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| TITLE | Introduction to Archaeology for Beginners |
| TUTOR | Scott Chaussee |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: [learning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:learning@aber.ac.uk)

**The Tutor:** Scott Chaussee [scc19@aber.ac.uk](mailto:scc19@aber.ac.uk)

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

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**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

Please watch this [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=8599b9f0-bb74-4e17-8a61-abb800c9c1b1&v=1) as it will give you all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

**Online Learning Environment: Blackboard**

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to<https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk>. This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments. Here is a [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d3b1a6e3-a555-4da3-be65-ac31007c1927) on how to access Blackboard and navigate the various pages and tools.

**Microsoft Teams**

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Since the very beginning, humans have shown an interest in uncovering our own past and telling stories about ourselves. This module will introduce the history, methods, and themes which define modern archaeological practice as well as key skills and concepts, taught through case studies drawn from the broad record of archaeological periods in England and Wales. Who were the first archaeologists? This module will introduce archaeological terms concepts and skills in the context of wider intellectual traditions and cultural movements to understand how and why the study of the human past came about. How do archaeologists know what they know? The methods and techniques of archaeological practice will be presented through a series of practical exercises which simulate modern practices at an archaeological site and in post-excavation analysis. How are artefacts or sites used to explain past human behaviour? The themes of domestic life in settlements, death and burial, and ritual and religion are presented with case studies which illuminate the worlds of the past.   
  
This course enables you to study from home and participate in an online community of other students. The module is delivered through Blackboard, our online learning environment.  
This course can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also an optional module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Genealogical Studies at Aberystwyth University.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current issues in archaeology.
2. Perform intermediate level online searches of archaeological databases to extract relevant data.
3. Interpret the information in a range of materials and resources.
4. Collate, analyse, and synthesise information from the wide variety of source material explored in the module to create a portfolio of work and provide an 800-word reflective piece discussing the application of those skills.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills. Students will be encouraged to share their own work and participate in discussions on Blackboard. Alongside the learning materials on Blackboard the tutor will be on hand via email to answer any queries and provide guidance throughout the course. They will also participate in the online discussions.

Unit 1: Introduction to the module

Unit 2: The history of archaeology and present framework

Unit 3: Archaeological skills, Part I: Reconnaissance and Excavation

Unit 4: Archaeological skills, Part 2: Post-Excavation Analysis and Interpretation

Unit 5: Bringing it all together: Review and reflect

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Critique of a historical excavation - 500 words (30%)
2. Portfolio and reflective assignment - 800 words (70%)

**Submission Policy**: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/virtual-student-centre/schemes_programmes/latesubmission/>

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)