

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025–26

Undergraduate Diploma in British Archaeology

About the course

The Diploma provides a comprehensive introduction to British Archaeology within the context of different chronological periods. You will increase your understanding of the skills and techniques needed to recover, process and evaluate archaeological evidence for the particular periods under investigation.

This is a two-year part-time course, with three terms per year. You will typically attend weekly classes during term-time, which are usually on Thursday evenings and two hours long. You will also have group tutorials (plus extended project tutorials where required), weekend field visits and a practical course held over two weekends. You will be given a programme of reading for the teaching sessions and the written work. Assessment is based on five assignments and a practical logbook in the first year, and five assignments and a practical logbook or extended project in the second year.

Most teaching events and practical elements are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

As well as the time spent in teaching sessions, you will need to spend around 12 hours a week studying in term-time. This might include reading, preparing course work, and visiting museums, libraries and sites.

The Diploma is a modular course, and successful completion of two different modules is required to obtain the Diploma. There are two modules, with one module being offered each year.

The modules are:

- Module 1: Early Prehistoric Britain
- Module 2: Later Prehistoric and Roman Britain

The module on offer for 2025~26 is Module 1 Early Prehistoric Britain.

Module 1: Early Prehistoric Britain

The first humans arrived in Britain more than 800,000 years ago when the climate and geography of the British Isles were very different from what they are today. This module will examine the early prehistory of Britain from the time of these earliest inhabitants until c. 1000 BC. The dramatic environmental changes and the behaviour of early hominin populations will be considered within a European context and the cultural developments of the British Palaeolithic will be examined. Hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic, the society and settlement of the first farmers, trade and exchange, and the emergence of new technologies including the use of metals will be explored.

The academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27 will be the last iterations of the course in its current form.

Assessment

For each module, students are required to complete:

- 5 out of 6 assignments of up to 2,500 words;
- In the first year, a practical logbook of not more than 8,000 words, made up of four tasks each of not more than 2,000 words. The tasks usually involve a practical element, for example a field trip and/or museum visit.
- In the second year, either a practical logbook or an extended project of up to 8,000 words.

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of each module.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 31 to 39) in the [Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-non-matriculated-2025-2026.pdf) for this course (<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-non-matriculated-2025-2026.pdf>).

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2025–26

Fee Status	Annual Course Fees
Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£3,515
Overseas	£6,625

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Fee status

Broadly speaking, your fee status depends on your nationality, your immigration status in the UK, where you have been living and what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your course. Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2025~26, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

Additional cost information

Students are not required to buy books, but there may be a few recommended key texts which you may like to buy. Transport for field trips and the practical fieldwork is normally arranged on a car sharing basis by the students themselves. Costs of any additional hire of transport would be paid for by the students. Any entry fees to museums or sites are paid individually by the students.

You will also need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [system requirements webpage](#) for full details.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

For the 2025–26 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,425 and £2,035 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our [living costs](#) page. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025–26, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact
undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk