



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí
Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh
College of Arts, Social Sciences
& Celtic Studies

Archaeology



University
of Galway.ie

Subject Overview

Archaeology is a synthesis of the humanities and the sciences and this makes it one of the great frontiers of knowledge creation today. Archaeology provides unique insights into the long-term story of ourselves and our interactions with the world around us.

Archaeology at University of Galway is committed to delivering high quality education in a student-focused environment, based on innovative research and a strong ethical foundation. We engage with local community interests in archaeology and we are strong advocates for heritage protection. Staff and graduate research is innovative and ground-breaking, and we have the highest success rate in achieving Irish Research Council (IRC) scholarships. We are at the forefront of Irish archaeology, producing quality graduates who succeed across the full spectrum of the heritage profession in Ireland and abroad.

Studying how human beings have adapted to every conceivable environment and cultural circumstance, how different peoples grappled with challenges as basic as survival and as abstract as the mysteries of the cosmos, archaeology is about understanding the forces that have shaped human civilisation across the globe, and how this story is of relevance today.

Subject Name:	Archaeology
Course Code:	GY101
CAO Entry Points 2025:	350
Duration:	3 Years BA, 4 Years BA (Global Experience)
Entry Requirements:	Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.

Career Opportunities

Ireland is home to many archaeological companies that survey, assess, and excavate archaeological sites ahead of development and many Archaeology graduates go on to careers in these private companies. There are also career opportunities in the state sector in institutions such as the National Museum, National Monuments Service, and even in Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

An undergraduate degree in Archaeology also provides excellent training in critical analysis, interpretation, and effective communication. These are all widely applicable and flexible skills that allow our graduates to adapt to the ever-changing social and economic conditions that characterize today's job market. In addition to careers in archaeology, typical career sectors for graduates include heritage, tourism, education, environment, culture, and media, but any industry where sustainable development and environmental impacts are concerns are potential employers.

What Our Students Say:

"I wanted to study somewhere that Archaeology was infused with the local culture. University of Galway's archaeology programme provided a unique opportunity to not only study the past in the lecture theatre, but also visit and learn about archaeological sites with distinguished lecturers."

-Frank J. Hall (Former MA student and current PhD student)

Study Abroad

The Erasmus student exchange programme offers you the opportunity to study abroad in Year Three. Archaeology has an Erasmus agreement with Charles University (Czech Republic). Students taking a modern language can also study archaeology overseas. Our staff have international research links with universities in Europe and the USA, sit on the boards of a number of international research bodies, and have a teaching exchange with Lund University (Sweden).

Course Outline

First Year

- Prehistoric Ireland and Europe
- Material Culture and Museums
- Medieval Ireland and Europe
- Recording Monuments in the Landscape

Second Year

- People, Ritual and Death: Life in Early Prehistoric Europe
- Castles, Colonists and Crannogs 1100–1350
- Interpretation in Archaeology
- Archaeology in Practice
- Space, Place and the Irish Landscape
- Archaeology and Irish Identity
- Early Kingship: From Chaos to Cosmos

Final Year

- Public Archaeology
- Explaining Prehistory—Current Research Trends
- Metal, Warfare and Chiefdoms—The Bronze Age Roots of European Civilisation
- The Development of the Castle in Medieval Europe
- Palaeoecology—Reconstruction of Past Environments
- Landscape and Archaeology, Context & Practice
- Minor Dissertation (Option)
- Introduction to Sustainability (Option)

Find Out More

Dr Carleton Jones

School of Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies

T: +353 91 492303

E: carleton.jones@universityofgalway.ie

W: universityofgalway.ie/archaeology/