



Durham  
University



# Archaeology

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

**Ranked 4th**

for Archaeology by *The Independent Complete University Guide 2012.*

# Best

archaeology research  
department in the UK  
Government Research  
Assessment Exercise, 2008.

## Archaeology

The Department of Archaeology is one of the largest and highest rated in the UK with an academic and research community offering a wide-ranging selection of expertise in archaeology.

### ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Our Department was ranked as the best archaeology research department in the UK Government Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) for 2008, with the highest overall score and highest percentage of 4\* (world-class) and 3\* (internationally excellent) research. We are positioned in the top four archaeology departments in the UK by *The Independent Complete University Guide 2012*.

Our taught Masters courses are amongst the best in their fields with the MA in Museum and Artefact Studies, the MA in Conservation of Archaeological and Museum Objects and the MSc in Palaeopathology all having particular strengths for professional/vocational development as well as preparation for a PhD. The MA in Archaeology and the new MSc in Archaeological Science offer wide-ranging professional training and provide an ideal preparation for doctoral research.

A thriving group of postgraduate research students, both at Masters and PhD levels, contributes to the diversity of interests that underpins the Department's vibrant research environment.

### RESEARCH DEGREES

The following research degrees are currently offered:

- **MA or MSc by Research:** One year full-time, or two years part-time research and writing, producing a thesis of up to 50,000 words. The research topic is usually based on a specific object, site or phenomenon, and can lead to postgraduate research at a higher level (MPhil or PhD) after one year if the topic proves suitable and an aptitude for research is demonstrated
- **MPhil:** Two years full-time or four years part-time research and writing, producing a thesis of up to 60,000 words. The research topic is usually based on an area or period study or the study of a specific class or group of objects, and can lead to a PhD if the topic proves suitable and an aptitude for original research is demonstrated
- **PhD:** Three years full-time or six years part-time research and writing, producing a thesis of up to 100,000 words. The subject of the thesis is a substantial piece of original research where the student demonstrates the ability to undertake independent research. We also offer a PhD in Anthropology & Archaeology which is designed specifically for research topics which overlap the expertise of staff in both departments.

### MAIN RESEARCH AREAS

The Department has a number of research groups and research strengths reflecting the range and depth of research activity.

### RESEARCH GROUPS

#### Bioarchaeology

The Bioarchaeology research grouping supports cutting-edge work by internationally-renowned researchers in the field of bioarchaeology. Members of the group have a range of expertise in the study of human remains (especially palaeopathology), zooarchaeology and archaeobotany. The group has also developed unique expertise and applied a range of new techniques (e.g. biomolecular) and approaches to these fields. Several major (and related) research themes have been at the core of this success: the origins of agriculture, human dispersal, diet, and the impact of disease on health.

#### Northern Britain

This group draws upon the rich archaeological resource of the region and has close association with the region's two World Heritage Sites (Durham Cathedral and Hadrian's Wall) and with the twin monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow. Archaeological Services provides a professional partnership with academic research and this provides a strong framework





for regional research extending from the prehistoric to the post-medieval, with particular interests in rock art, Roman archaeology and the Medieval period.

#### History of Archaeology

This research grouping has the largest concentration of archaeologists in Britain who are actively researching and publishing on the history of their discipline. Fresh and far-ranging historical perspectives have been nurtured in our Department: from the history of Palaeolithic research to the medieval period; from local traditions to international developments.

#### RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Set out below are some of the areas in which we supervise research postgraduates (PhD, MPhil and Masters by research).

#### Human Bioarchaeology

(Prof C. Roberts, Dr R. Gowland, Dr A. Millard, Dr J. Montgomery) The Department has a number of world-leading research staff interested in the analysis and interpretation of human remains in the archaeological record. Key areas of interest are disease, diet, demography mobility and human interactions with past environments.

#### European Prehistory

(Prof C. Scarre, Prof P. Rowley-Conwy, Dr J. Chapman, Dr M. Diaz-Andreu, Dr R. Skeates, Dr T. Moore) The Department's wide ranging expertise in European prehistory covers the Palaeolithic to the late Iron Age including the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze ages. Current fieldwork includes projects in various parts of Britain, Bulgaria, the Channel Islands, France, Malta and Ukraine.

#### Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval Europe

(Prof C. Gerrard, Dr S. Semple, Prof (Emeritus) R. Cramp, Dr G. Graves, Dr D. Petts, Dr M. Church, Dr C. Caple) The medieval period is one of our long-standing and internationally recognised research strengths. The Department is home to a range of major grant-funded projects including the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. Current field projects are running in North East England, Spain, Wales, and Scandinavia.

#### Roman Archaeology

(Prof R. Hingley, Dr A. Leone, Dr R. Witcher) Research staff in the Department take a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to the Roman period. Active research themes include historiography, landscapes, religion and integrated approaches to archaeological and historical evidence. The Department runs a field and training project at the nearby Roman fort and vicus at Bicester and staff are currently involved in field research in North Africa, mainland Italy, Sicily and northern Britain.

#### India, Near East, Egypt and South Asia

(Prof T. Wilkinson, Dr G. Philip, Prof R. Coningham, Dr D. Kennet, Dr P. Wilson) The Department has a wide range of geographical, methodological and chronological expertise covering the emergence of early complexity, through the development of empires, the history of Indian Ocean trade to the emergence of early medieval society. Current field projects are underway in Syria, Iran, India, Kuwait and Egypt.

#### Chronometry

(Prof I. Bailiff, Dr A. Millard, Dr M. Church) Departmental staff have expertise and research interests in methodological and theoretical development of dating techniques and the critical review of their application to, and implications for, archaeological problems.

#### History of Archaeology

(Dr M. Diaz-Andreu, Prof R. Hingley, Prof P. Rowley-Conwy, Dr P. Graves, Dr R. Witcher, Prof C. Gerrard and others) For details of expertise in this area see the 'History of Archaeology' research group described on the previous page.

#### Artefacts and Material Culture

(Prof C. Gerrard, Dr C. Caple, Prof C. Scarre, Dr J. Chapman, Dr P. Graves, Dr D. Kennet, Prof G. Philip and others) Staff have interests that embrace all aspects of research into artefacts and material culture, including conservation techniques, materials and manufacture, exchange and distribution and theoretical perspectives on valuation, consumption and fragmentation.

#### Environmental Archaeology

(Dr M. Church, Prof P. Rowley-Conwy) The Department has staff with specific research interests in human/environmental interaction, domestication and colonisation. Current field projects are underway in Atlantic Scotland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Scandinavia.

#### Biomolecular Archaeology

(Dr G. Larsen, Dr A. Millard, Dr J. Montgomery, Dr C. Roberts, Dr M. Church) Departmental staff have a range of expertise in the area of genetics, including ancient DNA, and the investigation of ancient diet and migration through stable isotope analysis. There are current projects focused on the Indian Ocean, infectious disease, and domestication on a global scale.

#### Landscape and GIS

(Prof T. Wilkinson, Prof G. Philip, Prof C. Scarre, Dr R. Witcher, Dr A. Leone, Dr S. Semple, Dr T. Moore, Dr P. Wilson and others) Departmental staff have research interests in the investigation of both environmental and ideational aspects of past landscapes through an active range of innovative field/research projects

designed to tackle cutting-edge issues within their respective research areas with projects underway in the UK, France, the North Atlantic Islands, southern Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Egypt, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. Chronologically, interests extend from early hunter gatherer landscapes through to the post-medieval period.

#### Conservation, Care of Museum Collections and Heritage Management

(Dr C. Caple, Dr R. Skeates) The Department has a number of staff with specific expertise and research interests in the theory and practice of conservation, museums and heritage management.

Research is well-supported by one of the best archaeology libraries in the UK. The University is also home to the Old Fulling Mill Museum of Archaeology which houses a range of archaeological collections.



#### RECENT THESIS TITLES

- “Settlement patterns, development and cultural change in the Northern Oman Peninsula”
- “Urbanisation and urban landscape: building medieval Bury St Edmunds”
- “Testing hypotheses about diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) using stable isotope and a DNA analysis of late medieval”
- “Beyond Functionalism: A Quantitative Survey and Semiotic Reading of Hadrian’s Wall”
- “The earlier Palaeolithic of Syria: Settlement history, technology and landscape-use in the Orontes and Euphrates Valleys”
- “Enamel hypoplasia in caprines: A marker of environmental and agricultural change”
- “Trinkets and Charms: The use, meaning and socio-cultural significance of dress accessories from two British border regions, c AD1300–1700”.

#### POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

Facilities include laboratories specialising in conservation, archaeological chemistry, GIS and informatics, luminescence dating, photography and imaging, human remains and environmental archaeology. We also have a pool of surveying equipment, including GPS, and geophysical survey equipment, including ground penetrating radar. Our Archaeological Services section has substantial excavation and surveying resources and expertise; it provides a source of part-time work for suitably experienced postgraduates.

There are opportunities for research students to become involved in departmental fieldwork or other research projects. We have an active programme of seminars run by our postgraduates, who also organise periodic research student workshops and conferences on a range of themes. We also aim to provide every research postgraduate with an individual desk when present in Durham.

Research is well-supported by one of the best archaeology libraries in the UK. The University is also home to the Old Fulling Mill Museum of Archaeology which houses a range of archaeological

material relating to the North East of England, including outstanding Roman collections and the Oriental Museum which has an excellent collection of material from the Middle and Far East and South Asia.

#### STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS

The Department of Archaeology at Durham is one of the leading centres for archaeological research in Britain. Our staff’s research interests cover not only British archaeology but extend overseas with special strengths in Europe and the North Atlantic, the Near East and South Asia. We also specialise in a range of areas of scientific archaeology, including human remains, environmental archaeology and the analysis and conservation of archaeological materials. Chronologically our research interests from the earliest hominids to the Post-Medieval period and from landscape archaeology to artefact studies, with particular strengths in theoretical archaeology.

#### TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- PhD: Normally a Masters degree in Archaeology or related subject and an Honours degree, usually 2:1 or higher, preferably in Archaeology, Anthropology or related fields; a GPA of 3.0 or above for North American candidates at First degree level
- MPhil: An Honours degree, usually 2:1 or higher, preferably in Archaeology, Anthropology or related fields; a GPA of 3.0 or above for North American candidates at First degree level
- MA or MSc: An Honours degree, usually 2:1 or higher, preferably in Archaeology, Anthropology or related fields; a GPA of 3.0 or above for North American candidates at First degree level.

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office. See details at [www.durham.ac.uk/international.office](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international.office)

#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department participates in the Arts and Humanities Research Council Block Grant Partnership and has an annual award of research postgraduate studentships through this programme (three for 2011–12). The Department has also had periodic studentships through the Natural Environment Research Council.

Department research students have also been funded by the University’s own Durham Doctoral Scholarships or Faculty Interdisciplinary Scholarships. Contributions towards the cost of fees can be provided through the Durham Academic Scholarships scheme. The Department also has access to named studentships such as the Isabel Fleck Fellowship and the Haycock Studentship; these are generally restricted to supporting research in particular periods or regions of the world. Funds for travel in connection with student research projects can be provided through the Rosemary Cramp Fund and Birley Bursaries.

Details of funding opportunities within the Department of Archaeology

and eligibility can be found at [www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology/postgraduate/financial\\_support](http://www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology/postgraduate/financial_support)

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at [www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search)

The Department is one of the largest in the country with around 30 academic teaching staff and another 12 post-doctoral researchers.

#### TAUGHT PROGRAMMES MA in Archaeology

The MA in Archaeology offers the opportunity to acquire and use critical research skills and to develop in-depth knowledge of specialist topics, with dedicated study strands for Prehistory, Roman Archaeology, Historic Archaeology, Rock Art, Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia and Egypt/India/Near East.

All students follow the Research and Study Skills module which provides



essential training in practical research techniques and analytical thinking. You will then pursue strand-specific research topics with the option to select one module from the wider Masters teaching portfolio. The culmination of the MA is a 20,000 word dissertation which allows you to develop your interests in a sustained piece of research under the guidance of a specialist supervisor. You are encouraged to participate fully in the research culture of the Department through seminars, conferences and fieldwork opportunities and to engage with the rich archaeological heritage of the North East region.

The MA in Archaeology can be studied on a full-time and part-time basis, and students may choose from six specialist strands:

- MA in Prehistory
- MA in Rock Art
- MA in Egypt/India/Near East
- MA in Roman Archaeology
- MA in Historic Archaeology
- MA in Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia.

The course is taught by lectures, seminars, practical classes, materials handling sessions, small-group teaching, field-trips, tutorials and self-guided learning.

#### **MA in Museum and Artefact Studies**

This unique course will provide you with high-quality training relevant to a career in museums, the cultural heritage sector and the academic world. It will equip you with a sound knowledge and critical understanding of current professional principles, practice and debates relating to museum and artefact studies. It also helps develop a variety of professional, analytical, research and communication skills.

Two distinct routes can be followed through the MA in Museum and Artefact Studies depending on the focus you would like to take. The first route is for students who firmly intend to pursue a career in museums and galleries; and the second is intended for students with a strong interest in artefact studies, who may wish to pursue a career in the cultural heritage sector or undertake further postgraduate research in museum or artefact studies.

#### **MA in Conservation of Archaeological and Museum Objects**

This internationally recognised course will provide you with in-depth training in the knowledge and skills relevant to a professional career in archaeological and museum object conservation.

Dedicated core modules covering aspects of conservation theory, professional practice and conservation skills will equip you with the knowledge, critical judgement and hands-on experience necessary for engagement with current conservation practice in the professional and research sectors.

Two distinct routes can be followed within the MA in Conservation of Archaeological and Museum Objects, depending on the focus you would like to take. The first route, which involves a nine-month industrial placement in year two, is firmly intended for those who wish to pursue a professional career in archaeological and museum object conservation. The second route which offers the option of an 18,000 word dissertation in year two, rather than an industrial placement, offers students interested in pursuing a research career in conservation the means to develop the critical evaluation and research skills necessary for further postgraduate research.

#### **MSc in Palaeopathology**

The MSc in Palaeopathology, established in 2000, is an internationally recognised and globally unique course providing a broad theoretical and practical

understanding of the health and welfare of our ancestors in cultural context and from a global perspective, but with particular reference to health today. A dedicated teaching laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, including digital radiography facilities, is provided for students on this course.

The course is delivered via lectures (including external lecturers), laboratory sessions, and seminars, with an emphasis on practical work. It is assessed through essays, practical tests, poster presentations, and assessments that test specific graduate skills. The compulsory taught modules are: Research and Study Skills in Archaeological Science, Identification and Analysis of the Normal Human Skeleton, Palaeopathology: theory and method, and Themes in Palaeopathology. They provide students with an excellent theoretical and practical background to prepare them for the world of work or a PhD. The dissertation (15,000 words) allows students to tackle self contained research projects which may be practically or literature based. Many students work on skeletal remains outside of Durham and Britain for their dissertations.

#### **MSc in Archaeological Science**

The MSc in Archaeological Science is designed to provide a broad theoretical and practical understanding of the current issues and techniques archaeologists use to investigate the human past. It focuses particularly on the organic remains of humans, animals and plants which are fast moving and exciting fields of archaeological research. Major global themes such as animal and plant domestication and human migration and diet will be explored integrating evidence from a range of sub-disciplines in environmental and biomolecular archaeology. Students taking this course will study and work in a range of environmental, DNA, isotope and dating laboratories alongside expert academic staff.

The course is delivered via lectures (including external lecturers), laboratory sessions, and seminars. It is assessed through a wide range of assignments including essays, practical tests, statistical and technical reports, poster presentations and non-technical articles. Students will take two compulsory taught modules: Research and Study Skills in Archaeological Science and Topics in Archaeological Science; and

two elective modules chosen from: Themes in Palaeopathology; Plants and People; Animals and People; Chronometry; Isotope and Molecular Archaeology; and Practical Guided Study. These modules will provide students with an excellent theoretical and practical background to prepare them for work in a laboratory, commercial archaeology unit or a PhD. The dissertation (15,000 words) allows students to undertake a defined laboratory or literature based research project in their field of interest.

#### **PART-TIME COURSES**

All our taught postgraduate courses are available as one year full-time or two year part-time programmes with the exception of the MA in the Conservation of Archaeological and Museum Objects which comprises a two year full-time and a four year part-time course.

#### **TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT COURSES**

- An Honours degree, usually 2:1 or higher, preferably in Archaeology, Anthropology or related fields; a GPA of 3.0 or above for North American candidates.



#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office. See details at [www.durham.ac.uk/international](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international)

#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAUGHT MASTERS STUDENTS

We hope to offer a number of departmental bursaries of up to £2,500 for entry in 2012, to off-set the cost of fees to home, European Union and overseas students on our taught Masters programmes.

The Department participates in the Arts and Humanities Research Council Block Grant Partnership and has an annual allocation of Research and Professional Preparation Studentships under this scheme.

#### CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Many of our postgraduates move into an academic career, either teaching or by taking up post-doctoral research positions in universities. Others join museums or national and regional heritage organisations. Some work in professional archaeology, in national or local planning departments, while others elect to use their analytical and presentation skills to gain positions in industry, commerce and government.

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit [www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology/postgraduate/employability](http://www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology/postgraduate/employability)

#### KEY INFORMATION

We currently have around 70 taught Masters students and 60 research postgraduates, with around 60 undergraduates in each year group. The Department is one of the largest in the country with around 30 academic teaching staff and another 12 post-doctoral researchers.

Name:

Jennie Bradbury

Home Country:

UK

Postgraduate Course:

PhD Archaeology

I first heard about the course when completing my undergraduate studies at Durham University, having become interested in Near Eastern archaeology during this time. I was impressed by the large number of Near Eastern archaeologists within the Department, as well as how approachable and encouraging the postgraduate students were.

As a postgraduate at Durham, especially one based in the Department of Archaeology, you come into contact with a huge range of different people who can really help you to develop your thinking and approach to the subject. I have had wonderful opportunities to travel, especially to Syria, to carry out my research. Over the course of my PhD I was able to be involved in conference organisation, as well as play a role in wider research groups which involve more than one department. These experiences have all been interesting and highly beneficial.

As well as gaining my PhD, by the end of my course I had gained new skills in computer software and teaching which are proving invaluable to my career development.

Having now completed my PhD I am currently working as a part-time Research Assistant within the Department of Archaeology. I was recently awarded a Pilot Scheme Grant by the Council for British Research in the Levant to carry out a field season in Syria during 2011/12. I am also currently applying for post-doctoral positions here in the UK, as well as research fellowships with archaeological institutes based in the Middle East.



## Contact details

For further information on research or taught degrees contact:

### Postgraduate Secretary

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