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Studying Archaeology as an Undergraduate

Offer Holder Day 2019 entry

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Head of Archaeology





Studying Archaeology at Edinburgh

Overview

- **What is Archaeology?**
- **Who will teach me?**
- **How will I be taught Archaeology?**
Teaching and learning methods
- **What courses/topics will I study?**
- **How will I be assessed?**
- **Where can I get academic support?**



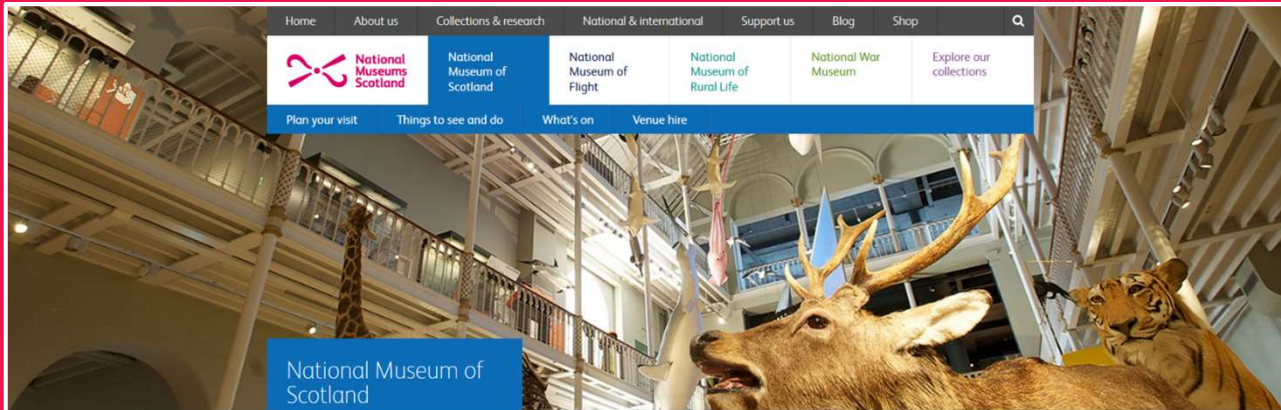
Archaeology at Edinburgh



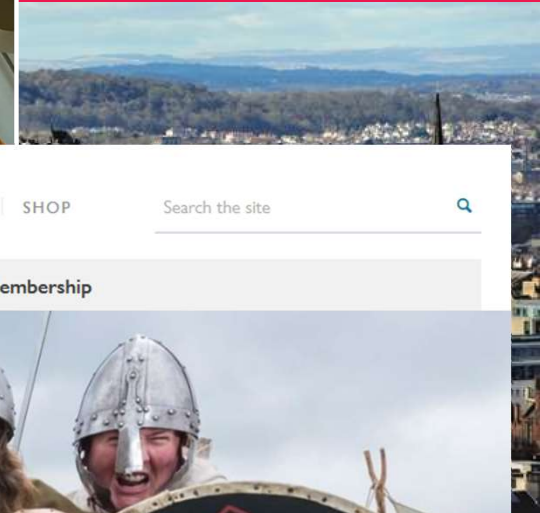
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- Long tradition of Archaeology – some of the pioneers in the field taught in Edinburgh
- A city with many other archaeological organisations
- Variety & integration of research and teaching: very wide range of research interests
- Our research shapes our teaching, and our teaching influences our research
- Student work often contributes to our active research projects





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YOUR GREAT DAY OUT STARTS HERE

Step back in time to witness jousting knights, cracking muskets and daily life in Scotland hundreds of years ago

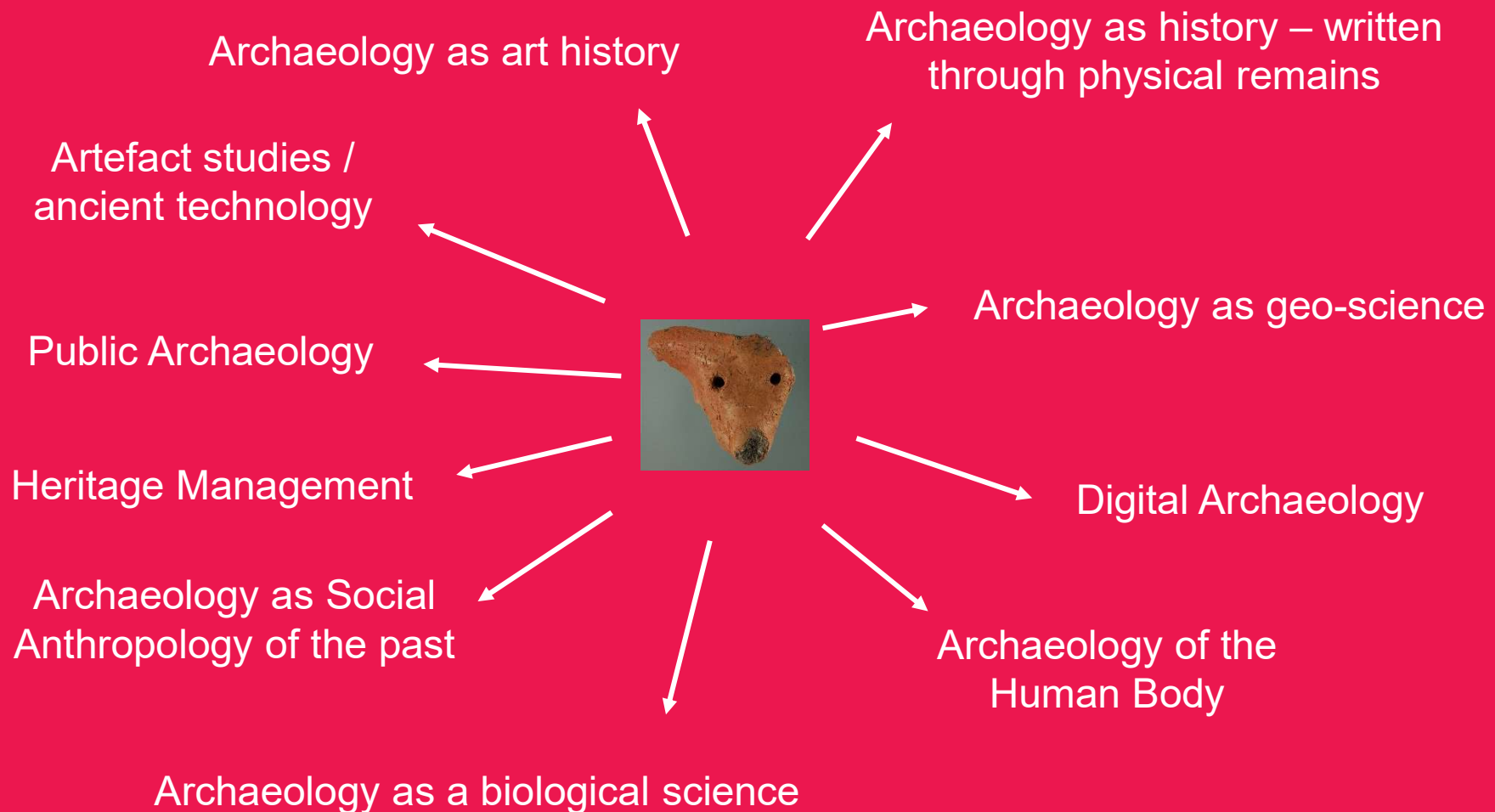
[What's on >](#)

<p>Asset Management Plan</p> <p>Read our plan for maintaining the historic properties in our care, alongside the modern</p>	<p>Heritage search</p> <p>Search Scotland's designated heritage, along with our designation and scheduling</p>	<p>Shop</p> <p>Discover the perfect gift or treat yourself with our range of books, clothes and gifts.</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>Get the history bug. Symptoms include, free entry to all Historic Scotland attractions, free entry</p>
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The many faces of Archaeology...



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Archaeology at Edinburgh – What we would like our undergraduates to learn...

- Generally not a school subject (no prior knowledge) – start ‘from scratch’
- Develop an understanding of the whole extent of the human past (> 95% “pre”-historic)
- Understand how to reconstruct historic processes through material remains (potential & limitations)
- Understand the role of Archaeology in modern society
- Develop a well-rounded foundation of archaeological knowledge and competency in its application



Who are the teachers?

Archaeology staff



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- Professors, lecturers, tutors
- All renowned specialist archaeologists (researchers)
- Outside contributors (e.g. specialists from National Museums Scotland or other external organisations)

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Who are the teachers?

Archaeology staff



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- One of our staff will act as your “Personal Tutor” whom you will meet in the first few days after the start of your programme
- Individual relationship
- The Personal Tutor will help with the initial selection of courses
- The Personal Tutor will advise on academic matters, acts as “first port of call”

How do we teach Archaeology?



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A combination of:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Fieldwork experience



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Lectures

- 1 hour lectures in theatre
- c. 30-100 students
- Foundation knowledge



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Tutorials

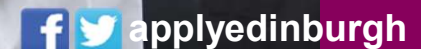
- **Small groups** c. 12 students
- **Discussion-based:** concepts, articles, artefacts
- **Practical-based:** pottery drawing, stone tool analysis, digital skills in computer lab, osteo-archaeology lab



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Fieldwork

- 3 weeks during the summer
- Join a project run by us or other institutions
- Fieldwork skills: survey, excavation, finds processing



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How do our degrees work?

Scottish 4-year degree (MA)





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- **“Pre-honours” (years 1-2):** foundation teaching introducing main concepts and periods in archaeology. All staff contribute.
- **“Honours” (years 3-4):** choice of specialised courses focusing on a theme, period, or region. Usually one staff as course organiser.
- **3 courses per semester** (20 credits each, total 120 per year)
- Each course has both lectures and tutorials



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Progression of knowledge & competency

Foundation Years

- Understand the principles of the discipline
- Understand the chronological and spatial framework
- Understand how archaeological information is generated

Honours Years

- Develop own research interests
- Critically analyse evidence and academic narratives
- Create and present academic arguments
- Develop practical archaeological skills

→ Increasing intellectual and professional autonomy/independence

Archaeology Core Courses during the Foundation Years

Archaeology 1 (A&B = whole year)

- Gives you the (pre-) historical framework in time and in space
- Human origins, beginnings of food production, emergence of complex societies in the Near East and in Egypt to the Roman Iron Age in Europe
- Science in Archaeology
- Introducing you to the concept of studying history through material remains – concepts, methods, techniques



Archaeology 2A

What happened here? Scotland before History

Archaeology 2B

“Archaeology in Action”: Learn the techniques archaeologists apply to make objects “speak” (dating, how to analyse artefacts, how to study human or animal remains, innovative techniques in Archaeology...). Emphasis on practical learning.



The Human Skeleton

(NB This course may not be compulsory for some joint degrees)

Introduction to the study of human remains in archaeology, and what we can learn from them (course with pronounced practical component).

MA (Hons) Archaeology – Foundation Years 1 & 2

Level/Year 1

• **Archaeology 1**
(40 credits)

• **Selection of options**
(40 credits)

• **Outside courses**
(40 credits)

Level/Year 2

• **Archaeology 2A**
- Scotland Before History

• **Archaeology 2B** -
Archaeology in Action
(40 credits)

• **“The Human Skeleton...”**
(20 credits)

• **Selection of options**
(40 credits)

• **Outside courses**
(20 credits)

- You choose “optional” courses from a set list of courses offered by neighbouring Subject Areas (such as Classics, History, Social Anthropology, Geography...)
- “Outside” courses are Foundation Year courses from (almost) any Subject Area across the University
- You can pick courses which are directly relevant to Archaeology or use the choice to simply broaden your horizon. Both are good and valid strategies!

Please note that courses will be different for each degree programme, particularly joint honours degrees. For full details visit www.drps.ed.ac.uk

Junior and Senior Honours Years 3 & 4



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Develop specialised areas of knowledge

- Chronological — early or later periods
- Geographical — Scotland, British Isles, Europe, Mediterranean, Near East, Egypt
- Social, cultural, economic, environmental
- Artefacts, “biofacts”, analytical methods
- Theory & practice of the discipline
- Dissertation (student-led, double-weighted)

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	Semester 1	Semester 2
Bendrey, Robin	Archaeology in Practice	Archaeology of Animal Remains
Bonsall, Clive	Human Origins	Late Hunter-Gatherers
Crow, Jim	Byzantine Archaeology	
Fernandez-Götz, Manuel	Conflict Archaeology	Theoretical Archaeology
		Iron Age Europe
Kranioti, Elena		<i>Villains, Victims and Forensic Evidence</i>
Leighton, Robert	Etruscan Italy	
Pickard, Catriona	Scientific Methods in Bioarchaeology	
Robin, Guillaume	Conceptualising the Neolithic	Archaeological Illustration
Romankiewicz, Tanja	Archaeology of Architecture	
Rowland, Jo	Archaeology and History of Egypt: from the Early Dynastic until the end of the Middle Kingdom	Archaeology and History of Egypt c. 1650-323 BC: from the Second Intermediate Period until the start of the Ptolemaic Period
Rubio-Campillo, Xavier	GIS and Spatial Analysis	Visualising the Past
Schoop, Ulf-Dietrich		Hittite Archaeology
	Archaeological Fieldwork	

Honours-level Courses (sample curriculum)

Courses dealing with the archaeology of specific regions and time periods

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	Archaeology in Practice	Archaeology of Animal Remains
	Human Origins	Late Hunter-Gatherers
	Byzantine Archaeology	
Fernandez-Götz, Manuel	Conflict Archaeology	Theoretical Archaeology
		Iron Age Europe
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	Archaeological Fieldwork	

Honours-level Courses (sample curriculum)

		Semester 1	Semester 2	
		Thematical archaeology courses		Archaeology in Practice
Human Origins	Late Hunter-Gatherers			
Byzantine Archaeology				
Fernandez-Götz, Manuel	Conflict Archaeology			Theoretical Archaeology
				Iron Age Europe
Kranioti, Elena		<i>Villains, Victims and Forensic Evidence</i>		
Leighton, Robert	Etruscan Italy			
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	Archaeological Fieldwork			

Honours-level Courses (sample curriculum)

		Semester 1	Semester 2
		Courses teaching science in archaeology	
	Human Origins		Late Hunter-Gatherers
	Byzantine Archaeology		
Fernandez-Götz, Manuel	Conflict Archaeology		Theoretical Archaeology
			Iron Age Europe
Kranioti, Elena			<i>Villains, Victims and Forensic Evidence</i>
Leighton, Robert	Etruscan Italy		
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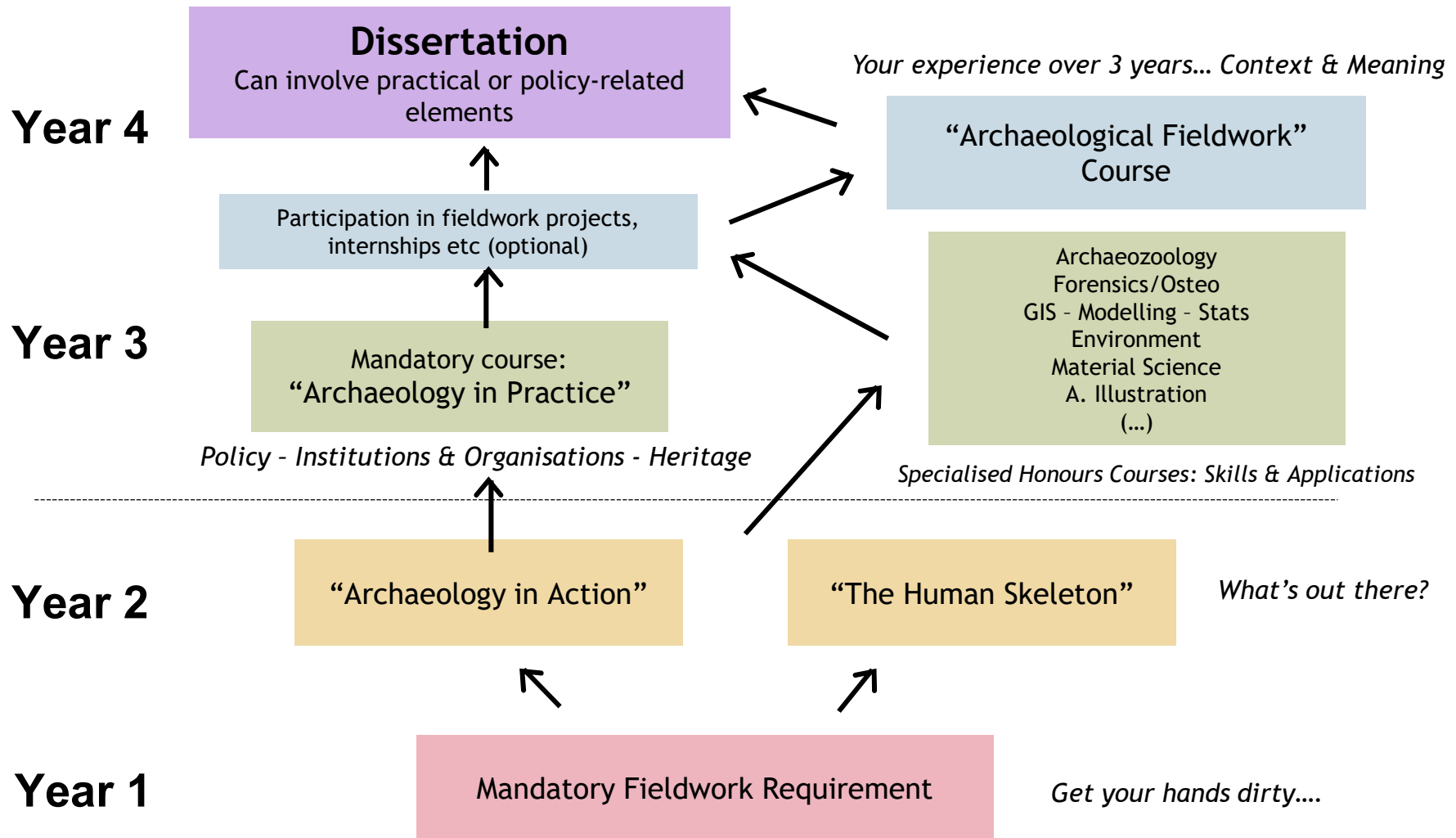
Honours-level Courses (sample curriculum)

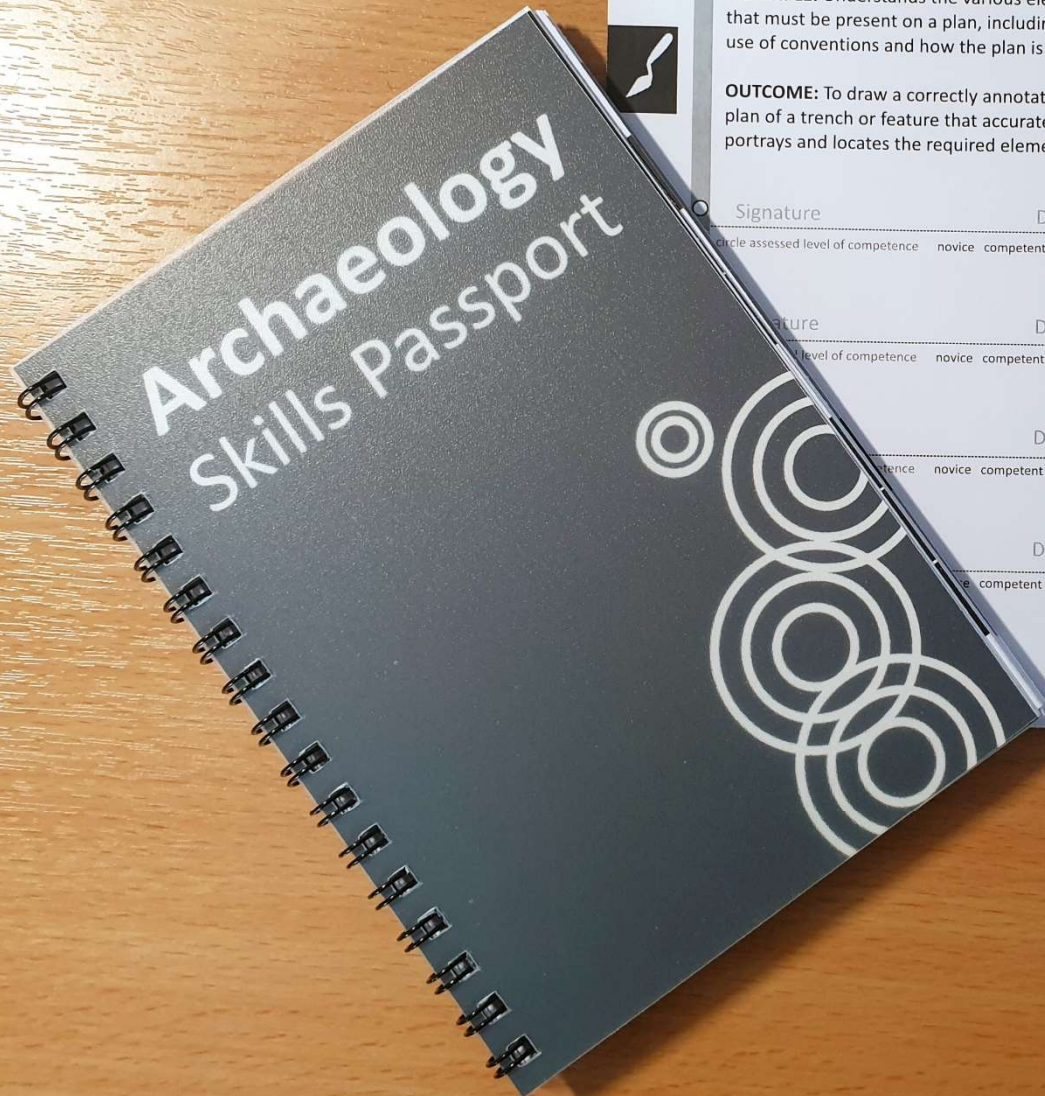
Method/Practice-related courses:
How do archaeologists generate information?

	Semester 1	Semester 2
	Archaeology in Practice	Archaeology of Animal Remains
	Human Origins	Late Hunter-Gatherers
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Honours-level Courses (sample curriculum)

Skills-focussed Teaching in the Archaeology Curriculum





CORE SKILLS

Planning (Area and Feature) CCSAPACS

PRINCIPLE: Understands the various elements that must be present on a plan, including the use of conventions and how the plan is located.

OUTCOME: To draw a correctly annotated scale plan of a trench or feature that accurately portrays and locates the required elements.

Signature _____ DATE _____
circle assessed level of competence novice competent proficient

Signature _____ DATE _____
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CORE SKILLS

CCSAPACS Section Drawing

PRINCIPLE: Understands the various elements that must be present on a section including the use of conventions & how it is located/levelled.

OUTCOME: Be able to draw a fully annotated, dimensionally correct section drawing that accurately represents the section.

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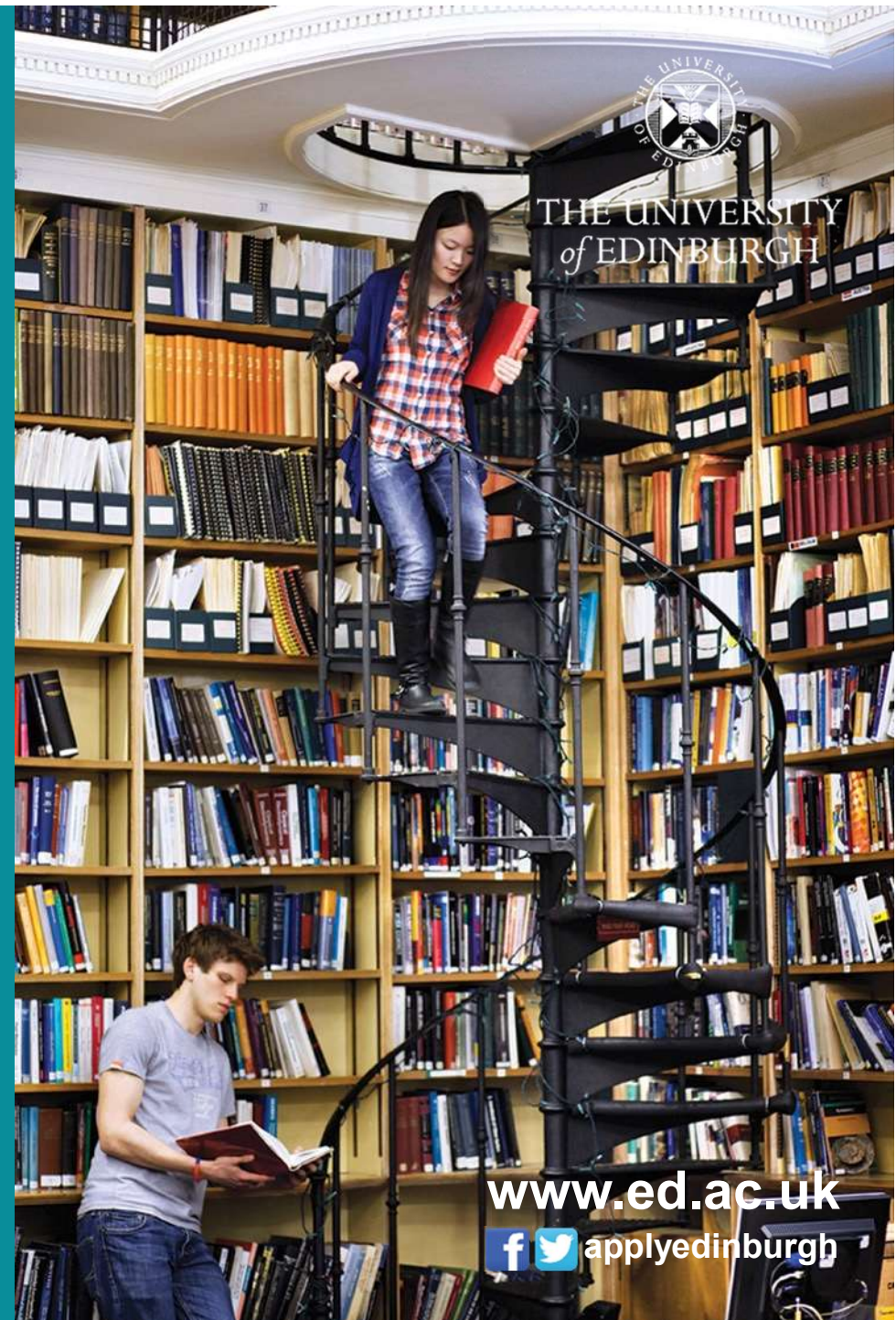
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Signature _____ DATE _____
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Forms of Assessment

- Exams
- Essays
- Oral presentations, poster presentations, short reports
- Lab journals, practical exercises
- Discussion groups
- Independent study

→ transferable skills



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Archaeology

Teaching and learning at Edinburgh

- Personal Tutors
- Student Support Office
- Peer Support
- Talk to course organisers and tutors...
- Academic talks
- Archaeology Society & Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Project



Archaeology Society



Regular excavations at Dunfermline Abbey

Other Activities include:

- Biweekly lectures with speakers from all over the country
- Annual Fieldwork Fair
- Workshops

Follow us @EdinburghArchSoc on Facebook and @edinarch on Instagram



Field trips to archaeological and historical sites all over Scotland



Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Project (EAOP)

EAOP is a volunteering society that aims to bring archaeology to the wider Edinburgh community. We do this primarily through regular school visits and an annual Family Fun Day!



EAOP is a great way to connect with the Edinburgh community and meet likeminded students. It is fun and rewarding, and will look great on your CV.

We are always looking for new volunteers, everyone is welcome to join!

Follow us on [@EAOPProject](#) on Facebook

Practical Archaeology beyond the classroom



Three weeks of mandatory fieldwork after Year 1

- This should be excavation-based
- Either with a departmental project or a project close to where you live (e.g. here in Edinburgh)
- Needs departmental approval
- Usually done during the summer break between Years 1/2

Optional fieldwork during the following years which can be turned into academic credit through the course “Archaeological Fieldwork”

- Total of 10 weeks approved fieldwork/practical work to be completed before the start of 4th year teaching (usually in vacations after Years 2 & 3)
- This could be excavation, but also a wide variety of other activities (lab-based, museum, archival, community archaeology...)
- Can be with any organisation and at any location of your choice...
- But still needs departmental approval...

Our Research Projects



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Some things we do...



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Cyprus, 5th mill BC



Turkey, 4th mill BC



Egypt, 4th mill BC

Investigate major changes in
human subsistence and
settlement

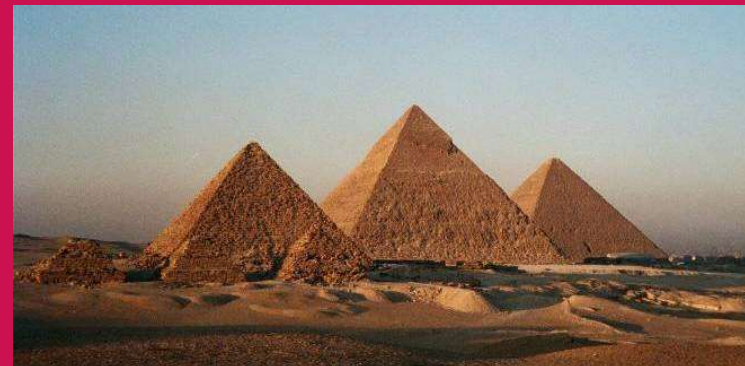
In small-scale societies...

... and ancient empires...

Spain, 1st mill BC



Hattuša, Turkey, 2nd mill BC



Egypt, 3rd mill BC

Heuneburg, Germany, 1st mill BC

Some things we do...

- ◆ Assess landscapes
- ◆ Investigate monuments



- Scotland
- Sardinia
- Naxos
- Egypt



What we do



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- Appreciate early technology



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Bio-archaeological investigations



Bit wear on an Iron Age horse tooth from Newgrange, Ireland



- Zooarchaeology
- Human-Animal Relationships
- Pastoral Nomadism
- Palaeopathology and disease ecology

Sheep and goat herding in the Zagros foothills, Iraq



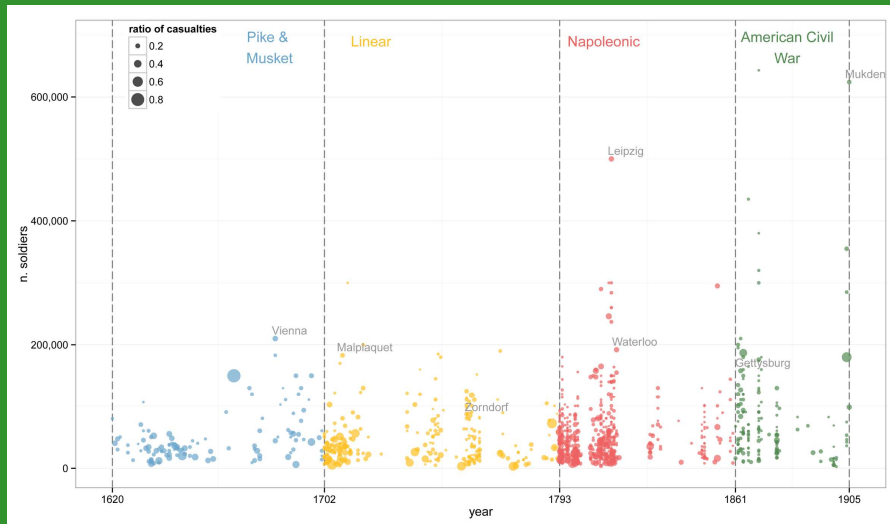
Early Neolithic goat skull, Iraq c.7600 BC



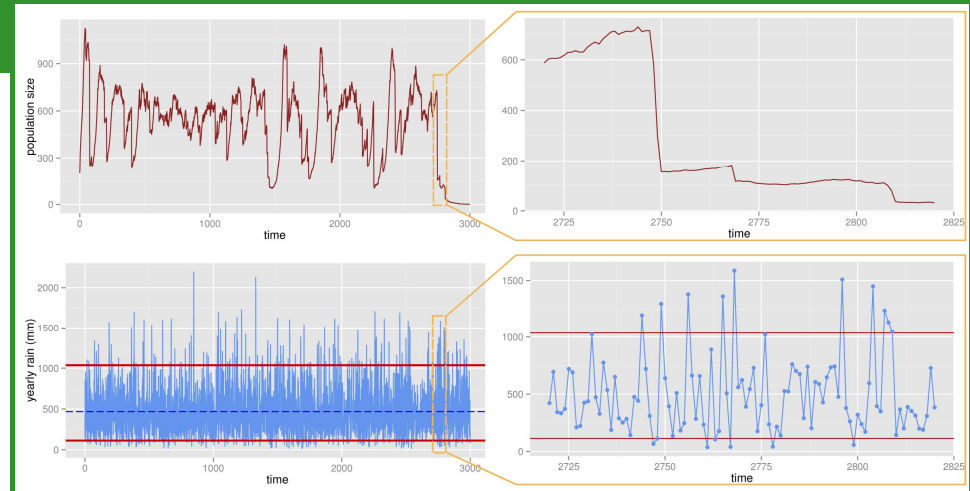
- Ethics
- Curation & Exhibition
- Anatomy
- Demography
- Activity
- Disease
- Violence & Conflict
- Death & Burial



Some things we do...

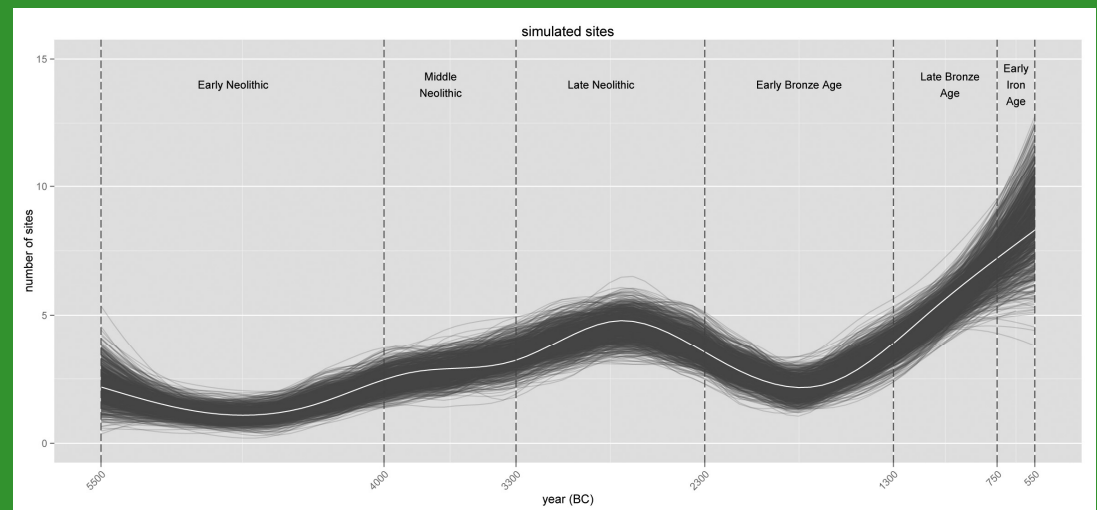


Influence of technological development on warfare



Population collapse

Digital Archaeology:
GIS-based analysis,
simulation, modelling



Settlement intensity