

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Ancient History and Archaeology BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAANHA_C (Full-time 3 years) UBAANHAR_C (Part-time 4 years) UUBFANHA_C (Full-time 4 years with Foundation Year) UBFANHAR_C (Part-time 6 years with Foundation Year)
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	VV41; VV4C (with foundation year)
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE, Cert CE
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full time, 4 years part time; 4 years full-time with foundation year, 6 years part time with foundation year
9	Mode of Study (FT/PT/DL)	Full-time/Part time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Archaeology/Classics
14	Programme Rationale & Aims	<p>BA Ancient History and Archaeology:</p> <p>The BA Ancient History and Archaeology Degree, leading to the BA Honours Degree of the University of London, is a structured programme of taught courses, designed to develop historical and archaeological understanding and critical skills. The combination of Archaeology and Ancient History teaches students how to use a range of evidence, including textual and material remains, to explore the lives of people in the past. Study of these two related disciplines provides a rounded view of ancient Greek and Roman societies. Teaching includes lectures, seminars, and the opportunity of an archaeological field school.</p> <p>The main aims are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to enable students to develop and deepen their understanding of the conceptual and theoretical bases of the disciplines, methods of inquiry, materials and common interpretations;

	<p>2. to offer students the opportunity to develop and deepen their skills of critical evaluation and analysis; and</p> <p>3. to enable students to develop and extend their key skills as a foundation for personal development, employment or further academic study.</p> <p>4. (for the part-time programme) to enable mature students in full-time employment to undertake undergraduate study in Ancient History and Archaeology, in fulfilment of the mission of the College</p> <p>BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year: For the BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT of FT programmes. The curriculum for the ‘with foundation year’ programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme ‘with foundation year’ are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.</p>
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>BA Ancient History and Archaeology: Students will normally require BCC-BBB at A-Level (or the equivalent of 104-120 UCAS tariff points), one of which must be in Classical Civilisation, History, Ancient History, or Archaeology. Students who fail to achieve these grades in A-Levels may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.</p> <p>Birkbeck welcomes applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year: This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Ancient History and Archaeology but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
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16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Foundation Year: Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. <p>All modes of study: Students completing the BA Ancient History and Archaeology will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, concepts and approaches used in the disciplines to the analysis of archaeological and ancient historical topics 2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a variety of social changes within specific periods and areas of the past b. the nature of archaeological and ancient historical evidence, their problems and potentials in providing us with knowledge of the Classical past c. the shape of particular fields of archaeological theory and historiography of the classical past, including the factors which influence different interpretations of time and space 3. successfully completed an independent research project, in the form of a supervised dissertation, ideally making use of primary source materials/data 4. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities; and 5. developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral/visual/written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently, managing time effectively, and, where they have so chosen, using information technology.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subject being studied. Seminars mix tutor-led instruction with group discussion, depending on the attainment level. They allow students to explore issues in depth and there is an expectation that all students will participate actively by reading recommended texts in advance and offering questions and viewpoints to the group. Where students work in areas related to their course, their experiences enrich discussion. Both lectures and seminars are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key analytical skills. The BA Ancient History and Archaeology degree has been designed to guide and support students towards the attainment of the skills</p>

	<p>necessary to independent learning: by the end of their studies, students should be able to read critically, prioritise evidence, and present arguments coherently in written/visual/oral forms.</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment are regularly reviewed in the light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports and peer monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by e-mail. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed coursebook for each course gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes, and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organisation and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students during the year.</p> <p><i>Assessment Methods:</i> A mixture of essays, projects and unseen written examinations across the taught modules. In addition, students are required to complete zero-weighted essays and other assignments, which provide valuable formative feedback. Essays enable students to read around a particular facet of a subject in depth; examinations provide an opportunity to test students' grasp of a wide range of material within a reasonably short assessment procedure.</p> <p>Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The Department works closely with the Disability Office to enable all students to participate fully in our courses: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>The BA Ancient History and Archaeology programme consists of eleven modules.</p> <p>The Compulsory Modules</p> <p>There are three compulsory skills modules, one at level 4, one at level 5, and one at level 6. They aim to provide students with the essential tools for undertaking historical study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaching the past (level 4): the module introduces students to the different methodologies in relation to the past, it provides basic training in study skills, and familiarity with assessment methods. This is taught in year 1 for FT and PT students. • Exploring the past (level 5): provides an overview of the conceptual framework of historiographical discussion, and asks students to consolidate their learning on substantive modules by reflecting on specific historiographical issues. This is taught in year 2 for FT students and normally in year 3 for PT students. • Writing the Past: Dissertation (level 6). This is a 60 credit module (double-weighted) The dissertation is completed in the final year of study. It aims to demonstrate that the student is capable of independent study. Students develop their own dissertation topics and carry out their own research, in collaboration with a supervisor. Students must normally obtain a pass in the dissertation or project in order to graduate. <p>At level 4, students must also take <i>The Ancient World, Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room</i>, and <i>The Thames through Time: Birkbeck/Museum of London Archaeology Field School</i></p>
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Option modules:

- Level 4 modules (Year 1, and Part time students in Year 2) These introduce students to, broad time periods, a wide range of geographical issues, and essential themes. They are taught by a mixture of lecture and seminar. Full time students usually take one level 4 optional module. Part-time students usually take one optional Level 4 module in their second year. The modules are assessed by a combination of exams, essays, book reports, and source analysis.
- Level 5 modules (2nd year modules). These are more focussed modules. They develop in greater depth the themes established at level 4 modules. Full time students will take three optional level 5 modules in their second year. PT students will take two level 5 options in year 2 and one further in year 3. Level 5 modules are assessed by essays and examination.
- Level 6 modules (3rd year modules). These are highly focussed modules that are strongly research led. FT students will take two of these modules in their 3rd year of study. PT students will take one module in year 3 and one further module in year 4. These modules are assessed by essays and examination.

There are a large variety of modules on offer within the degree, and for further information see the department's website: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history>

BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year:

Students in the BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3 in the foundation year. There are four core modules:

1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City
2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge
3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP
4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy

Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year.

19	Programme Structure			
4 year part-time programme				
Year 1 - 90 credits at level 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds	30	Compulsory
Year 2 - 30 credits at level 4, 60 credits at level 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSHC525S4	The Thames through Time: Birkbeck/Museum of London Archaeology Field School	30	Compulsory
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option

Year of entry: 2021/22



Year 3 - 60 credits at level 5, 30 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
6		Option(Listed below)	30	Option
Year 4 - 90 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the Past: Dissertation (HCA)	60	Compulsory
6		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
3 year full-time programme				
Year 1 - 120 Credits at level 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC525S4	The Thames through Time: Birkbeck/Museum of London Archaeology Field School	30	Compulsory
Year 2 - 120 Credits at level 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
Year 3 - 120 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: Dissertation (HCA)*	60	Compulsory
6		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
6		Option (Listed below)	30	Option

BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years)				
FOUNDATION Year (0) -120 credits at level 3				
Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core

Year of entry: 2021/22



Year 1 - 120 Credits at level 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC525S4	The Thames through Time: Birkbeck/Museum of London Archaeology Field School	30	Compulsory

Year 2 - 120 Credits at level 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5		Option * (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option * (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option * (Listed below)	30	Option

Year 3 - 120 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: Dissertation (HCA)*	60	Compulsory
6		Option * (Listed below)	30	Option
6		Option * (Listed below)	30	Option

BA Ancient History and Archaeology with Foundation Year (Part-time 6 years)

FOUNDATION Year (0a) - 60 credits at level 3				
Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core

FOUNDATION Year (0b) - 60 credits at level 3				
Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core

Year 1 - 90 credits at level 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds	30	Compulsory

Year 2 - 30 credits at level 4, 60 credits at level 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSHC525S4	The Thames through Time: Birkbeck/Museum of London Archaeology Field School	30	Compulsory
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option

Year of entry: 2021/22



Year 3 - 60 credits at level 5, 30 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5		Option (Listed below)	30	Option
6		Option(Listed below)	30	Option
Year 4 - 90 credits at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the Past: Dissertation (HCA)	60	Compulsory
6		Option (Listed below)	30	Option

Indicative list of options

Options for Level 4 currently include:

SSHC429S4 Fieldschool: Buried Humanities 1

SSHC406S4 Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room

Options for Level 5 currently include:

SSHC264S5 Field School: Buried Humanities 2

SSHC461S5 Global connections in Greek and Roman archaeology

SSHC410S5 Journeys to the Underworld in Classical Literature and Culture

HICL190S5 From Ancient to Medieval Societies

SSHC437S5 Between God and Rome: The Byzantine Empire

Options for Level 6 currently include:

HICL184S6 The Athenian Empire

HICL203S6 The Empire of Letters: Correspondence in the Roman World

SSHC460S6 Archaeological Architectures

SSHC539S6 The Archaeology of Early Medieval Britain

SSHC540S6 Stories in Stuff: the medieval and early modern worlds in 20 texts and objects

20	Programme Director	Dr Tim Reynolds
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	September 2019
22	Date approved by TQEC	February 2018
23	Date approved by Academic Board	May 2018
24	Date(s) updated/amended	August 2020 for Autumn 2021