

Diploma in Archaeology: Online, Year 2

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 four broad aims:

- To introduce students to the discipline of archaeology.
- To present the archaeology of Ireland as a way of understanding ten thousand years of human settlement on this island.
- To study aspects of current archaeological research in Ireland in detail.
- To promote interest in Ireland's heritage at a national and international level.

All modules are delivered wholly online using Blackboard. They comprise illustrated text, self-assessment exercises, online discussions and multi-media content that includes mini-lectures and site visits.

AR8103 Key Themes in Irish Prehistoric Archaeology

This module will pick up key research themes and debates in prehistoric archaeology (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages) illustrated by in-depth case studies of well-known landscapes, artefact types and monuments in Ireland, building on the general information acquired in Year 1. It may include topics such as the introduction of farming and associated monuments, wetland archaeology, prehistoric settlement in the Burren in County Clare, the emergence of elite landscapes and early Irish art.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Each unit includes reading specific to that topic.

For general use:

Waddell, J. 2010 *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*. Dublin, Wordwell.

For optional background reading (available from libraries):

1. Woodman, P. and Anderson, E. 1999 *Excavations at Ferriter's Cove 1983-1995. Last Foragers, First Farmers in the Dingle Peninsula*. Bray, Wordwell.
2. Eogan, G. 1984 *Excavations at Knowth 1*. Dublin.
2. Eogan, G. and Roche, H. 1997 *Excavations at Knowth 2*. Dublin.
2. O'Kelly, M.J. 1982 *Newgrange. Archaeology, art and legend*. London.
2. O'Kelly, M.J and O'Kelly, C. 1983 'The tumulus of Dowth, County Meath.' *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 83C, 135–190.
3. Lynch, A. 2014 *Poulnabrone: An Early Neolithic Portal Tomb in Ireland*. Dublin, The Stationery Office.
4. O'Brien, W. 2004 *Ross Island. Mining, metal and society in early Ireland*. Bronze Age Studies 6. Galway, National University of Ireland.
5. Cotter, C. 2012 *The Western Stone Forts Project. Excavations at Dún Aonghasa and Dún Eóganachta*. Discovery Programme Monograph. Dublin, Wordwell.
6. Waddell, J. 2014 *Archaeology and Celtic Myth*. Dublin, Four Courts Press.

AR8104 Key Themes in Irish Medieval Archaeology

This module will pick up key research themes from the Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, illustrating these themes with in-depth case studies of well-known landscapes, artefact types and monuments in Ireland, building on the general information

acquired in Year 1. It may cover topics such as early urban settlements, the developments of Irish castles and the relationship between different social and cultural groups (e.g. Gaelic and Anglo-Norman). Case studies may include detailed studies of the Early Medieval royal sites of Lagore and Garranes, the early monastic site at Clonmacnoise, the Viking town of Dublin, Medieval settlement in Gaelic areas such as Roscommon and Clare and archaeological investigations of the Great Famine of the 19th century.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Required Course Text:

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

E-book available at:

<http://www.ebooks.com/1144699/the-archaeology-of-early-medieval-ireland/edwards-nancy/>

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

E-book available at:

<http://www.ebooks.com/178492/the-archaeology-of-medieval-ireland/barry-terry-b/>

AR8105 *Irish Archaeology Project*

This module will allow students to work with selected and alternating topics from Irish Archaeology, in order to allow them increased insight into the details of the material evidence as well as methodological and interpretative approaches. The topics will be based on ongoing research by staff from NUI Galway, providing students with a unique opportunity to engage in current debates and perspectives in the discipline. Possible topics include Neolithic ritual landscapes; the organisation of Bronze Age societies in Western Ireland; Gaelic and colonial society; Irish castles in their landscapes; community archaeology in Ireland. Students will be asked to write an extensive essay outlining the key aspects of a selected research theme.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Textbooks from previous modules, plus provided readings.