

Diploma in Archaeology: Classroom-based, Year 1

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human societies. The discipline covers a remarkable span of time and investigates some of the most profoundly important developments of the past. The wide scope of archaeology, in time, space and methodology is one of the features which makes the subject so attractive to professional and amateur alike. There is something to interest everyone - whether their interests lie in outdoor fieldwork and exploring ancient monuments, the study of artefacts, the history of technology, local studies, or simply in the rich heritage of Ireland's past.

Archaeology is a constantly changing discipline, fed by new discoveries, new theoretical approaches and new analytical methods. These discoveries continue to revolutionise the subject's potential to inform us about the past and to give us a valuable long perspective on how this past has shaped our present. Exciting aspects of the practical side of archaeology, such as excavation, are familiar to everyone, but excavation is only one aspect of a discipline that combines humanistic interest with scientific method. For the interested student, archaeology offers a stimulating opportunity for intellectual enquiry.

This two year programme has three broad aims:

- To introduce students to the discipline of archaeology, its historical development, theoretical perspectives and methodologies.
- To present the archaeology of Ireland as a way of understanding ten thousand years of human settlement on this island.
- To study the archaeological landscapes of western Ireland from earliest times, and to promote interest in this heritage at a local level.

Lectures take place one evening a week from 18:30 to 21:30.

There will be three field-trips in the first year of the programme, with attendance on two compulsory. These excursions will be thematic in content, one to directly complement the teaching of each of the three modules. There are three hours of lectures, one evening per week.

AR130.SM: Introduction to Archaeology

This general course will introduce students to the discipline of archaeology and provide the theoretical and methodological foundations for later courses. The first weeks will be devoted to *Exploring the Past*, a series of lectures designed to introduce students to modern archaeology, its historical development, aims and practices. This is followed in the latter weeks by lectures devoted to *Fundamentals of Archaeological Explanation* where students are introduced to the techniques involved in archaeological analyses.

Assessment: 2 essays

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbook for this course is:

Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. 1991 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson.

OR

Greene, K. 1997 *Archaeology: An Introduction*. London (3rd Edition).

AR131.SM: The Archaeology of Prehistoric Ireland

An introduction to the prehistory of Ireland. The first lectures deal with the first settlers in Ireland, the arrival of farming and megalithic tombs. This is followed by lectures considering the many developments that marked the transition to the Bronze Age, from the introduction of metallurgy to changes in the structure of society and ritual practices. The arrival of Celtic influences to Ireland and the process of Celticisation in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age are explored.

Assessment: 2 hour exam at the end of semester 2

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbook for this course is: John Waddell 1998 *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*, Galway University Press (reprinted by Wordwell).

A second recommended textbook is that by M.J. O'Kelly 1989 *Early Ireland*, Cambridge University Press.

AR132.SM: *The Archaeology of Historic Ireland*

An introduction to Irish archaeology from the arrival of Christianity in the 5th century AD to the end of the Medieval period. The weeks of *Early Medieval and Viking Ireland* look at the period between the fifth and twelfth centuries AD, covering topics such as settlement, economy and craft, the early Christian Church, and Ireland and the Viking world. This is followed by lectures on Anglo-Norman and Gaelic Ireland that deal with the Medieval period in Ireland, covering such areas as the archaeology of Medieval castles, churches and towns.

Assessment: 2 hour exam at the end of semester 2

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbooks for this course are:

Edwards, N. 1990 *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*. London, Routledge.

Barry, T. 1988 *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*. London, Routledge.

Another useful text is:

O'Keefe, T. 2000 *Medieval Ireland: an Archaeology*. Tempus.