



Archaeology

Full details about the course are available from www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/archaeology

and

www.arch.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduates

The subject at Selwyn

Archaeology covers a very large range of topics, spanning the evolution of humans through the development of farming, ancient civilisations and world empires, as well as the role of material culture in human life and of heritage in modern societies. Students can follow several streams: Archaeology (covering all world cultures), Biological Anthropology, and Egyptology and Assyriology.

Cambridge is one of the largest centres of archaeological research in Britain with seventeen laboratories which research everything from carbonised pollen and climate change to archaeogenetics. Archaeology students at Cambridge benefit from direct hands-on access to world class collections in Cambridge's museums, libraries and research centres. Practical sessions for students mean that you might find yourself handling prehistoric pottery, on a training dig being trained in excavation techniques, or in the British Museum deciphering an ancient text. There are a number of training excavations and field trips including a week abroad in Year 2.

We have a video available of some of our Archaeology students: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PqKiLNbac



Subject requirements

We do not expect particular combinations of A-level subjects. What we look for in applicants is ability, motivation, and intellectual curiosity. Since Archaeology is such a broad field, our students have backgrounds in everything from Chemistry to Classics, History to Biology, English to Physics, Philosophy to Geography. The course is based on engaging with a wide range of literature, so candidates must also be able and willing readers.

The Teaching Fellows

Our Director of Studies for the Archaeology Tripos is Dr Dacia Viejo-Rose whose research interests are cultural heritage and the politics of the past.

Interviews

There are two interviews (a subject interview and a general interview).

The subject interview lasts 30 minutes with the Director of Studies. The object of this interview is to ascertain that the candidate has both a general interest in the subject matter of Archaeology and an independent or critical way of looking at things.

You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for Archaeology at Cambridge. It is intended to give us a fuller sense of your aptitude for your chosen course, the maturity of your approach towards academic work, and your interests in and beyond Archaeology.

Written Work

Candidates are also asked to send in advance two pieces of recent marked and relevant school work in a subject (or subjects) of their choice. They may be used as the basis for discussion in part of the subject interview.

Admissions Assessment

Students who are invited for interview in Archaeology are also asked to take the at-interview written assessment, which lasts one hour. You do not need to register for this written assessment as it will be organised automatically by the College if you are invited for interview.

Your performance in the Archaeology at-interview written assessment will not be considered in isolation, but will be taken into account alongside the other elements of your application.

Finding out more and Open Days

Archaeology will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 4 and 5 July. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.

The Department of Archaeology also organises a number of outreach programmes throughout the year including summer schools that you are welcome to attend. You can find a list of events here:

www.arch.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduates/OpenDaysAndOutreachEvents

