

Faculty of Life Sciences

Programme Specification

Programme title: BSc (Hons) Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology

Academic Year:	2019-20
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	<p>BSc (Honours) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6]</p> <p>BSc (Honours) with Professional Practice</p> <p>BSc (Ordinary) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6]</p> <p>Diploma of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 5]</p> <p>Certificate of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 4]</p>
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	<p>The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences [component standards: IEPE (Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence); Anth (Forensic Anthropology); Arch (Forensic Archaeology)]</p> <p>Chartered Institute for Archaeologists/University Archaeology UK</p>
Programme duration:	3 or 4 years
UCAS code:	F404 (3 years); F405 (4 years)
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Forensic Science (2012)
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	March 2019

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme,

students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Introduction

BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology focuses on the locating and recording of crime scenes, the excavation of buried remains and the analysis of materials recovered. It emphasises the application of science and the importance of quality assurance procedures in a forensic setting. A characteristic of the University of Bradford's approach is in the integration of practical skills training within a good theoretical framework – whether in terms of crime scene investigation, the collection, examination and interpretation of physical evidence, excavation of buried remains, understanding taphonomic processes and the analysis of human remains and other recovered artefacts. This programme of study provides the student with a sound knowledge of how scientific techniques can be used within forensic investigations, and allows students to explore a challenging area of applied science. The programme will develop the student into a professional with the scientific skills to work within areas such as crime scene investigation and related areas. BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology teaching is strongly research led with staff that both practice and publish in forensic and archaeological arenas.

Archaeological Sciences has an excellent research profile, which supports our teaching in all areas (70% of our 2014 school Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission was judged to be ‘internationally excellent’, including 34% which was judged to be ‘world leading’). Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills that will be useful in their future career. These include project and time management, critical review and analytical thinking, presentational skills, IT skills and the analysis and management of data. These will be taught, practised and assessed.

A large proportion of modules include the recording and analysis of materials from a variety of simulated crime scenes, making use of the Crime Scene facility and the Oxenhope Taphonomy Field Station. Archaeological Fieldwork takes place during the summer vacation between stages one and two and can provide students with the opportunity to take part in an excavation: recent field courses have taken place in Portugal, the Yorkshire Dales, Orkney and Slovenia.

BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology encompasses three key themes: forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and interpretation and evaluation of physical evidence. Each theme is addressed via one or more modules at each stage of the degree, some modules bridge the gap between themes (e.g. Forensic Archaeology and Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science at Stage 3). The range of topics within each theme and the depth of analysis required increases with each stage.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- deliver a varied and exciting programme of study in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology, that meets rigorous benchmarking standards developed by the Forensic Science Society and which reflects areas of staff expertise, for example in forensic anthropology, forensic taphonomy and crime scene investigation;

- encourage the development of independent learning skills, by providing a supportive, structured environment;
- develop wide subject knowledge and understanding, and provide training in subject discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in forensic anthropology, crime scene investigation or related practice;
- develop personal transferable skills to enable a significant proportion of graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in non-cognate fields;
- provide educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students, as well as for school-leavers and traditionally qualified students.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to:

- LO1 Recognise and describe human variation in the contexts of forensic identification and of evolutionary change.
- LO2 Describe archaeological methods of excavation and surveying.
- LO3 Recall a range of methods of forensic enquiry and recognise the importance of rigorous scientific process.
- LO4 Employ appropriate numerical and statistical techniques, scientific formulae and calculations.
- LO5 Manage time and learning effectively both independently and when working as part of a group.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

- LO6 Describe and evaluate methods of scientific investigation within a forensic context.
- LO7 Compare and apply methods of human identification and of other biological materials found within forensic contexts.
- LO8 Assess and apply a range of forensic and archaeological methods within different forensic contexts.
- LO9 Apply forensic examination techniques to a variety of physical evidence.
- LO10 Undertake critical thinking and data evaluation within a range of archaeological and forensic scenarios.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

- LO11 Summarise the concepts and key processes of taphonomic change, and evaluate how they can affect the interpretation of materials within a forensic context.
- LO12 Recognise the importance and function of quality assurance and employ it within archaeological and forensic contexts.
- LO13 Evaluate forensic recording protocols and defend a witness statement.
- LO14 Critically evaluate and select appropriate methods for human identification and trauma analysis based upon different forensic scenarios.
- LO15 Plan and undertake a substantial piece of independent research.
- LO16 Present written and oral evidence in a professional manner.

Curriculum

Stage 1

FHEQ Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester
4	ARC4018-B	Introduction to Archaeological Methods	Core	20	1
4	ARC4021-B	Biological Anthropology: From Human Evolution to Forensic Anthropology	Core	20	1
4	ARC4016-B	Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	Core	20	1 & 2
4	ARC4014-B	Independent Study for Forensic Scientists	Core	20	1 & 2
4	ARC4013-B	Scientific Frameworks	Core	20	2
4	ARC4022-B	Field Recording Skills	Core	20	2

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Stage 2

FHEQ Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester
5	ARC5024-B	Archaeological Fieldwork	Option	20	Vacation
5	ARC5006-B	Biometrics and Human Identification	Option	20	1
5	ARC5004-B	Laboratory Science	Core	20	1
5	ARC5020-B	Forensic Examination and Analysis of Physical Evidence	Core	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5017-B	Virtual Anatomy for forensic sciences	Option	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5022-B	Statistics and Databases for Forensic Scientists	Core	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5012-B	Human Remains and Environmental Evidence	Core	20	2
5		Relevant Elective module	Option	20	

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Placement or Study Abroad (4-year programme)

This programme provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Students wishing to take this option will be registered for the 4 year programme.

Students registered on the 4 year programme who successfully progress to stage 3 at the stage 2 board of examiners will be eligible to take the placement year or study abroad. Students who progress to stage 3 but have a referral in one or more modules will not normally be able to go on placement or study abroad, particularly if that referral requires attendance. In such cases students on the 4 year course should discuss options with the Placement Tutor.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Study Period	Module Code
5	Placement	Option	Between stages 2&3	ARC5013-Z
5	Study Abroad Experience	Option	Between stages 2&3	ARC5014-Z

On successful completion of ARC5013-Z, students will be eligible for the award of University Diploma in Professional Studies.

On successful completion of ARC5014-Z, students will be eligible for the award of University Diploma in Professional Studies (International).

Stage 3

FHEQ Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester
6	ARC6017-B	Forensic Archaeology	Core	20	1
6	ARC6011-B	Forensic Anthropology	Core	20	1
6	ARC6024-B	Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science	Core	20	1 & 2
6	ARC6025-B	Dissertation	Core	40	1 & 2
6	ARC6013-B	Forensic Taphonomy	Option	20	2
6	ARC6033-B	Biomolecular approaches to the study of human skeletal remains	Option	20	2
6		Relevant Elective module	Option	20	

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed 120 credits in both Level 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6 and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy takes into consideration the learning outcomes, progression through the levels of study, the nature of the subject and the student intake, and the need for students to take greater responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the programme. Formal lectures and the completion of a portfolio will facilitate students acquisition of knowledge and understanding (LO 1-3, 6-8, 11 & 14) and discipline specific professional skills (LO 7-10). Laboratory sessions run in conjunction with the theoretical components will give students the opportunity to enhance their understanding of particular topics. Field courses and simulated crime scenarios allow students to develop core scene-based skills (LO 6-9). These will also help to develop professional skills (LO 8, 9, 10 & 13) and personal transferable skills (LO 4, 5, 10, 15 & 16). Directed study, involving directed reading of appropriate texts and the preparation of assessed work, is used to develop all learning outcomes.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy is designed to support the learning outcomes of the BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology and to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the three themes: forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and interpretation and evaluation of physical evidence. A wide range of formative and summative assessment methods are used, including essays, worksheets, laboratory reports, reflective journals and examinations, to help students develop a wide range of subject specific, personal transferable and professional skills.

Assessments have been designed to allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of an individual module appropriate to their level of study and the learning outcomes of the programme.

At Stage 1, students will be examined, primarily, on their breadth of knowledge using a mixture of examination formats including short answer examinations, and laboratory tests (LO1-3). Essays and journal critiques allow to students explore the key themes of the degree and develop their critical awareness and writing skills (LO1-3). The field notebook, field report and reflective journal help develop students' field recording skills, self-awareness and their appreciation of key quality assurance skills required in a forensic setting (LO2-5). An expert witness report helps develop professional presentation skills. Group presentations and posters allow students to develop team working and presentation skills.

At Stage 2, examinations assess understanding and knowledge of the key subjects via short answer questions and essays (LO6-9). Essays and other coursework allow students to analyse and assess aspects all three themes of the degree (LO6-10). Practical portfolios and laboratory reports allow students to develop their practical skills and present methods and results in a professional manner (LO8-10). The reflective journal encourages students to document their archaeological skills and reflect on quality assurance in recording methods (LO6).

At Stage 3, essays, the journal critique and essay-based examinations provide a format to critically evaluate the key themes of the degree (LO11, 13 & 14). Practical portfolios and worksheets allow students to demonstrate their understanding of forensic anthropology and archaeological stratigraphy (LO11& 14). The research design and dissertation project develop students' ability to undertake independent research and plan this research effectively (LO15). Presentations, the witness statement and the mock court exercise develop students' professional oral and written presentation skills (LO16).

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The **minimum** entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be BBC 112 UCAS points (old tariff 280 points) to include one science A-level or the equivalent. GCSE English, Mathematics and a Science minimum grade C or 4.

The UCAS **tariff** applicable may vary and is published here:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/forensic-archaeology-and-anthropology-bsc/>

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
2	New module choices and amendments to some existing modules	
3	Post APR revisions; changes to dissertation options	
4	Minor changes following curriculum development for BSc Forensic Science and BSc Forensic & Medical Sciences	6 March 2018