Supporting postgraduate students in the Social Sciences

School of Archaeology at the University of Oxford

The School of Archaeology is one of the top departments in the world for the study and teaching of the human past. Staff and students explore fundamental themes about the human past across Eurasia, Austronesia, Africa and the Americas. They include everything from human origins to classical, historical and contemporary archaeology, and from theoretical approaches to scientific methods related to diet, domestication, technology, and chronology.

We are comprised of two units, the Institute of Archaeology and the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, with strong links to Classics and Anthropology.

Our students benefit from engagement with leaders in the fields of bioarchaeology and ancient DNA, landscape and aerial reconnaissance, radiocarbon, tephra and luminescene dating, experimental and theoretical archaeology, materials research, and museums and collections from every period in the human past.

The School's students and staff continue to find inspiration from the legacies and archives of earlier eminent archaeologists who have called Oxford home, including Sir Arthur Evans and Lawrence of Arabia.

Degrees

- MSt in Archaeology (9 months)
- DPhil in Archaeology (3 or 4 years)
- MSt in Archaeology Course Content (9 months)
- MPhil in Archaeology Course Content (2 years)
- MSt in Classical Archaeology (9 months)
- MPhil in Classical Archaeology (2 years)
- DPhil in Classical Archaeology (3 or 4 years)
- MSt in Archaeological Science (9 months
- MSc in Archaeological Science (1 year)
- DPhil in Archaeological Science (3 or 4 years)

Departmental Highlights

- The School is ranked number one in the world for archaeology in the QS Top Universities World Rankings by Subject for two years in a row, 2017 and 2018.

- The School offers a range of innovative laboratories and benefits from long-standing partnerships with the the University's four museums, world-class libraries and botanic gardens.

Student application and admissions

Data year	Degree course	Subject/Dept	Applications	Offers	Admitted
2017-2018	MSc & MPhil	Archaeology	123	99	67
2017-2018	DPhil	Archaeology	78	60	28

Investing in tomorrow's leaders

We are looking for supporters who share Oxford University's mission, and wish to play their part in addressing the problems of the 21st century through investing in the next generation of thinkers and doers. Single and multi-year scholarships would profoundly change the opportunities and futures of many talented people. Endowed scholarships will secure that impact in perpetuity.

Degree	2020-2021 per degree cost	Example multi-year scholarship	Endowment per student
MSt	£28,985 (Home) / £40,820 (Overseas)	£122,459 (3 MSt students)	£1,020,489
MSc	£30,675 (Home) / £40,820 (Overseas)	£122,459 (3 MSc students)	£1,020,489
MPhil	£59,708 (Home) / £84,088 (Overseas)	£168,177 (2 MPhil students)	£2,102,206
DPhil	£97,655 (Home) / £129,953 (Overseas)	£259,906 (2 DPhil students)	£3,248,827

Alumni profiles

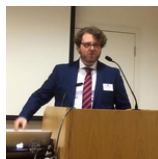### Dr Abi Tompkins, MSt in Archaeology and Dphil in Archaeology

Abi completed her DPhil in Archaeology following a her MSt in 2012. Abi's research focused on the emergence of polities or 'proto-kingdoms' in the wake of the post-Roman collapse in Britain in the 5th century AD. Her work explored how material culture and patterns of landscape use could be used to understand the development of distinct groups of people and, particularly, how areas between them became places of contact and coalescence. During her studies Abi worked for local government archaeological and museum services, she taught British Archaeology modules, and consulted on the deposition of a major local, community archaeology project in east Oxford, to name but a few. Today, Abi continues to work in local government archaeology, working with West Berkshire Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

"The department's location is absolutely wonderful, it is next door to the Archaeological Library, the Sackler, and one of the world's best university museums, the Ashmolean. The Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies is nearby as well. It's a little bubble of archaeology in the middle of town. You meet some wonderful people, there's specialists in so many different fields and they are not just specialists, they're world leading specialists. You can sit and have a cup of coffee with them and you sometimes forget you're talking to someone who is at the top of their game globally. It really is quite amazing."

Dr Andraes Duering MSt in Archaeology and Dphil in Archaeology

Andraes is a physical/forensic anthropologist at the IfoSA Munich and archaeologist. He is currently working as a postdoctoral Research Assistant at the School of Archaeology. His work focusses on forensic anthropology and on the computer modelling of populations and cemeteries to study demographics, palaeopathology and artefacts.

"I think since I came to Oxford my research has changed. I am more open to discussion with other researchers about what I am doing, to actually engage. I found that [collaboration] really exciting. You find a question that is almost more interesting than the first questions you came up with. That's a wonderful thing about Oxford you can talk to so many different people and get so many different impressions of what you are doing, what you could be doing."
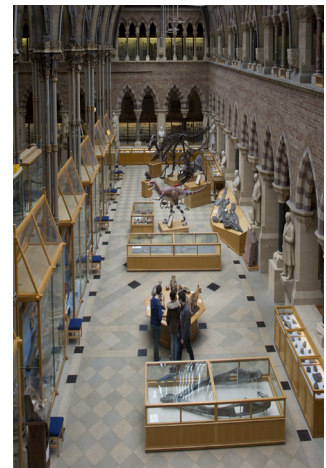
Student reflections

"The scholarship enabled him to enroll on the MSc in Archaeological Science course that he would otherwise not have been able to afford. His time at Oxford was an enjoyable (albeit at times challenging!) experience and he has most certainly received valuable academic and practical skills that will benefit him in his future academic in archaeological science."

"The student commented that it was a privilege to receive the scholarship. She found the MSc course was indispensable as preparations for further study in archaeology, and is very grateful to have participated in it. She enjoyed the course very much, particularly the breadth of material taught and the opportunity to learn directly from so many distinguished specialists."

"This MSc Course was a wonderful experience: beyond the hands-on lab experience and expert lectures attended, he felt part of a vibrant and intelligent group of masters students who were all excited to be learning from the best. He learnt a great deal, about analytical techniques, archaeological method, research practice, and many other skills about working in a professional environment. Although his plans for the future are not firm, this course has inspired him to continue working in archaeological science, potentially in a DPhil or in a museum context."

"The student thoroughly enjoyed the MSc Archaeological Science course. She felt it was a great experience to study at Oxford amidst such a concentration of intellectual resources; an opportunity possible at very few other institutions. Being able to tap a world authority on the shoulder in the "tea room" and get an instant answer to an abstruse problem is a priceless privilege for any student. She came to Oxford intent on learning the application of stable isotopes to archaeology. A diverse range of exciting potential research avenues were presented in class, tempting her to stray from her course, but she remained committed to her original goal. She is especially grateful to the staff at RLAHA for their accessibility to students and for making her experience most memorable!"

"The student would like to thank the department for providing her with a scholarship. She found the MSc programme and the experience of living in Oxford for the year, were both extremely interesting. After getting hands-on experience, as well as pursuing the challenge of learning Mandarin, she will likely now apply for PhD programmes in archaeology."