



Archaeology

Archaeology is an exciting discipline, in which you combine many different skills and fields of knowledge. You venture out into the world to discover, study and interpret traces of past societies in the landscape. But you also work with both your head and your hands in the classroom, in the lab and at your desk, applying academic theories and high-tech methods, and analysing archaeological materials. This enables you to

reconstruct the way of life in societies that we can no longer 'see'. Yet archaeology is much more than just excavations. Archaeology graduates find work as a field archaeologist or an independent consultant, or they work in policy, at museums, in heritage management or public relations. Alternatively, you could continue in academia and become a university researcher after your master's degree.

The structure of the bachelor's programme

Curriculum: Bachelor Archaeology – World Archaeology

Year 1	60 ec	Year 2	60 ec	Year 3	60 ec
● World Archaeology	15 ec	● Deep History	5 ec	● Minor/Study Abroad	30 ec
● Landscape Dynamics	10 ec	● Complex Societies	5 ec	● Archaeological Theory	5 ec
● Material Studies	5 ec	● Imperial Powers, Global Cultures	5 ec	● Designing Archaeological Research	5 ec
● Past and Future	5 ec	● Landscape Archaeology Projects	5 ec	● Science Communication: Archaeology in the 21st century	5 ec
● Introduction to Heritage Studies	10 ec	● Bioarchaeology	5 ec	● Internship	5 ec
● Exploratory Data Analysis in Archaeology	5 ec	● Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	5 ec	● Thesis	10 ec
● Field Techniques	5 ec	● Material Culture	5 ec		
● Field School 1	5 ec	● Seminars	15 ec		
		● Field School 2	10 ec		



Curriculum: Bachelor Archaeology – Heritage and Society

Year 1	60 ec	Year 2	60 ec	Year 3	60 ec
● World Archaeology	15 ec	● Deep History	5 ec	● Minor/Study Abroad	30 ec
● Landscape Dynamics	10 ec	● Complex Societies	5 ec	● Archaeological Theory	5 ec
● Material Studies	5 ec	● Imperial Powers, Global Cultures	5 ec	● Designing Archaeological Research	5 ec
● Past and Future	5 ec	● Heritage Protection in the 21st century	5 ec	● Science Communication: Archaeology in the 21st century	5 ec
● Introduction to Heritage Studies	10 ec	● Globalisation in World History	5 ec	● Internship	5 ec
● Exploratory Data Analysis in Archaeology	5 ec	● Economy and Ecology: Dichotomy and Practice	5 ec	● Thesis	10 ec
● Field Techniques	5 ec	● Museums and Collections: A Practical Introduction	5 ec		
● Field School 1	5 ec	● Heritage Seminars	10 ec		
		● Research Preparation	5 ec		
		● Fieldwork	10 ec		

The courses in green indicate the overlapping courses in both specialisations.

Please note: the programme is still subject to change. The final curriculum can be found at bachelors.universiteitleiden.nl/archaeology

Location: Leiden 

3 year programme, 180 ECTS

2015 English-taught programme established

21 nationalities

95 largest lecture size

25 maximum tutorial size

 bachelors.universiteitleiden.nl/archaeology



Why study Archaeology in Leiden?

- The Faculty of Archaeology has earned a place in the top ten archaeology research and teaching institutes in the world.
- Leiden Archaeology has a strong, global emphasis, with wide networks in international research.
- Leiden Archaeology offers excellent facilities, such as our state-of-the-art laboratories.

Shine new light on the big issues of today

In the bachelor's programme in Archaeology, you study early examples of topical issues like:

- globalisation
- mass migration
- social inequality through time
- human impact on the environment
- cultural heritage and cultural identity

Two specialisations

In Leiden you can choose between two specialisations within the Archaeology bachelor's programme: World Archaeology or Heritage and Society. World Archaeology gives an overview of the development of humans and cultures in a wide diversity of areas around the world, from the Americas to the Middle East. The Heritage and Society specialisation has a stronger focus on more recent history and societal problems arising from events in the past or processes such as climate change. You also learn more about heritage and policy, and how to translate research results and archaeological finds to appeal to a wider audience.

Fieldwork internship

With a minimum of 10 weeks of internships required, there are many opportunities to go abroad. Join one of the projects of our staff

members going on around the globe, for example:

- The Udhruh Archaeology Project in Jordan
- The Frontier Landscape Project in Portugal
- Les Cottés in France

Other examples of internship opportunities include digs in the Dominican Republic, Italy, Nicaragua, Greece, or at Barnham in the United Kingdom, Schönningen in Germany and the Veluwe right here in the Netherlands!

Your future career

The Archaeology programme in Leiden provides you a solid basis for a national or international career in archaeology, heritage management, heritage policy or within the museum world. We consider it important that during your studies you are exposed to other cultures, not just from the past but also from the present. This prepares you for an increasingly globalised job market, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

Leiden University offers varieties of post-graduate specialisations in Archaeology that give students opportunities to deepen their knowledge of their field of interest and participate in many archaeological projects in the Netherlands and abroad.

As a Leiden alumnus you can:

- conduct academic and professional archaeological research in the field or in the lab;
- develop and employ strategies for heritage outreach and science communication;
- work in commercial archaeology, regional development, museums and more.



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'Excavations are likely what brought you to archaeology. Yet, that is just the tip of the iceberg of our discipline. There is so much more! In the first-year course Past & Future that I teach with my colleague Martin Berger we will show you the rest of the iceberg. Covering the many different specialisations we offer at the faculty, and the enormous scope of archaeology in general. This goes from highly specialised scientific work, like DNA, to ethical debates on the political sensibilities of such data; from museums and collections to decolonisation debates; and covering the big questions that archaeology aims to answer. It's a great class to teach because we see how it opens up perspectives and possibilities and we have plenty of engaging discussions with the students. In the end, the new generations will define what archaeology is going to be about, and how it is relevant!'

Maikel Kuijpers
Assistant Professor