PART-TIME QUALIFICATIONS IN

Archaeology

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



STUDY HUMANITY FROM OUR ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT.

Welcome

Unearth our global past with undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Whether you're just starting out or building on existing knowledge, our part-time archaeology courses open the door to Oxford's world-class expertise. Explore the past through flexible study, designed for adult learners.



Professor David Griffiths
Director of Studies

'Archaeology is about how people have created and shaped cultures, technologies, environments, landscapes and societies from ancient to recent times. At Oxford Lifelong Learning, we welcome you at any point in your journey as an archaeologist, whether or not you are new to the subject. Our courses attract a diverse range of adult learners at different stages of their journey from beginners to doctoral students, bringing a wealth of passion and experience from a variety of backgrounds. If you are fascinated by the physical evidence of the human past, and want to learn more, then our courses could be for you.'



www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/archaeology

What you can study

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Our part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses in archaeology explore ancient artefacts and historic landscapes that have shaped human history. You will have the opportunity to develop a broad range of archaeological skills and cultivate an understanding of the global, interdisciplinary nature of archaeology.

FIND YOUR LEVEL

Certificate in Archaeology

Level	Length	Format
First-year undergraduate	2 years, part-time	In person, Oxford

Discover people and societies of the past. Led by expert tutors and professional archaeologists, this course combines evening seminars, Saturday workshops, and field trips, offering hands-on experience in a supportive and friendly environment. You will explore ancient cultures and landscapes from Britain and beyond, and have the chance to pursue your own interests through an extended project.

Discover more

Certificate of Higher Education

Level	Length	Format
First-year undergraduate	2–4 years, part-time	In person and online

This flexible course lets you focus on archaeology while exploring other subjects to broaden your learning. You decide what, how and where you study with this part-time qualification. Gain credit from accredited short courses (in Oxford or online) and the Oxford University Summer School for Adults, to create your own unique programme.

Discover more



Pottery workshop in Oxford, May 2025.

Diploma in Archaeology

Level	Length	Format
Second-year undergraduate	2 years, part-time	In person and online

How do archaeologists investigate the human past? Our part-time Diploma in Archaeology gives you the tools to explore how archaeologists study human history – from our origins to the present and from individuals to empires. Learn through a flexible blend of in-person teaching and online elements, and discover how evidence, methods and ideas come together to shape varied understandings of the past.

Discover more



Alexandra Moriarty, Certificate in Archaeology

'The Certificate caught my attention due to the quality of the course and the prestige of studying at the best university in the world. The course topics and the scope of archaeology covered was great, and working with materials from the Oxford Gardens Libraries and Museums (GLAM) resources has been truly enjoyable and immersive. My studies have given me a tremendous boost to apply and interview in the commercial archaeology sector. In May 2025, I started as a trainee archaeologist at Cotswold Archaeology.'

Read Alexandra's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/alexandra-moriarty

Advanced Diploma in Archaeology

Level	Length	Format
Third-year undergraduate	1 year, part-time	In person and online

Expand your archaeological expertise while developing advanced research skills. Central to the Advanced Diploma in Archaeology is a 10,000-word dissertation, allowing you to carry out independent research on a topic that fascinates you. Study primarily online with a 3-day intensive study school in Oxford.

Discover more

Master's in Applied Landscape Archaeology

Level	Length	Format
Postgraduate MSc	2 years, part-time	In person, Oxford

Explore how people have shaped the land – across time and across the world. This part-time, two-year master's course offers a unique blend of academic rigour, hands-on fieldwork and personal exploration – all in one of the world's top-ranked universities for Archaeology (QS World Rankings).* As a matriculated postgraduate degree student, you will also become a member of one of the University's famous interdisciplinary colleges.

**No.2 in 2025 rankings.*

Discover more



Certificate in Archaeology student, Oxfordshire, April 2025.

DPhil in Archaeology

Level	Length	Format
Doctoral programme	6-8 years part-time	In person, Oxford

Pursue advanced, original research in archaeology with the flexibility of part-time study. The DPhil connects you with Oxford's extensive archaeological expertise – including people and research clusters across the University, offering a supportive environment for those undertaking this demanding course of research-intensive study.

Discover more



Philip Stack, Diploma in British Archaeology

'I am certain that the Diploma in Archaeology will open doors for all students, whether they aim to develop a new career or just wish to gain a better understanding of the subject to enhance their visits to museums and archaeological sites.'



Dr Bastiaan van Dalen, MSc Research Associate and Professional Archaeologist

'The academic freedom to explore your own research interests in each module was very rewarding. This made it possible to conduct your own projects for the assignments, while learning to work with exciting modern technology, such as remote sensing. The whole range of landscape archaeology tools made the practical and teamwork aspects of the course also very enjoyable.'

Short courses and events

From the splendour of Ancient Rome to hands-on training in cultural heritage, our short courses offer a fascinating journey through the many layers of archaeology.

Explore a new topic or revisit a favourite subject over the course of a day, a few weeks or a term. Our short courses run in person or online, with some offered in both formats – so you can choose the best format for you.

www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/archaeology

What you will gain

Broaden your understanding, perspective and confidence in archaeology.

- **Gain a truly global and interdisciplinary perspective of archaeology.** Critically investigate archaeological evidence and the varied interpretations that have shaped our understanding of the past.
- **Engage with the latest research and debates in archaeology** as you explore a range of topics, from the fundamentals of archaeological theory and practice to managing historic landscapes in the 21st century.
- **Exchange ideas and develop questions** with a group of like-minded peers sharing experience and knowledge from a range of archaeological contexts.
- **Gain first-hand experience of archaeology in the real world** through workshops and field trips, offering you a rare opportunity to develop your practical skills in handling, assessing and interpreting archaeological evidence.
- **Study in an environment designed for part-time, adult learners.** Our supportive and experienced staff will guide you through archaeological theory and a variety of activities mirroring professional archaeological practice.



Diploma student at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, February 2026.



Diploma student at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, February 2026.

The Oxford experience



Certificate in Archaeology student at an Award Ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, May 2025.

GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The University has over 800 years of being a leader in education. The strength and breadth of the research and teaching is world-renowned. The University benefits from global scholars bringing unique insights and perspectives for deeper conversations.

Our experienced faculty brings a breadth of archaeological knowledge and perspectives, offering expertise across disciplines, from landscape and environmental archaeology to material culture and the ethics of archaeological heritage.

LEARN FROM EXPERTS

Taught by our research-active team of archaeologists who are recognised for their academic expertise and engaged in the latest archaeological discoveries, research and debate. Our teaching and research engages with cultures, sites, and artefacts across the globe.

OXFORD COLLEGE AFFILIATION

For our matriculated postgraduate degree students, you will become a member of one of the University's multidisciplinary colleges, enabling you to encounter new perspectives in your field or learn more about many other different subjects from fellow college members.

The collegiate system makes studying at Oxford a truly special experience. Oxford colleges are friendly and diverse communities, where you could find yourself absorbed in fascinating conversations with students and academics from a variety of disciplines at college seminars, dinners, and informal occasions.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

For both our undergraduate and postgraduate students, you will have access to the electronic online resources of Oxford University's Library Services, including the Bodleian Library, and all other University libraries. Students, using their University card, can also use the in-person facilities of the Bodleian Libraries.

AWARD CEREMONIES

Students who successfully complete a course will be invited to celebrate their achievements at the Sheldonian Theatre.

Students completing non-matriculated award-bearing courses are invited to attend these Award Ceremonies, held in March and May, which mark the culmination of their studies, and many travel from around the world to take part in this occasion.

Matriculated students receiving master's or doctoral degrees attend a degree ceremony organised through their college, which also takes place at the Sheldonian Theatre.

Find out more and start your journey:
www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/archaeology



Students at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, February 2026.



Student on a field-trip, Oxfordshire.

Oxford Lifelong Learning

Oxford Lifelong Learning brings the quality of an Oxford University education within reach of everyone. We inspire people across the world to fulfil their potential – whether by studying for a qualification to change direction, enhancing their career with new skills, or learning simply to satisfy intellectual curiosity.

Our courses, provided in Oxford and online, are led by tutors selected for their expertise and dedication to the exceptional teaching you expect from a world-class university.

Offering a transformative learning experience, we encourage and empower our vibrant community to achieve their goals and make a difference by sharing their knowledge.

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All information is correct at the time of publication (October 2026). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.