

Archaeology

...the career you've been looking for?

HOW DO I GET INTO ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology can be a really rewarding and varied career. The skills you learn in archaeology can take you to lots of exciting places!

Volunteering

Not sure whether archaeology is for you? Try volunteering: you get real hands-on experience and a chance to try out different roles.

Volunteering on archaeological fieldwork projects is a great way to learn a variety of skills, and try out different techniques such as geophysics, landscape survey and excavation. You can find a project near you, or join a dig abroad. But if digging isn't your thing, don't worry! There are plenty of opportunities to gain experience working with historic buildings or archaeological artefacts - try your local museum, heritage group or organisation or contact the CBA or one of its regional groups.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship lets you work while you learn - and because apprenticeships are government funded, you don't pay for your studies! Apprenticeships can start at any point from school leaving onwards.

With an apprenticeship, you can become a skilled worker, doing archaeology on site or in a lab, and develop specialist knowledge in a particular area.

“What is great about apprenticeships is that they are suitable for all kinds of people at different stages of their career, because apprenticeships combine practical work based learning, with more formal education; and they are available at different educational levels.”

**Phil Pollard
Heritage Apprenticeships Manager
at Historic England**





Degrees

There are a huge range of archaeology degrees on offer so you can choose a course that suits your interests and strengths. If you are interested in history and public outreach, consider a BA, or if you prefer science and lab work, look for an archaeology BSc.

“University at its core is about learning to learn. Things don’t stay the same. Getting those skills of how to approach a new technology or a new skill set, or a new knowledge set, how to take it apart and how to develop them, that’s what university is going to teach you and that’s why it’s important.”

Dr Penny Bickle
Senior lecturer, University of York

If you’re keen for a career in the field, look for degrees accredited by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. These courses are specifically designed to help you gain the practical skills and experience you need for a career as a field archaeologist.

Links & Resources

If you’re interested in fieldwork and want to try digging up pieces of the past, here are the best places to look:

- **The CBA** has an online Fieldwork and Conferences List with details of excavation and fieldwork opportunities around the UK <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/field-work-and-conferences/>
- **British Archaeological Jobs and Resources** (BAJR) advertises employment opportunities and sometimes offer fieldwork placements. <http://www.bajr.org/>
- **Past Horizons** lists excavations both in the UK and overseas <http://www.pasthorizons.com/worldprojects/>
- **University Archaeology UK** (UAUK) has information about different archaeology courses and departments <https://www.universityarchaeology.co.uk>
- **Historic England** has information about the Trailblazer apprenticeships in archaeology and heritage at historicengland.org.uk/hea
- **Chartered Institute for Archaeologists** (CIfA) have lots of great information for professionals, including a list of accredited university degrees. https://www.archaeologists.net/Accredited_Degrees

Find out more with our YouTube channel careers series at:

www.bit.ly/CBAcareersvids

Council for
British Archaeology

www.archaeologyuk.org



ROYAL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

www.royalarchinst.org