



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Archaeology postgraduate taught degrees



Professor Robin Bendrey – November 2025

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

What we'll cover

- Why Edinburgh?
- Programme information
- Application process
- Time for questions & answers



Why Edinburgh?

- Based in the Old Medical School in the Historic Old Town of Central Edinburgh
- The University is ranked in the world top 40 (QS World University Rankings 2026)
- School of History, Classics and Archaeology has a community of approximately 475 graduate students and 150 academic staff



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Why Edinburgh?

- Strong links between research and teaching
- Long tradition of archaeology teaching
- A city with links to archaeological organisations
- Excellent facilities and resources



Why Edinburgh? – Resources and facilities

- Vere Gordon Childe collection
- Laboratories
- School library
- Centre for Research Collections



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Why Edinburgh? – Resources at your doorstep

- Historic Environment Scotland
 - (ex- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland + Historic Scotland)
- National Museum of Scotland
- Headland Archaeology
- CFA Archaeology Ltd
- AOC Archaeology group
- Archaeology Scotland (September Scottish Archaeology Month events)
- National Trust for Scotland



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
Extraordinary futures await

Why Edinburgh? – Research culture and research seminars

- Diverse and international community
- Graduate and staff common room
- Dedicated postgraduate study areas
- School library
- Seminars and research groups
- Very active societies



Our research groups



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Student Support and Experience Team

- We are your first point of contact for advice and support once you begin your studies here
- We can provide support and guidance for students whose studies are affected by illness or other circumstances
- We can signpost students to the large range of more specialist university services such:
[Student Counselling](#)
[Student Disability and Learning Support Service](#)
[The Institute of Academic Development](#)
[The Advice Place](#)
- Available by email, phone, in-person or online appointments



MSc programmes

- Archaeology
- Human Osteoarchaeology
- Ancient Worlds (online learning) – covering archaeology and classics



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
Extraordinary futures await

MSc in Ancient Worlds (online learning)

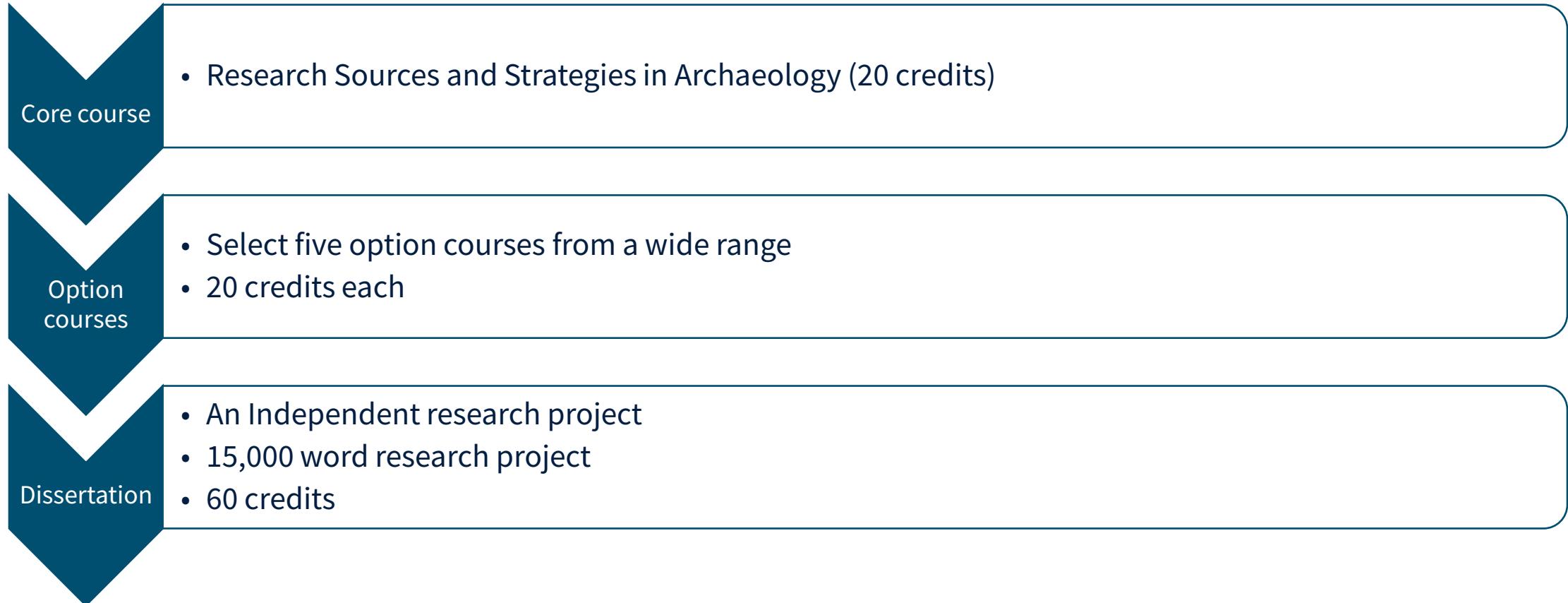
- Online part-time or flexible programme
- Information session taking place **25 November at 16:00**
- Register here:



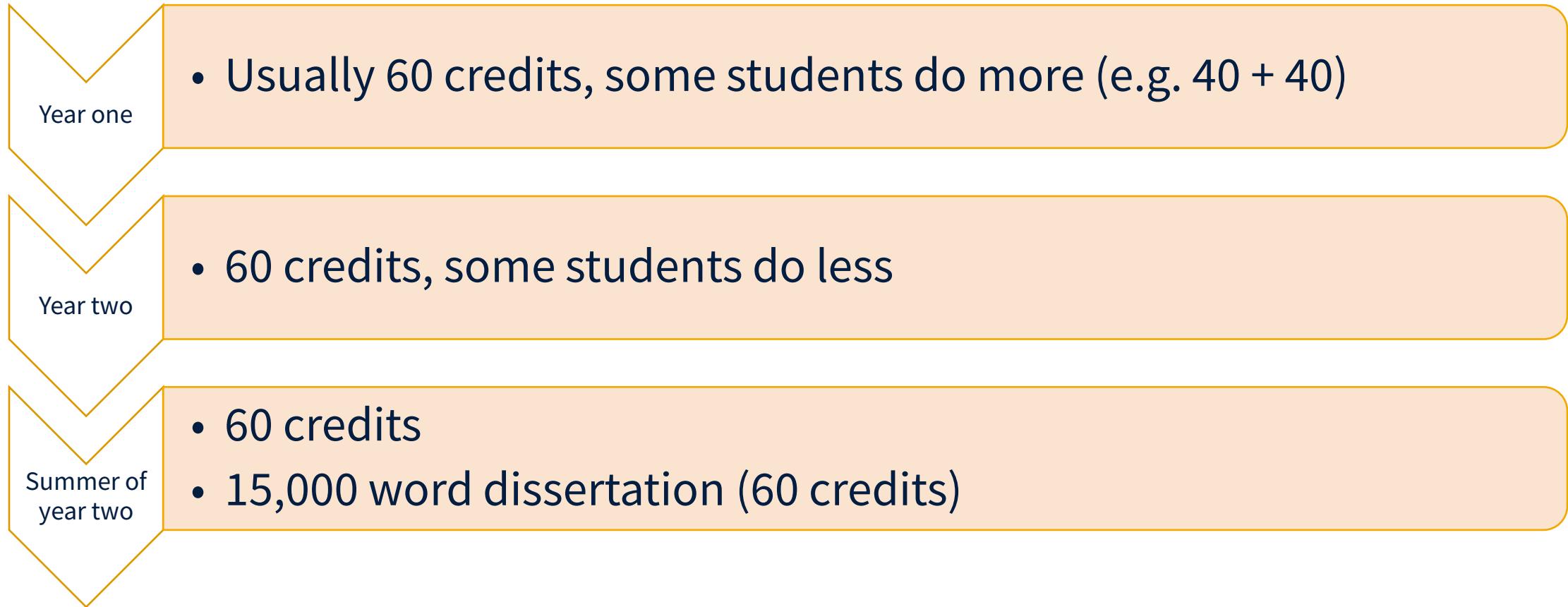
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Taught MSc(s) in Archaeology (full-time)



Taught MSc(s) in Archaeology (part-time)



Option courses

Tailored and flexible courses help develop your understanding of current theories, methodologies and major research issues, as well as knowledge of periods and regions.

Core:

- Research Sources and Strategies in Archaeology

Sample list of optional courses on MSc Archaeology:

- Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs: The Basics and Beyond
- Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs II: Texts and Contexts
- Archaeological Illustration
- Archaeology of 'Celtic' Europe: Communities and Interactions
- Archaeomaterials Analysis
- Biomolecular Archaeology: the appliance of science
- Bronze Age Civilisations of the Near East and Greece
- Conflict archaeology: materialities of violence
- Human Evolution
- Issues in Egyptian Archaeology: the Second Intermediate Period until the end of the Late Period (1650-332 BC)
- Marine Archaeology

- Mariners, Monks and Mobility: the archaeology of the early medieval Atlantic Archipelago
- Practical Zooarchaeology
- Quantitative Methods and Reasoning in Archaeology
- Space, Place and Time: the archaeology of built environments
- Social Bioarchaeology: Living Conditions, Lifestyles and the Impact of Disease in the Past
- The Archaeology of Children and Childhood
- The Celtic World (Online)
- The Hittites: The Archaeology of an Ancient Near Eastern Civilisation
- Themes in Egyptian archaeology: the foundations of the state to the end of the Middle Kingdom
- Theoretical Archaeology

Courses for Sep 2026 entry will be available from May 2025



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Human Osteoarchaeology

Core courses semester 1:

- Human Musculo-skeletal anatomy (20 credits)
- Analytical Methods in Human Osteoarchaeology (20 credits)
- Data Science and Statistics for Osteoarchaeology (20 credits)

Core courses semester 2:

- Bioarchaeological analysis and interpretation (10 credits)
- Research sources and strategies in Bioarchaeology (10 credits)
- Skeletal Pathology (20 credits)

Choose 1 option course (20 credits each) – sample list below:

- Archaeological Illustration
- Biomolecular Archaeology: the appliance of science
- Practical Zooarchaeology
- Archaeomaterials Analysis
- The archaeology of children and childhood
- Social Bioarchaeology: Living Conditions, Lifestyles and the Impact of Disease in the Past

Courses for
Sep 2026
entry will be
available from
May 2026



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Teaching

- On-campus courses normally have weekly seminars
- Most teaching is in small groups of less than twenty students
- Teaching staff regularly hold office hours and are available to meet with students about their work
- Reading lists and PowerPoints are uploaded to Learn (our course management system), and we support all of our learners



Assessment

- Coursework is varied and includes essays, presentations, article reviews, research proposals
- 3,000 approx. word essays per 20 credit course, plus one or more shorter pieces of work
- Non-assessed exercises will be used to ‘feed-forward’ into formally assessed course work
- Students who pass their coursework can proceed to dissertation
- The Dissertation is a 15,000 word piece of work, based on primary source material, supervised by one or more members of staff over the summer period



Dissertation

- 15,000 word research project
- Commenced after the 2 semesters of taught courses
- Start researching March/April after discussions with supervisor
- Research proposal submitted April
- Dissertation submitted August



Applying for study

- Online application form
- Evidence of proficiency in English language, where appropriate
- 5 step application process:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/how-to-apply



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Eligibility

- UK 2:1 honours degree, a minimum US 3.25 GPA or international equivalent, in a subject related to your programme
- Cases can also be made for non-standard entry, email
 - HCA-PGT@ed.ac.uk



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
Extraordinary futures await

English language

- IELTS: total 7.0 (at least 6.0 in each module)
- TOEFL-iBT: total 100 (at least 20 in each module)
- CAE and CPE: total 185 (at least 169 in each module)
- Trinity ISE: ISE III with a pass in all four components
- Find out about English Language requirements:
 - www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements



Application deadline

- The application deadline for MSc Archaeology programmes is
 - 30 July 2026
- The application deadlines for MSc Human Osteoarchaeology programme are
 - 9 January 2026
 - 6 April 2026
- If you are applying for funding or require a visa we advise that you apply as early as possible.



Fees and funding

- Find out about the cost of studying with us and what funding opportunities are available:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/fees-funding



Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- Archaeology postgraduate degree programme director
 - Professor Robin Bendrey - Robin.Bendrey@ed.ac.uk
- Human Osteoarchaeology postgraduate degree programme director
 - Dr Linda Fibiger - Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk





THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Thank you

Professor Robin Bendrey
Robin.Bendrey@ed.ac.uk