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## Archaeology and Anthropology (BA) (three-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

### Entry requirements

Visit [Admission requirements for 2026 entry](#) to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our [English language requirements](#).

### About the course

Archaeology and anthropology together encompass the study of humankind from the origins of the human species to the present day.

Both disciplines have a long history: archaeology grew from 18th-century antiquarianism, while anthropology began even earlier in the first days of colonial encounter.

Today, both subjects involve a range of sophisticated approaches shared with the arts, social sciences and physical sciences.

Oxford's distinctive combination of archaeology and anthropology, studied over three years, offers an unusually broad perspective on human societies from early prehistory to the present.

The course offers a comprehensive guide to the richness and diversity of human cultural experience throughout space and time.

By choosing to study here you will be able to:

- explore how humans evolved
- get to grips with major transformational processes in human history such as the development of farming, the emergence of towns and trading systems and the spread of world religions
- learn why societies structure their families, economies and political systems in the ways that they do
- investigate how material culture represents and reproduces beliefs and ideologies.

Five Oxford institutions specialise in these subjects:

The [School of Archaeology](#)

The [School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography](#)

The [Ashmolean Museum](#)

The [Pitt Rivers Museum](#)

The [Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#).

All five institutions play a key role in the provision of teaching for the degree.

### Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

Most course teaching takes place in Oxford but as part of your course, you must undertake a minimum of four weeks of fieldwork (subject to approval by your tutors). This is normally completed in the summer vacation at the end of your first year.

Fieldwork can take place in field settings, or in a laboratory or museum and involve anthropological as well as archaeological projects. Recent destinations include Azerbaijan, Denmark, South Africa and the British Isles.

Financial support for your fieldwork may be available from the University and may also be available from your college. You may also choose to engage in further fieldwork as part of your final-year dissertation, while other opportunities may exist for work-based learning in the University's own museums.

### A typical week

Your timetable will be divided into lectures, tutorials and practical classes. These will cover topics such as dating, isotope analysis, and the analysis of plant, animal and human remains, as well as artefacts.

In the first year you will spend around six hours a week in lectures, which focus on the course's core papers. In Years 2 and 3, lectures for core and optional papers take up around ten hours a week. Throughout the course, there are one or two tutorials a week, (typically a total of twelve in each term).

Tutorials are usually two students and a tutor, but may include up to three students depending on circumstances.

Lectures will include the whole year group of around 25 students, although they are sometimes shared with Human Sciences students and/or postgraduates, and are therefore larger. Lecture or class sizes for optional courses are normally smaller and could be as low as 3-6 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see [workload and independent study](#) information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

## Course structure

### YEAR 1

#### COURSES

- Four core courses are taken:
  - Introduction to world archaeology
  - Introduction to anthropological theory
  - Perspectives on human evolution
  - The nature of archaeological and anthropological enquiry
- Practical classes
- Fieldwork

#### ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: four written papers

### YEARS 2 AND 3

#### COURSES

- Five core courses are taken:
  - Social analysis and interpretation
  - Cultural representations, beliefs and practices
  - Landscape and ecology
  - Urbanism and society
  - Fieldwork and methods
- Options (three from a broad range of anthropological and archaeological courses, one normally taken in Year 2, two taken in Year 3)
- Practical classes
- Dissertation

A full list of current options is available on the [Archaeology website](#). (Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the [Terms & Conditions](#) and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)

#### ASSESSMENT

Final university examinations:

Year 2 - the option taken in this year is examined by a 5000-word-long essay.

The *Fieldwork and Methods* paper is examined by a 5000-word-long report on the fieldwork completed at the end of Year 1, plus two 1000-word-long reports written in respect of the practical classes

Year 3 – six written papers in respect of the remaining core courses and options, plus a 15,000-word dissertation, which is double-weighted.

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#) and information about [potential course changes](#).

You are also referred to the [Student Handbook](#) (which is updated every September).

### Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the [University's Terms and Conditions](#).

For details of annual increases, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£43,600

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

[Further details about fee status eligibility](#) can be found on the fee status webpage.

### Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our [world class resources](#) and [college provision](#), which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

### Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,405</b>	<b>£2,105</b>	<b>£12,645</b>	<b>£18,945</b>

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

### Additional Fees and Charges Information for Archaeology and Anthropology

Students must complete at least four weeks of approved fieldwork by the end of the second year. The cost of this will depend on student choice of location (and what choices are available). Funding may be available from the University and potentially from your college to help towards costs.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the [Office for Students](#) and subscribes to the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education](#) student complaints scheme.