

Programme Specification

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| 1 | Awarding body | University of London |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Birkbeck College |
| 3 | Programme Title(s) | BA Archaeology and Geography BA Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year |
| 4 | Programme Code(s) | UUBAACGE_C (Full-time, 3 years) UBAARCGE_C (Part-time, 4 years) UUBFACGE_C..(Full-time with Foundation Year, 4 years) UBFARCGE_C (Part-time with Foundation Year, 6 years) |
| 5 | UCAS code (if applicable) | LV74; LV7G (with Foundation Year) |
| 6 | Home Department | History, Classics & Archaeology |
| 7 | Exit Award(s) | Dip HE, Cert HE |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | 3 years full time, 4 years part time; 4 years full-time with foundation year |
| 9 | Mode of Study | FT X PT X DL |
| 10 | Level of Award (FHEQ) | 6 |
| 11 | Other teaching depts or institution | Geography |
| 12 | Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details | N/A |
| 13 | <u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u> | Archaeology/Geography |

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| 14 | Programme Rationale & Aims |
| | <p>BA Archaeology and Geography:</p> <p>The BA Archaeology and Geography Degree, leading to the BA Honours Degree of the University of London, is a structured programme of taught courses, designed to develop historical and environmental understanding and critical skills. The combination of Archaeology and Geography teaches students how to use a range of evidence, including textual/material/environmental remains, to explore the lives of people in the past. Study of these two distinct but interrelated disciplines provides a rounded view of ancient societies on spatial and temporal terms. Teaching includes lectures, seminars, and 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; 2. to offer students the opportunity to develop and deepen their skills of critical evaluation and analysis; and |

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| | <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 Archaeology and Geography, in fulfilment of the mission of the College;</p> <p>BA Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year: For the BA Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree.</p> <p>The Foundation Year 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 programme. The final three years of the 'with foundation year' programme is the same as the 3-year full-time BA programme and students who successfully complete a four year degree programme with foundation year are awarded the same final degree title as students on the three year full-time and four-year part-time degree routes.</p> |
| 15 | <p>Entry Criteria</p> |
| | <p>BA Archaeology and Geography: UCAS tariff score: 104-120 points</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 Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year: This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Archaeology and Geography 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 64 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> |
| 16 | <p>Learning Outcomes</p> |
| | <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 |

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| | <p>3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines</p> <p>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> <p>All routes of study: Students completing the BA Archaeology and Geography 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 geographical topics 2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a variety of social and environmental changes within specific periods and areas of the past b) the nature of archaeological and geographical evidence, their problems and potentials in providing us with knowledge of the past and its landscapes (c) the shape of particular fields of archaeological and geographical theory, 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 (HCA) or Research Project (Geography), 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. |
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| 17 | <p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <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 Archaeology and Geography degree has been designed to guide and support students towards the attainment of the skills 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</p> |
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| | <p>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. The archaeological field school is assessed by means of a submitted descriptive report (level 4) and portfolio (level 5).</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.</p> |
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| 18 | <p>Programme Description</p> <p>Description The BA Archaeology and Geography programme consists of eleven modules (360 credits). Students will be required to undertake 20 days of archaeological fieldwork, part of which is provided via the field school module.</p> <p>The Compulsory Modules: There are five compulsory modules, four at level 4 and one at level 5. They aim to provide students with the essential tools for undertaking historical study. Students must also complete successfully a level 6 Final Year dissertation/project in either discipline.</p> <p>Level 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaching the past: 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. • Thames Through Time: a compulsory field school module • Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room: a compulsory skills module, assessed by exam and coursework. • Introduction to Spatial Thinking introduces students to the concepts and methods of digital mapping. <p>Level 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the past: 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. <p>Students must complete a 60-credit level 6 Final-Year project, EITHER Writing the Past: Dissertation OR Geography/Environment Research Project (GGPH073D6). Each of these modules aims to demonstrate that the student is capable of independent study. Students develop their own</p> |
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dissertation/project 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.

Note - *Year 1 consists entirely of compulsory modules for this degree. This sets a clear trajectory that is rooted in both Geography and HCA, and lets students on the degree have a presence in both Year 1 cohorts.

The study skills are positioned within HCA both because the BA programme will be located in HCA and also because students are more likely to have geographical study skills in place before starting the programme since they can take geography at A-level but not archaeology.*

Option modules

- 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> and <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/departments/geography>

BA Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year:

Students in the foundation year of the BA Archaeology and Geography 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 Archaeology and Geography Foundation Year (years one to three of the programme are the same as the 3-year full-time degree).

| 19 | Programme Structure | | | |
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| 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 | SSGE027S4 | Introduction to Spatial Thinking | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC525S4 | Thames through Time: Birkbeck/MOLA 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 | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 - 120 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | *Status |
| 6 | SSHC408D6/ GGPH0736 | Writing the Past: Dissertation/ Geography/Environment Research Project | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 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 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC525S4 | Thames through Time: Birkbeck/MOLA Field School | 30 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 - 30 credits at level 4, 60 credits at level 5 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | SSGE027S4 | Introduction to Spatial Thinking | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 - 60 credits at level 5, 30 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| 5 | SSHC407S5 | Exploring the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 4 - 90 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| 6 | SSHC408D6/ GGPH0736 | Writing the Past: Dissertation/ Geography/Environment Research Project | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |

| BA Archaeology and Geography with Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years) | | | | |
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| 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 1 - 120 Credits at level 4 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | HICL200S4 | Approaching the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSGE027S4 | Introduction to Spatial Thinking | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC525S4 | Thames through Time: Birkbeck/MOLA 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 | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 - 120 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | *Status |
| 6 | SSHC408D6/ GGPH0736 | Writing the Past: Dissertation/ Geography/Environment Research Project | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| BA Archaeology and Geography 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 | | | | |
| 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 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC525S4 | Thames through Time: Birkbeck/MOLA Field School | 30 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 - 30 credits at level 4, 60 credits at level 5 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | SSGE027S4 | Introduction to Spatial Thinking | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 - 60 credits at level 5, 30 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| 5 | SSHC407S5 | Exploring the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 4 - 90 credits at level 6 | | | | |
| 6 | SSHC408D6/ GGPH0736 | Writing the Past: Dissertation/ Geography/Environment Research Project | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Option | 30 | Option |

Indicative Options for Level 5 include:

SSHC435S5: Beginnings: The Archaeology of Prehistory
 GGPH071S5 Environmental Processes

Indicative Options for Level 6 include:

SSHC515S6 A sense of space: travellers and maps in the pre-modern world
 SSHC517S6 Archaeological Landscapes
 SSGE094S6 Advanced Applications of GIS
 SSGE067S6 Landscape Change: Past and Future (1)
 SSGE096S6 Living with Climate Change
 GGPH036S6 Principles of Geographic Information Systems Level 6
 SSHC362S6 The Archaeology of Human Evolution
 SSHC539S6 The Archaeology of Early Medieval Britain
 SSHC521S6 The Viking Impact, c 750-1100

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module.

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| 24 | Programme Director | Lesley McFadyen |
| 25 | Start Date (<i>term/year</i>) | September 2018 |
| 26 | Date approved by TQEC | Summer 2017 |
| 27 | Date approved by Academic Board | Summer 2017 |
| 28 | Date(s) updated/amended | 22 February 2021 (for 2021/22) |