We address the big questions about our past that can only be answered through studying Archaeology.
“I was attracted to York because of the history of the place. Now I am here I am thoroughly enjoying the teaching and support from the staff who are so enthusiastic and make Archaeology really inspiring.”

Grace
BA Archaeology
3rd year
Archaeology is the study of the human past. It addresses big questions about our past that cannot be answered in other ways.

As archaeologists we are interested in all aspects of the people of the past, from their diets to their beliefs, the clothes and jewellery they wore, the tools and cooking pots they used, the houses they lived in and the ways they commemorated their dead. Many of our ideas about who we are and where we belong are formed with reference to the past which means Archaeology is also about the future.

At York, we are proud to be at the forefront of archaeological research and teaching. Our range of interests and expertise covers human history from prehistory to the present. In recognition of our leading role as a centre of excellence and innovation in teaching and research, our Department was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize in 2011. The Department is ranked in the top ten of the university league tables and has consistently been number one in the National Student Survey, with scores of 97 per cent for student satisfaction.

As a place to study, you will find nowhere better than York, with the city’s rich heritage and archaeology including remains and buildings from the Roman, Viking, Georgian and Victorian periods. Our strong links with historic museums, visitor attractions, archaeological resources and professional expertise will enable you to make the most of your stay here.

As part of your first year of study at York, you will participate in a field-based archaeological dig or heritage project, either in the city or at one of the many world-renowned historic sites in Yorkshire.

Whichever archaeology degree you choose at York, you will find it is broad-based, covering humanities, sciences and social sciences. During your degree you will acquire a range of transferable skills which are highly valued by employers within and beyond the heritage sector. Our teaching staff are friendly, approachable and down-to-earth, and within our Department there is a very strong sense of community.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department and in the meantime please get in touch if we can help in any way.

Dr John Schofield, Head of Department

Roman enamelled brooch found on a dig at Heslington East, site of the University’s campus expansion
TEN REASONS TO STUDY ARCHAEOLOGY AT YORK

● We are recognised as a vibrant research community and a centre of teaching excellence, and we were awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for this in 2011.

● York is the UK’s archaeological capital with historic buildings and significant remains from the Roman, Viking and Medieval periods.

● We are a top ten Archaeology department, ranked seventh in The Times University Guide 2012 and ninth in The Complete University Guide 2012.

● We have outstanding student satisfaction scores, and were ranked number one in the National Student Survey in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, with 97 per cent overall student satisfaction.

● There are plenty of chances for you to participate in field-based projects on campus, in York and the surrounding area as part of your first year of study.

● You will become part of our friendly community, which is based at the King’s Manor, a beautiful medieval building in the centre of the city of York.

● The architectural heritage of the York region makes it one of the best possible places to develop your professional skills and research potential in the archaeology and conservation of buildings.

● Our friendly, down-to-earth and approachable teaching staff will help you get the most out of your archaeology degree and pursue your chosen career.

● The city of York offers a wealth of resources and professional expertise, such as the York Archaeological Trust, the Council for British Archaeology, English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

● You will develop a range of transferable skills which are highly valued by employers, opening the door to a wide variety of occupations both within and beyond the heritage industry.

“I always found the staff particularly approachable and very encouraging. Though extremely busy, they always found time for that bit of extra guidance. Maybe it’s an archaeology thing, but they were also blessed with a sense of humour!”

David Roberts
BA Archaeology 2010
HOW DO PAST EVENTS AFFECT THE FUTURE?

Students at the King’s Manor, the home of the Department of Archaeology. The King’s Manor is a medieval building in the centre of the historic city of York, located between York Minster and the Yorkshire Museum.
York is one of Europe’s most fascinating historic cities. It has provided the backdrop to major political events throughout its two millennia of existence and is regarded as among the best cities in the UK in which to study and work as an archaeologist or heritage professional.

The city was founded by the Romans in 71 AD, as ‘Eboracum’. Following the Roman retreat, York, or ‘Eoforwic’ became a centre for Anglo-Saxon culture and learning. By the ninth century ‘Jorvik’ was a flourishing centre of Anglo-Scandinavian trade, and the city continued to prosper throughout the medieval period, as the centre of power for medieval kings and archbishops.

As a student at York, you will have access to some of the world’s best-preserved below-ground archaeology, revealed by important excavations of the 20th and 21st centuries, at sites such as Coppergate and Hungate. You will have the opportunity to work with York’s stunning above-ground archaeology, including historic remains and buildings from the Roman, Viking, Georgian and Victorian periods as well as the iconic York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. In addition to the city, the region boasts some of the finest medieval cathedrals, parish churches and country houses, on which staff and students also carry out cutting-edge research.

A number of archaeological units, museums, archives and heritage bodies are based in York, including the Council for British Archaeology, English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service. The city is also home to popular archaeological and historic tourist attractions such as the Jorvik Viking Centre, Dig and the Bar Walls. Being in York will open up volunteering, training and employment opportunities for you across the heritage sector.

The Department of Archaeology is based at the King’s Manor, a medieval building in the centre of York and a focus of royal power in the 16th and 17th centuries, as headquarters of the Council for the North. It is only a stone’s throw from York Minster and a short trip from the University campus at Heslington.

“Being in such an historically important city is very inspiring and being able to study such amazing buildings as the Minster is hugely motivating. The staff are so approachable and friendly. I am loving studying Archaeology here in York.”

Katy
BA Archaeology
3rd year

“It is really great to go outside and get your hands dirty doing some real archaeology and exploring the historical sites in York and Yorkshire.”

James
BA Historical Archaeology
1st year

University of York
York has England’s best preserved and longest city walls and beneath the medieval stonework lie the remains of earlier walls dating back to the Roman period.

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF OUR HISTORY?
SKILLS FOR LIFE

Archaeology is an excellent subject for acquiring transferable skills which are highly valued by employers, regardless of your eventual career. Beyond what Archaeology teaches you about the past and its significance in the present, all of our degrees allow you to develop skills in the arts and humanities, social sciences and hard sciences alike.

A degree in Archaeology provides you with the subject knowledge required to pursue a career in the heritage industry. Our graduates are well represented in many organisations concerned with archaeology and heritage in the UK, such as English Heritage, Historic Scotland, the National Trust, York Archaeological Trust, National Parks and the Oxford Archaeology Unit.

Through studying Archaeology you will also gain other valuable skills, such as how to communicate your ideas effectively, carry out independent research, give professional presentations and think critically. You will also gain extensive experience in IT, teamwork, leadership and project management.

Career opportunities
As well as the heritage sector, our graduates have gone on to pursue a wide variety of careers including:

- Local government and development (planning and consultancy)
- Chartered surveying, land and environmental management
- Teaching and education
- Civil service, law and police authorities
- Accountancy and financial services
- Computing and IT services
- Business and administration
- Marketing and public relations.

Further study and research
Many of our students go on to further academic education, some studying for a masters degree to focus on more specific areas of archaeology and others taking a postgraduate certificate or diploma in teaching, law or other professional training. Some go on to take PhD degrees and continue on to a career in research and higher education.

We take the future of all our graduates very seriously. Throughout your degree you will receive careers advice and training, and be provided with a range of volunteering opportunities, workshops and one-to-one advice about seeking and finding employment when you graduate.
“After leaving York, I undertook a variety of jobs, from supervising the Manpower Services team at Sutton Hoo, to working with the Museum of London, before joining Oxford Archaeology. Working for a large organisation such as OA, and helped by an MSc in Historic Conservation from Oxford Brookes, has allowed me to rise from digger, through the ranks, to run what we call the Heritage Management Services Department. This department specialises in desk-based assessments, environmental impact assessments, historic landscape surveys and various large-scale research projects, including a number in my own particular area of interest, the damage from arable agriculture to archaeology, and how this can be minimised. Since my time at York I have also been fortunate to work in Lapland, Peru, Ethiopia and Turkmenistan for various universities. I never really thought I’d still be in archaeology after 20 years, but having obtained not just a degree, but one from the highly respected Department of Archaeology at York, I always found it opened many unexpected doors, for which I shall always be grateful.”

**Klara Spandl**
*Head of Heritage Management Services*  
*Oxford Archaeology*  
*BA Archaeology 1987*

"If there is anywhere in the country that you would want to study Archaeology it is York. The course gave me brilliant teaching in a stunning location – what more could you ask for?

I have just been called to the Bar by Lincoln’s Inn and will start pupillage in Chambers as a Barrister. The analytical approach to research and the logical approach to report writing were invaluable skills learnt while studying at York. However, most significant and particularly enjoyable was the opportunity to present reports and findings both in seminars and in lectures.

My Archaeology degree from York made me stand out from the crowd. I had an amazing three years that provided me with the skills and opportunities to achieve the dream job.”

**Felicity Hemlin**, Pupil Barrister at  
*Park Court Chambers, Leeds*  
*BA Archaeology 2009*

“Working in the heritage industry, I have been able to apply much of what I learnt in my Archaeology degree at York. Being taught to learn independently and to present myself positively has also been a huge benefit.”

**Rebecca Morris**  
*Finds Liaison Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme, York Museums Trust*  
*BA Archaeology 2009*

“The mix of analytical science and anthropological and theoretical elements develop your ability to do everything from making sense of complex statistics to giving lectures to your peers and professors. The presentation, communication, teamwork and essay skills I learnt I use every day and are key to my career. My other friends from the course work in areas as diverse as heritage, law, planning and accountancy. This is testament to how well this degree equips you for professional life.”

**Tom Otter**, Commercial Litigation  
*Stewarts Law LLP, London*  
*BA Archaeology 2007*
Archaeology is the study of the whole of the human past, from the earliest hominids to the 21st century. Archaeologists seek to understand past societies and their cultures, economics, beliefs and behaviour through the study of surviving material – the everyday ‘stuff’ left behind by people in the past.

We might consider long-term trends, like the evolution of humanity and the history of the environment, or conduct smaller scale work on a specific site or landscape, or on certain types of artefacts or buildings. We also like to think about broader conceptual questions, such as notions of identity, power and change in human societies, or technology, trade, artistic development, gender relationships and ideology. Whatever your background, if you have an interest in the past and the people who lived in it, archaeology is a great way to explore it.

Archaeologists use a wide range of material evidence to explore the issues that interest them. These can include artefacts such as tools and implements, weapons, pottery and personal adornments, as well as art and documentary sources, and architecture from both excavated and standing buildings. However, archaeologists are also interested in the intangible heritage of cultural traditions, dialects and oral histories of past and contemporary societies. Archaeologists use a range of methods to analyse human, plant and animal remains. These include topographical survey, geophysics, excavation, buildings recording, scientific techniques such as the analysis of DNA and isotopes, and archive sources such as maps and documents, for historical research.

Our research and the questions we ask overlap with many other subjects in both the sciences and the humanities, including history, art, economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, chemistry, biology, geology, geography and even literature. These approaches make archaeology inherently interdisciplinary. But archaeology is also unique, given its focus on material remains and what they can tell us about the human past.

**Broadening your outlook**

Studying archaeology gives you a broad view of people and societies, and a rigorous training in evaluating evidence and ideas. It encourages the development of creative and critical thinking, verbal and written communication, and a wealth of practical and managerial skills. It is a complex subject, and it is challenging, intriguing, satisfying and hugely enjoyable.
WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE PAST?

Our students can study the legacy of human activity by surveying buildings and landscapes using a wide range of equipment, such as this theodolite.
At York, we offer five undergraduate degree programmes. All of them share a common first year. This introduces you to the wide range of periods and places studied by archaeologists and to a variety of archaeological methods and theories. During your first year, this includes:
- the history of archaeology
- the methods and approaches used by archaeologists
- an introduction to archaeological science
- the sites, evidence and materials we study in archaeology.

The Summer Term is mainly taken up with excavation and survey work, or a heritage project, near York.

After the first year you begin to specialise, selecting options from a range of modules depending on your chosen degree.

### BA Archaeology
The BA in Archaeology allows you to explore the past and its people from a primarily humanities–based perspective, although all of our degree courses involve learning skills and techniques in both the sciences and the humanities. The BA in Archaeology offers you the widest range of module options to choose from, and you can follow your interests in any time period.

### BSc Archaeology
The BSc in Archaeology emphasises scientific approaches to questions about the human past. It allows you to explore the past and its people from a primarily science–based perspective. It introduces students to a range of scientific techniques including paleo–environmental and geomorphological analysis to reconstruct past environments and explore issues such as climate change, the use of natural resources and our relationship with the world. Like the BA, the BSc offers you a wide range of module options, and allows you to follow your interests across different time periods.

### BA Historical Archaeology
Historical archaeology explores the material remains of periods of history for which texts and documents also survive, from ancient cultures like the Egyptians and Romans right through to the 21st century. Historical Archaeology responds to the increasing demand and interest within the profession and the wider public for an understanding of our more recent past. It trains students in analysing material culture as well as the historical sources from the past. If you are wondering about studying history, but want to do something different and challenging which will make you stand out from the crowd, think about taking a degree in historical archaeology.

### BSc Bioarchaeology
The BSc in Bioarchaeology is a relatively new degree course, and one that is growing rapidly in popularity as the biosciences bring more exciting discoveries to archaeology. There are new developments happening in biological archaeology all the time, and at York we have a big team working on different areas of bioarchaeological research and answering important archaeological questions. Our expertise includes human and animal bones, shells, plant remains, pottery residues and biomolecular analysis including isotopes, ancient DNA, proteins and lipids. Students studying bioarchaeology at York have the opportunity to explore these subjects in the specialist bioarchaeology laboratories on campus.

### BA Heritage Studies
York has successfully taught heritage studies to masters students and we now offer an undergraduate degree programme as the basis for careers within the heritage sector as well as other career choices and for further study. Cultural heritage includes legacies of past human activity, with a particular focus on those which have persisted into the present. These can be physical things like buildings and archaeological sites, artefacts and landscapes, and the way in which the past is presented displays.

For more information on our degree courses and the modules you may wish to study please see: [www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/undergraduates](http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/undergraduates).

### OUR DEGREE COURSES

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Entry requirements

We welcome all enquiries from potential undergraduates.

Offers may be made following assessment of all aspects of a candidate’s UCAS application, including past academic performance, predicted grades, your reference and a personal statement which demonstrates a clear enthusiasm for and commitment to Archaeology through independent study, excavation experience or involvement with local museums and heritage organisations.

We welcome applications from students with other qualifications, as well as mature and overseas students.

We meet students at University Open Days, and applicants to whom we have offered places are also encouraged to attend one of the departmental visit days during the Spring Term. Dates can be found on our website at www.york.ac.uk/archaeology.

The University of York wants to ensure that no-one who has the potential to study here is put off from applying because of costs. Information about fees and financial support is available on our website at www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding.

We are happy to answer any queries that you may have, so please feel free to email or phone us and we will get back to you.

For more information about our available courses, visit days, entry requirements and contact details of the admissions tutor and the Department, please contact:

- Tel: +44 (0)1904 433901
- Email: archaeology@york.ac.uk
- Website: www.york.ac.uk/archaeology

“Seminars are always enjoyable and a great medium for exploring topics. I also think that the Department's handling of theory in the first year provides a very secure foundation for later study.”

Jamal
BA Historical Archaeology
1st year

“York is really friendly and relaxed, I instantly felt comfortable here. It’s also great to be doing Archaeology with amazing Viking and Roman history right at your fingertips!”

Becky
BA Historical Archaeology
1st year
At York we pride ourselves on the fact that the Department provides a supportive, friendly, enthusiastic atmosphere, which encourages our students to have confidence in themselves and achieve their potential.

Approachability is one of the distinctive qualities of the staff at York, and we believe that treating students as adults, in a relaxed but professional setting, is an important part of the educational experience that we offer.

Our staff know all our students individually and encourage them to make the most of their time at York.

We use a range of teaching methods which allows students to learn in different ways. These include formal lectures, small-group seminars, fieldwork and practical and hands-on sessions, feedback tutorials and personal supervision.

We also use a wide range of assessment methods to allow our students to capitalise on their individual strengths. These include both open and closed exams, essays, group projects, assessed seminars and lectures, and a dissertation.

The King’s Manor has a vibrant academic and thriving student community. Facilities include teaching rooms, practical and conservation laboratories, and a library. Our purpose-built Bioarchaeology labs are situated on the Heslington campus, near the main library and other University resources, including the Borthwick Institute for Archives.

The King’s Manor also has a student common room, refectory and a library, and dedicated computer and artefact laboratories.

“At York, we develop close relationships with students during their three years with us. The result of this is that we see our students growing up, becoming more confident, and more aware of the world around them. They leave us better prepared not just for working in the 21st century, but also for living in it.”

Dr Steve Ashby

“The best thing about the Department at York is the people. The staff are really enthusiastic and friendly. The students are motivated and can be relied on to get excited about the courses they’re studying. This makes them fun to teach!”

Dr Stephanie Wynne-Jones

“York is such a lovely city to work in, particularly for archaeologists because there are so many other archaeologists around. The presence in York of the Council for British Archaeology (which includes the Young Archaeologists Club), York Archaeological Trust and various museums and agencies, means that there are all sorts of possibilities for doing interesting projects together.”

Dr Nicky Milner
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR PAST?

York’s rich archaeological past and strong links with historic resources provide a wonderful backdrop for the study of archaeology.
EXPERIENCE ARCHAEOLOGY – IN YORK, YORKSHIRE AND ABROAD

We encourage students to experience the internationally significant archaeological sites within the region, through fieldtrips and site visits.

York archaeology students have access to an unrivalled array of significant archaeological and historical sites, buildings and monuments. Throughout your three years, you will be introduced to the heritage of the region through fieldtrips to historic sites, monuments and museums. In the Summer Term of your first year you will undertake excavation and survey work or conduct a heritage project in the city or near York.

Over the next few years the Department will be working on the internationally significant Mesolithic site of Star Carr. The site has featured prominently in the media for its exceptional preservation of evidence for hunter-gatherer communities, but is currently under threat from changing environmental conditions. Work carried out by students here feeds directly into the presentation and interpretation of this major tourist attraction by the Harewood Trust.

Study abroad and other opportunities
Undergraduates are also able to get involved with research on a range of other sites during vacations and as part of research projects. These include multi-period landscape projects in the Mediterranean and East Africa, Roman research on the city of York as well as Anglo-Saxon fieldwork at Torksey, carried out in conjunction with the British Museum, and other collaborations on Viking artefacts with the Yorkshire Museum.

Students are also encouraged to consider applying for a place on either the Erasmus or worldwide exchange programmes which provide the opportunity to spend up to a year studying at a partner university. They may also be interested in the range of other international opportunities offered under the Global York programme such as volunteering projects and summer schools carried out by our staff and postgraduates.
Students are able to get involved with the Department’s archaeological digs such as the one at Star Carr, Yorkshire, where Dr Nicky Milner has uncovered the remains of an 11,000 year old tree and evidence of Britain’s oldest house.
WHY CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK?

In less than 50 years, York has powered its way to become one of the top ten universities in the UK – performing equally well on teaching and research quality measures – and is ranked in the top 100 universities in the world. York was named University of the Year in 2010 by Times Higher Education, the global authority on higher education performance.

The main campus is at Heslington on the edge of the historic city of York, where our colleges are set in an attractive lakeside setting. It is compact, easy to get around, and has a safe, friendly atmosphere.

As an archaeology student you will study at the King’s Manor in the heart of the city, only a short trip away. The King’s Manor has a unique learning and social environment and a close community of students.

We offer you:
- A very high-quality academic experience
- A commitment to enhancing your employability
- A strong reputation for student support
- A welcoming college system
- 24/7 student welfare support
- Affordable and plentiful accommodation
- A lively and stimulating environment
- A beautiful location in one of Europe’s finest cities... with easy access from anywhere.

For further information about the student life on campus visit www.york.ac.uk/study/student-life.

“York is one of the most beautiful places to study. In Archaeology there are small intimate groups and so you form really close friendships. Being at the King’s Manor is great because you are right in the heart of York, and the Heslington campus, with all that it has to offer, is only a short trip away.”

Annabel
BA Archaeology
3rd year
The University campus at Heslington is set in attractive landscaped parkland on the edge of York.
Join the world-leading Department of Archaeology at the University of York. With impressive credentials and a supportive atmosphere, our Department will provide you with a myriad of opportunities to develop your knowledge of archaeology and equip you with skills highly valued by potential employers.

For full details of all the courses available and information about the Department, please see our website at www.york.ac.uk/archaeology or the undergraduate prospectus at www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/prospectus.

Khadija, BA Archaeology 3rd year, working on an excavation of a 15th-century Swahili stonetown at Songo Mnara, Tanzania

Contact details
Dr Aleks McClain, Admissions Tutor
Tel: +44 (0)1904 323901
Email: archaeology@york.ac.uk
Web: www.york.ac.uk/archaeology

Photographs by Ian Martindale, Iconphotomedia, Guzelian Photography

The University of York