

Introduction to the MSc in Environmental Archaeology

This degree program is designed to provide students with the methodological and theoretical tools, and basic practical skills, to carry out research in Environmental Archaeology. Environmental archaeology, which includes **archaeobotany**, **geoarchaeology** and **zooarchaeology**, is distinct from other sub-disciplines of archaeology in that it follows a *community ecology*

Aims, Objectives & Intended Outcomes of the MSc Environmental Archaeology

The **core modules** and **practical options** in the program are designed to provide students with methodological and theoretical tools, as well as practical skills, to carry out research in Environmental Archaeology; the dissertation provides an opportunity to put those tools and skills into practice.

Specific aims, objectives and intended outcomes:

1. To provide students with a theoretical understanding of **research questions and methodologies** in the study of past human-environment interactions, particularly human subsistence and subsistence change.
2. To provide participants taking the MSc qualification with training in **research methods** relevant to environmental archaeology, including familiarity with evidence from archaeobotany, geoarchaeology and zooarchaeology.
3. To provide **practical training in laboratory reW* n-97m1(t)-3(i)-4(ca)14(l)-4()-4(op)15(t)-3(i)-4(on)**

Laboratory-based modules: Archaeobotany, Geoarchaeology, Zooarchaeology.

Practical skills in working with archaeological environmental/subsistence evidence are a key part of this degree. Students must take **at least one** of the laboratory-based modules of **Archaeobotany, Geoarchaeology or Zooarchaeology**, but can elect to do take two or all three modules, depending on their interests. In addition, students can select **Biomolecular Archaeology** but should be aware that numbers are limited.

Credits	Code	Title		Term		Room
15	ARCL0096	Archaeobotanical analysis in practice	Dorian Fuller	II	Reading Week: daily 9-5	313
15	ARCL0097	Geoarchaeology	Manuel Arroyo-Kalin	II	Friday 9-11am Weds 11-1	B13 410
15	ARC0125	Zooarchaeology in Practice	Louise Martin	I	Monday 1-4pm	308
15	ARCL0232	Biomolecular Archaeology (*max 10; relevant background needs approving)	Rhiannon Stevens/ Katie Hemer	I	Reading Week: daily 9-5	209/lab

ARCL0096 Archaeobotanical Analysis in Practice. Coordinator: Dorian Fuller. This module runs in **Term II**, Reading Week as an intensive all week course, in the archaeobotany laboratory (Room 313)

The module focuses on the practical hands-on aspects of sorting, identifying, quantifying and reporting archaeobotanical macro-remains, with primary emphasis on seeds, and as well as the preparation of basic descriptive archaeobotanical reports. Seed identification is focused on the detailed identification of major Old-World seed crops (including Near East/European as well as some South/East Asian and African taxa). Students are given basic tools for identification that can be applied to the identification of other taxa. A written assignment will be due around the end of April and a practical examination (on identifications) will be scheduled in May.

ARCL0097 Geoarchaeology. Coordinator: Manuel Arroyo-Kalin. Term II.

This Term 2 module will cover general concepts in geoarchaeology, including key aspects of geomorphology and soils science relevant to the study archaeological sites in different environmental settings, and the characteristics of specific sedimentary environments. The aim of the module is to provide an introduction to the reconstruction of past landscapes, the study of sediments in archaeological contexts, and the use of sediment and soil analyses in paleoenvironmental reconstruction. Students will acquire an understanding of how earth science thinking is used to answer archaeological questions, gain the ability to critically appraise geoarchaeological reports and papers, and become familiar with the use of multiple geoarchaeological laboratory techniques. The module is taught through a combination of

ARCL0125 Zooarchaeology in Practice. Coordinator: Louise Martin. Term I. Monday 1-4, room 308.

The aim of the module is to introduce students to the practical and analytical aspects of vertebrate zooarchaeology, to encourage discussion and critique of current approaches, and

Disabilities including dyslexia

If you have dyslexia or any other disability, please see Judy Medrington who is the IoA Disabilities Coordinator asap (j.medrington@ucl.ac.uk). Judy will direct you towards application for a SoRA (Statement of Reasonable Adjustment) which is undertaken centrally by UCL.

Health & Safety

The IoA has a Health and Safety policy and code of practice which provides guidance on laboratory work, etc. All work undertaken in the IoA is governed by these guidelines; staff and students have a duty to be aware of them and to adhere to them at all times. **Risk Assessments** are required for **ALL** lab-work, fieldwork, field

Recommended texts: (those marked * especially useful for Practice Essay)

- *Albarella, U. (Ed.) 2001. *Environmental Archaeology: Meaning and Purpose*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht. **INST ARCH Issue Desk: IoA ALB.**
- Barker, G. 2006. *The Agricultural Revolution in Prehistory*. Oxford University Press
- Butzer, K. W. (1982). *Archaeology as Human Ecology*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Clutton-Brock, J. (Ed.) 1989. *The Walking larder: patterns of domestication, pastoralism, and predation*. London: Unwin Hyman.
- Denham, T., Iriarte, J. & Vrydaghs, L. (Eds.) 2008. *Rethinking Agriculture. Archaeological and Ethnoarchaeological Perspectives*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek
- * *Environmental Archaeology. Principles and Methods*. Sutton, Stroud.
- INST ARCH BB6 EVA**
- French, C. 2003. *Geoarchaeology in Action. Studies in soil micromorphology and landscape evolution*. Routledge, London.
- Goldberg, P. and Macphail. R.I. 2006. *Practical and Theoretical Geoarchaeology*. Blackwell, Oxford
- Grayson, D.K. 1984. *Quantitative Zooarchaeology: Topics in the analysis of Archaeological Faunas*. Orlando: Academic
- Hardy, K. and Kubiak-Martens, L. (Eds.) 2016. *Wild Harvest: Plants in the hominin and pre-agrarian human worlds*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Hather, J.G. and S.L.R. Mason (Eds.) 2002. *Hunter-*

Template for MSc Environmental Archaeology module selection:

My modules selected	Term	Day/time	Credits (must total 90)
Core (required) module ARCL0128 Resources and Subsistence	I	Weds 9-11	15
Core (required) module ARCL0129 Environmental Archaeology in Practice	II	Weds 9-11	15
Envnt Arch module(s): at least one			