

Archaeology Modules for incoming Study Abroad students

LEVEL ONE

ARCH10010 EXPLORING ARCHAEOLOGY (Sem 1)

Archaeologists gain unique insights into the human condition by investigating the material remains from past societies, enabling new understandings of what it is to be a person in many different cultural contexts. This module provides you with an understanding of the fundamental archaeological principles, methods and techniques used to explore how people in the past created and inhabited worlds that were often very different from our own. We explore how archaeologists delved into the past – investigating how people lived, how they created and used objects, what they ate, what they looked like, and what happened at the end of their lives.

The module is taught by 11 lively and well-illustrated lectures, 6 small-group tutorials, one compulsory (and fun) class fieldtrip to archaeological sites in Dublin and one museum visit, all providing you with practical opportunities to investigate ancient landscapes, objects and materials. *Exploring Archaeology* is a useful module for international students from all fields and backgrounds.

ARCH10130: IRELAND: HERITAGE AND CULTURE (Sem 1)

This module is specifically designed for visiting students to Ireland; as such, the module aims to provide you with an insight into modern Irish society through an in-depth appraisal of its past history. This knowledge base will allow you to become more familiar, and, in turn, feel more at ease, with the society in which they now find themselves interacting on a daily basis.

The course introduces you to fundamental aspects of Irish archaeology, heritage, history and literature, from the first evidence of human activity on the island to the development of the socio-political frameworks which shape modern Ireland. We will examine the nature of the Irish landscape from the retreat of the glaciers to the impact of major historical events on modern society. The island has been subject to centuries of invasion, plantation and demographic upheaval leading to some interesting blends of cultural and ethnic influence. While the Irish have enjoyed, and endured, an eventful past, they maintain a distinct cultural identity which finds expression in language, literature, poetry and music. Irish poetry, so often an expression of the political zeitgeist, will be interwoven throughout the archaeological and historical explorations, with the works of Heaney, Yeats, Hartnett, Kavanagh and MacNeice all featuring.

At the end of the module you will have gained an invaluable understanding of Irish society and culture. This scholarly insight will contribute significantly to, and further enhance, both your academic studies and social interactions, while based at UCD.

Testimonials for ARCH10130:

"The syllabus of this module cannot cover everything you will learn. It is the perfect combination of Irish culture, history, landscapes and tradition, all with a pinch of archeology. The ideal way to get to know Ireland." Julie Naomi Lauseker Chamorro, Paraguayan - Universidad Nacional del Este (National University of the East).

"The module is a fun way to learn about the basic framework of Irish history and culture. The tutorials are a great way to explore some of the topics in more detail and to get to know your classmates"
Katinka Wilmink, Dutch - University of Groningen.

ARCH10160: THE HUMAN PAST (Sem 1)

This module introduces you to the archaeology of the prehistoric and historic world by examining key points in the development of ancient human societies. e.g. the emergence of Homo Sapiens, and its spread across all parts of the world, the development of agriculture and the transition from nomadic to settled societies, the invention of metalworking and other technologies, the emergence of early states and empires. Case studies are drawn from across the globe: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, China, Japan, India, and Europe to introduce a broad range of archaeological materials and artefacts (including some of the most famous). The course outlines some of the key ways in which archaeology contributes to our understanding of early human civilisations. This is a very suitable module for international students looking to develop their understanding of human diversity.

ARCH10050: Introduction to the Archaeology Ireland (Sem 2)

The spectacular archaeological heritage of Ireland indicates that people have been living on this island for at least 10,000 years. This module explores how Ireland's rich and diverse archaeological record of monuments, landscapes and objects tells the stories of those people and their ways of life from early hunter-gatherer times to the present. You will study the first settlement of the island, the establishment of farming and the building of monuments like Newgrange. We explore Ireland's place in the ancient world and the lasting impacts of the introduction of Christianity, monastic and secular life and society in medieval times and the emergence of modern Ireland.

This is a highly accessible module aimed at students studying a wide range of disciplines, in UCD and beyond. It provides you with a clear understanding of Ireland's past, the Irish landscape and key times of innovation and change. The module is organized as follows: (a) One highly-illustrated lecture each week presenting the story of Ireland from the Mesolithic to the present; (b) special case studies in a second lecture slot each week; (c) fortnightly tutorials to complement the lectures; and (d) directed visits to the National Museum of Ireland and the Irish National Heritage Park.

Previous students said these things about the module:

"I learned so much in this module, it was a joy attending lectures and tutorials. In fact the tutorials were the best I have had all year".

"A clear and comprehensive teaching style with extra talks from different expert speakers. Truly, a module which was packed full of wealth in terms of information and expertise."

"excellent teaching staff, amazingly organized learning and support material, brilliant fieldtrip"

"Lecturer was friendly and approachable, the tutorials were informative and the notes online aided my learning"

ARCH10150: ANTHROPOLOGY: an introduction (Sem 2)

This module provides you with an introduction to the discipline of anthropology - the study of humans and human diversity in the present and the past. Anthropology examines the diversity of human societies and cultures across space and time. Anthropology is an interdisciplinary subject, sometimes divided into 'four fields': cultural/social anthropology, physical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology. This module provides you with an overview of anthropology, with an especial focus on cultural/social anthropology. We examine how kinship, gift exchange and the household/home are understood in different societies and how they act to give shape to those societies. We explore different ways of understanding the world and how to make comparisons between these, and ask what it means to think anthropologically.

LEVEL TWO

ARCH20170 DISCOVERING IRELAND (both semesters)

Designed for students new to Ireland, this module shows you how the Irish landscape can be read as a document, which holds clues about Irish identity, ancient, medieval and modern. The module is focused on the cultural landscape as a key element of Irish heritage: you will engage with the Irish archaeological landscape to unlock knowledge about the societies that inhabited the island through the millennia. The module is based (not on classroom work but) on two directed fieldtrips and associated learning materials, because the best way to understand a landscape is to visit it, reading about it before and after experiencing it. Both fieldtrips take you to ancient and medieval landscapes within reach of Dublin by coach, that visitors to Ireland might not ordinarily encounter.

ARCH20600 Archaeological Science (Sem 1)

Or, as we like to call it, "CSI Investigates; scientific forensic approaches to ancient questions".

Archaeology is a subject that draws on a wide range of techniques and approaches from many other disciplines. In recent years, developments in scientific techniques have opened up exciting possibilities and allowed us to start approaching questions that even a few years ago would have seemed impossible. As an archaeologist, understanding what these approaches can bring to the table is an important part of the discipline.

Archaeological Science is developing at a fast pace from the use of DNA studies to infra-red investigations. Due to the rapid expansion of this area, we examine three current themes or case studies through the course of the module. These themes are dissected to show the way in which scientific methods and thinking have added to our understanding of the past.

Even if you have no scientific background you will learn how to appreciate and develop a scientific way of thinking and how it can be applied to archaeological research. The module will also help you to confidently read and critique publications, and media (with often humorous results), that rely on scientific research.

ARCH20510: Archaeology of Landscapes (Sem 1)

This module explores how archaeologists discover, investigate and interpret archaeological landscapes. Through lectures and workshops, it introduces you to the concept of landscape, and equips you with an understanding of the different methods for investigating the landscape in modern archaeological practice. This module also provides you with a grounding in theoretical approaches to landscape archaeology, incorporating examples from Ireland (drawing on recent discoveries at our most famous UNESCO World Heritage site in the Boyne Valley) but also incorporating comparative landscapes worldwide.

Using case studies, lectures are complemented by in-class discussion groups, and address themes including landscape archaeology theory and practice, use of cartographic sources, aerial photography, GIS, lidar, geophysical surveys and other remote sensing methods, environmental and the investigation of site-level and landscape-scale remains. The taught component of the module will be complemented by a fieldtrip and is expected to encompass significant reading around the subject by students.

ARCH20630 Archaeological Field Skills (Sem 1) ONLY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ON CD28/29

This module introduces you to the skills of Archaeological Fieldwork, obtained primarily through participation in a two-week training excavation held in the picturesque glacial valley of Glendalough in Co. Wicklow. Glendalough is an iconic Irish archaeological landscape: a spectacular monastic complex set in a stunning mountain landscape. The recovery of data in the field is central to archaeology - although not all archaeologists are fieldworkers - and a basic understanding of how this data is created through the craft of fieldwork is central to the discipline. Field skills include practical tasks, such as defining and excavating features, but also a wide range of recording and sampling processes: from archaeological survey through to filling context sheets and soil descriptions and laboratory analysis of samples. The latter are facilitated by a small number of follow-up sessions in the Archaeology laboratories during the Autumn Trimester.

Fieldwork is a fundamental community-building experience for archaeologists, and the Glendalough fieldschool a key part of the life of the UCD School of Archaeology. We are committed to running an excavation that is open for all, and any students with potential health or access concerns should discuss this with the module coordinator as soon as possible - we have always been able to tailor the programme to individual's needs.

ARCH20520 How Archaeologists Think (Sem 1)

The ways in which archaeologists think about the past matters every bit as much as what they find. This module introduces you to the ways in which archaeologists make sense of the past: the kinds of questions we ask, how we answer them, and why we ask these sorts of questions. The module introduces the key thinkers in archaeology from the nineteenth century to the present, examining how they developed and transformed the approaches of their predecessors. The module is a history of archaeological thought, placing developments in the theory and practice of archaeology into their social and economic context. You will be encouraged to participate actively in understanding how archaeological thought has changed over time.

ARCH20500 Archaeology of Things (Sem 2)

Archaeology is the discipline of things. This module explores how archaeologists think about material culture and things, and how they reconstruct how people made, used and discarded objects in the past. It provides you, through lectures and hands-on experience, with an understanding of how archaeologists work with things.

Lectures are complemented by practical handling sessions and a one-day workshop at the UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology & Material Culture (Saturday of Week 3). At the core of the module is a review of key artefact assemblages from prehistory through to the medieval period. While there is a general focus on Irish artefacts, these are compared with material from Britain and continental Europe. We explore topics such as object classification (typologies), the scientific analysis of archaeological materials, and the contribution of experimental archaeology. Alongside this, we examine the many different roles and functions that objects had in the past and how these often diverge from our modern views and practices. We explore concepts such as ownership and wealth, object deposition and discard, and the life-cycle of objects. In addition to an end-of-trimester exam and three in-trimester MCQs, you undertake an object-based project (due in Week 8) combining self-guided museum and literature research.

ARCH20620: People in Prehistory (Sem 2)

This module introduces you to the archaeology of prehistoric Europe from the Last Glacial Maximum (c 20,000 years ago) into the Iron Age. During this time period, people's relationships with each other and their material worlds changed as indicated by dramatic transitions & transformations in society relating to migration, exchange, subsistence, technology, monumentality & identity.

Following a broad chronological order, we will focus upon these key developments as themes within human societies across the European continent. We examine how these wider trends occurred at a more regional level through detailed case studies from NW Europe and the Mediterranean that draw upon the latest archaeological research. Through these case studies, we will address major issues and debates such as the adoption of agriculture (the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition), population mobility and cultural interaction, the appearance of metals and associated social changes; the changing roles of material culture in society and the rise of urban civilisations of the Mediterranean. The module also includes a fieldtrip to some of Ireland's less well-known sites, including megalithic monuments.

ARCH20610 Historical Archaeology (Sem 2)

This module explores the archaeology of the historically-documented past. It starts with the rise of Christianity in medieval Europe, passes through the eras of the Black Death, the discovery of the New World, and the Industrial Revolution, and ends with globalisation in the twenty-first century. Its case-studies are drawn from all corners of the world, mainly Ireland, Britain and the Americas. The module addresses specifically how the disciplines of Archaeology and History work together in helping us map and understand the development of the modern world.

