OBJECTIVE LICENCE: ARCHAEOLOGY

Mention

Objectives

Archaeology is the study of societies of the past, through the discovery of the material elements that they have left behind. The research field is extremely varied, stretching from gigantic monuments from great civilisations of antiquity, to the most understated traces of human activity such as the pollen grains of cultivated plant species. This range includes Prehistoric art, tombs from the Middle Ages, the traces of an abandoned village from the 1st millennium BC, and so on. From excavation site to laboratory, from the trowel to the scanning electron microscope, archaeology is characterised by a research process and a methodological diversity that are both quite remarkable. The Archaeological Science pathway, which falls under the undergraduate Licence Art History and Archaeology, is an original and innovative programme on a national level. The programme’s aim is to introduce students to this range of approaches, via varied teaching methods that place great importance on the practical aspects of the discipline. The fact that this programme is offered by Bordeaux Montaigue University is not a matter of chance. With two laboratories that are closely involved in Archaeological Science (the Ausonius lab and the IRAMAT-CRPAA lab), the university has a considerable research infrastructure at its disposal. This has been recognised on a national level, as demonstrated by the university’s involvement in the LaScArBx Cluster of Excellence. The teaching staff represents a wide variety of competences and expertise. Its active and continuous role in research activities, on site, and in the laboratory, serves to benefit the learning experience of students during their undergraduate studies. This pathway represents an expansion of the previous archaeology pathway, which allowed for specialisation from the
third year of undergraduate study \((\text{Licence 3})\). With this broader programme, we intend to give students a comprehensive and diverse training, thus ensuring them the best possible chances of success in what is a truly fascinating professional field.

**Joint degree establishments and partnerships**

**Training content**

Three years of study
Teaching is divided between on the one hand, classes focussing on the key geographical and chronological areas (including Prehistory, Protohistory, Classical Antiquity, and the Middle Ages, in the Mediterranean and Europe for the most part) and on the other hand, classes which are organised thematically (focussing on themes such as space, time, matter, materials etc.).

This undergraduate Licence degree integrates with a coherent system of classes in archaeology and in archaeometry. (This latter discipline groups together the application of analytical techniques, taken most often from physics and chemistry, to resolve archaeological problems.) The aim of this programme structure is to equip the student with a methodological and theoretical basis, which can then be consolidated within a professional context in the field of Archaeological Science. The discipline of archaeology is not considered in isolation from the other humanities. If they wish, students can thus also take classes in art history or history.

First and second year of undergraduate study (Licence 1 and Licence 2)
The first semester of the first year of study \((L1)\) is common to all undergraduate students in Art History and Archaeology. The second semester is then the first semester in which students specialise in Archaeological Science. From this point on, and in each semester until the end of the second year \((L2)\), students take one unit focussing on a specific chronological and/or cultural area of study, and one theme-based unit. These course units are complemented by the choice of one minor course unit (in history or art history), and one unit from a choice of other study options (including ancient languages and/or biological anthropology, the study of the human body).

Third year of undergraduate study (Licence 3)
In the final year of undergraduate study \((L3)\), teaching is exclusively given over to the discipline of Archaeological Science.

The undergraduate programme spreads over three years of study, each year itself divided into two semesters. The very first semester is common to students of Art History. Students are thus able to discover the discipline of Archaeological Science in lecture hours.
and, if they wish, by means of further optional classes. These classes aim to give a broad introduction to the discipline and its history, which are often little known to the general public. With this foundation, students are equipped with good knowledge of the facts and can choose to continue towards further study in Archaeological Science.

Admissions

Find information regarding enrolment procedures and the supporting documents to be provided, according to your profile and your level of studies:

* Independent Stay
* Exchange Programme

Identifier ROME

Career pathways

The employment opportunities specific to Archaeological Science have considerably developed over the course of the last few decades. Along with university careers in their broadest sense (within universities, or the French National Centre for Scientific Research), there are also career opportunities in preventative, or ‘rescue’ archaeology. In fact, since 1995 the countries that signed the Malta Convention (including France) have been committed to ensuring the preservation of their archaeological heritage. This development has been accompanied by the creation of public and private bodies that specialise in this specific field of activity, and there are thus a great many more employment opportunities for archaeology graduates today. Moreover, global increases in research activities, and the favourable reception of our discipline by the general public, have together meant that the management and promotion of archaeological heritage have taken on a greater importance.

Further studies

It is important to note that most of the posts in our discipline require a qualification at Master’s level, or higher. Once again, choosing Bordeaux Montaigne University for your programme of study (and the Bordeaux centre in general), will guarantee you the best possibilities of success: the Master’s in Archaeology and Science for Archaeological Purposes offered by Bordeaux Montaigne University is closely aligned with, and offers complete continuity from, this undergraduate Licence. For those who decide on a career path in Prehistory or in the field of anthropological
biology (the study of human remains), the Master’s in Biological Anthropology and Prehistory, offered by Université de Bordeaux, will be the perfect next step following completion undergraduate study.