

What is Archaeology ?

Archaeology is the study of past human life and culture through the material remains that people left behind. It is an exciting subject that investigates important developments in the human story over millions of years. Archaeology has long captured the popular imagination through the discovery of famous artifacts and sites. Archaeologists are like detectives of the past, using a range of scientific methods in pursuit of material evidence and environmental records about our origins. The purpose of Archaeology is to learn more about past societies and the way they developed over time. It is also about understanding the role of the past in the present, and the contribution that our physical heritage can make to our own society.



Archaeology at University College Cork

The Department of Archaeology was established at University College Cork in 1909 and has a long and proud tradition of teaching and research. Students who study Archaeology at UCC will be introduced to the theories and methods of this discipline, commencing at an introductory level with no prior knowledge or subjects required. Students will gain an appreciation of the archaeology of Ireland from the earliest human settlement to the modern era, with courses also on aspects of world and European archaeology. Our teaching covers many areas, including prehistoric and historical archaeology, environmental studies, underwater archaeology, artifact research, heritage management, survey and excavation, and the study of human remains. In addition to our undergraduate programme, the department also offers taught and research postgraduate programmes along with adult continuing education and continuing professional development (CPD) courses. The department is also actively involved in community archaeology and works closely with local schools, societies and various other groups in helping better understand and preserve our rich heritage.

A Career in Archaeology ?

The study of Archaeology offers a life-long interest and passion, as well as a professional career qualification with employment opportunities. Archaeologists in Ireland work in the State heritage sector, in the National Monuments Service and the National Museum, as well as for local authorities in county museums and planning offices. There is also a commercial sector, where archaeologists work in survey and excavation connected to construction projects and other developments. There is potential employment in areas such as adult education, community development, environmental impact assessment, heritage conservation and cultural tourism. A degree in Archaeology from UCC is recognized in other countries for employment in these areas.



What Next ?

To begin your studies in Archaeology at UCC you must apply through the CAD system. The subject is taken as part of the general Arts degree (CAD ref: CK101), where you have an opportunity to study many other interesting subjects in combination with Archaeology. You may also study our subject as part of the BA in Geography and Archaeology (CAD ref: CK107), which has a science emphasis.

Please contact us or visit us online if you have any queries or want more information.



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For more information about the Department or for details of all our courses, please don't hesitate to contact us or visit us on the web



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