

Programme Specification

Programme title: BSc (Hons) Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology

Academic Year:	2024-25
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):	<p>No QAA benchmark exists for Forensic Archaeology & Anthropology</p> <p>Mapped to Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences benchmarks</p>
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	March 2024

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 practise and publish in forensic and archaeological arenas.

Archaeological Sciences has an excellent research profile, which supports our teaching in all areas (78% of our 2021 school Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission was judged to be 'internationally excellent', including 25% which was judged to be 'world leading'). The school has also secured significant investment through CapCo, which has a trickle-down research impact to teaching activities. 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, presentation 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. The dedicated Biological Anthropology Research Center (BARC) is the hub of the osteology teaching programme where BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology students have the opportunity to work with archaeological human remains from their first year of study at Bradford. 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, Romania, 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:

- provide educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students, school-leavers, and traditionally qualified students.
- provide students with the opportunity to enhance their learning and professional awareness by applying their knowledge and understanding in employment through a sandwich placement year (4-year programme), or to study abroad (3 or 4-year programmes).
- deliver a programme of study in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology, that is designed to meet the rigorous benchmarking standards developed by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- provide a degree in forensic archaeology and anthropology with a distinctive profile, reflecting the professional and research expertise of staff within the School and thus giving it a unique Bradford identity.
- enable the student to become an autonomous learner and prepare the student for the lifelong learning skills required to be adaptable over the course of the student's career.
- encourage the development of independent learning skills, by providing a supportive, structured environment.
- develop students' ability to think critically and creatively and foster collaborative and group working skills.
- 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.

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 Ordinary 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.

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

- 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	ARC4014-B	Independent Study for Forensic Scientists	Core	20	1 & 2
4	ARC4016-B	Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	Core	20	1 & 2
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	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	ARC5035-B	Archaeological Practice	Option	20	NSYR
5	ARC5020-B	Forensic Examination and Analysis of Physical Evidence	Core	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5022-B	Statistics and Databases for Forensic Scientists	Core	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5017-B	Virtual Anatomy for forensic sciences	Option	20	1 & 2
5	ARC5004-B	Laboratory Science	Core	20	1
5	ARC5006-B	Biometrics and Human Identification	Option	20	1
5	ARC5031-B	Crime Scene Investigation	Option	20	1
5	ARC5030-B	Comparative Osteology	Core	20	2
5	ARC5032-B	Forensic Biology	Option	20	2

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	FLYR	ARC5013-Z
5	Study Abroad Experience	Option	FLYR	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	ARC6025-B	Dissertation	Core	40	1 & 2
6	ARC6024-B	Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science	Core	20	1 & 2
6	ARC6011-B	Forensic Anthropology	Core	20	1
6	ARC6017-B	Forensic Archaeology	Core	20	1
6	ARC6013-B	Forensic Taphonomy	Option	20	2
6	ARC6034-B	Recent Advances in the Analysis of Human Remains	Option	20	2

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 School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has developed its programmes around the principles of inclusivity and diversity, offering student choice and direction in learning, and development of autonomous skills. Our programmes integrate assessment for learning, in which learning sessions, assessment activities, intended outcomes and employability relevance are closely correlated and supported by formative feedback, aimed at student development.

Teaching on programmes across the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences incorporates innovative practice and technologies. We undergo regular formal review both by the University of Bradford and our professional accrediting bodies to assure high standards in our teaching quality and maintain relevancy in our subject material and professional context. Our teaching occurs on a foundation of trust and expectation; we expect and trust that students participate and engage with all learning and teaching activities, whether they occur on campus or online, and students can expect and trust that staff will create engaging and productive learning and teaching environments.

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 (LO 1&2, 7-9, 11&14). 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.

Student choice is further facilitated within the degree through optionality within some module assignments. This allows selection of topic and subject for coursework during certain modules, allowing diversity of focus in learning material, development of autonomous learning, and self-selection of degree focus.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy is designed to support the learning outcomes of the BSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology and to assess 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 demonstration of 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 students to 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 to develop field recording skills, self-awareness and the 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 you to develop team working and presentation skills.

At Stage 2, assessments address understanding and knowledge of the key subjects via short answer questions and essays (LO6-9). Essays and other coursework allow you to analyse and assess aspects of 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 you to document archaeological skills and reflect on quality assurance in recording methods (LO6).

At Stage 3, essays, the journal critique and essay-based assessments provide a format to critically evaluate the key themes of the degree (LO11, 13 & 14). Practical portfolios and worksheets allow you to demonstrate 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 your professional oral and written presentation skills (LO16).

Formalised formative assessment opportunities are available on a selection of modules across all stages of the degree, to offer informative feedback on specific assignments. Additionally, within our school learning and teaching philosophy, formative feedback encompasses much more, including: discussions during lectures, seminars and tutorials; during practical and laboratory activities; verbal comments after presentations; and many other situations throughout your degree. A key skill that you will develop during the degree is the ability to identify feedback beyond that given as written comments on submitted assignments; in fact, the most beneficial feedback you will receive is that given prior to assignments, allowing you to reflect and adapt, rather than just formal written feedback after assignments have been submitted and marked.

Assessment Regulations

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

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations>

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond. 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/>

Please note: This link provides admission information relevant to the current recruitment cycle and therefore may be different to when this document was originally published.

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)
1	Annual changes for 2021 academic year	June 2021
2	Annual changes for 2022 Academic year	March 2022
3	Annual changes for 2024 academic year	April 2024