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/my-offer)

### Where do I apply and track my application?

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

### What financial support can I apply for?

[www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding)

### What information can I get about facilities and support services?

[www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities)

### Where can I find out about sports facilities?

[www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/sport](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/sport)

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

[transportforeдинburgh.com](http://transportforeдинburgh.com)

### What do your students think?

[edin.ac/student-life](http://edin.ac/student-life)

