



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# Archaeology postgraduate taught degrees

Professor Robin Bendrey – November 2025

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# 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



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# 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



# 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



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# 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



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# 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 as:
  - [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



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# MSc in Ancient Worlds (online learning)

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



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

## Core course

- Research Sources and Strategies in Archaeology (20 credits)

## Option courses

- Select five option courses from a wide range
- 20 credits each

## Dissertation

- An Independent research project
- 15,000 word research project
- 60 credits



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

Year one

- Usually 60 credits, some students do more (e.g. 40 + 40)

Year two

- 60 credits, some students do less

Summer of  
year two

- 60 credits
- 15,000 word dissertation (60 credits)



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# 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



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# 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

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# 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](http://www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/how-to-apply)



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# 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](mailto:HCA-PGT@ed.ac.uk)



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# 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](http://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 Apr 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](http://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](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)
- Archaeology postgraduate degree programme director
  - Professor Robin Bendrey - [Robin.Bendrey@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Bendrey@ed.ac.uk)
- Human Osteoarchaeology postgraduate degree programme director
  - Dr Linda Fibiger - [Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk)







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# Thank you

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