

Job of The Week

Archaeologist

Key Skills

- An interest and knowledge of history
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail
- Knowledge of sociology and anthropology for understanding society and culture
- Persistence and determination
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Analytical thinking skills
- The ability to work well with others
- Excellent written communication skills
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

Salary

£24,000 - £40,000

Working hours

37 – 42 per week
Evenings/weekends
flexibly

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Archaeologist

University

Most professional archaeologists have a degree and many also have a postgraduate qualification.

You can do a degree in archaeology or a related subject, like:

- Environmental archaeology
- Human evolution
- Archaeological science
- Ancient history
- Conservation and cultural heritage

You can [search for higher education archaeology courses](#) on British Archaeological Jobs and Resources.

After completing a first degree, you could take a postgraduate course and specialise in a particular field.

Examples include:

- Osteoarchaeology - studying human remains
- Marine archaeology - investigating coastal and underwater sites
- Digital archaeology - creating visualisations of ruins and finds

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

Apprenticeship

You could apply to do an Archaeological Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship, with an archaeological consultancy, university department or heritage organisation. This could lead to a position like archaeological site assistant or finds technician.

With further training, you could become a professional archaeologist.

You could also complete an Archaeological Specialist Level 7 Postgraduate Degree Apprenticeship.

The degree apprenticeship typically takes 3 years to complete and combines learning on-the-job with university study.

Employers will assess your skills, experience and qualifications when you apply, and usually require a relevant first degree.

Entry requirements

Employers will set their own entry requirements.



Volunteering

Competition for courses and jobs is very strong. It's essential that you get practical experience.

Local and regional archaeological associations run volunteer fieldwork programmes for all age groups. These offer you the chance to get hands-on experience, doing tasks like:

- Site surveys
- Excavations
- Recording finds

You can [find volunteering opportunities](#) through the Council for British Archaeology.

Career tips

There are a lot of different specialisms in archaeology and skills you have from another career can be useful, for example:

- Computer-aided design (CAD)
- Illustration
- Photography
- Geographical information systems (GIS)

Professional and industry bodies

You can [join the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#) for professional development training and networking opportunities.

Further information

You'll find more details about how to become an archaeologist from the:

- [Council for British Archaeology](#)
- [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#)



Career path and progression

With experience, you could:

- Progress to a senior role like project supervisor or site director
- Specialise in a particular type of archaeology or historical period
- Teach on university courses and carry out research
- Advise local authorities and construction firms about the archaeological impact of new developments.

You can also [register for Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Member status](#), which leads to professional recognition of your skills and expertise.

Day to Day tasks

- Clean, date and preserve artefacts in the lab
- Identify and record finds
- Collect and analyse data to build up a picture of a site
- Plan and manage excavations and archival research
- Survey sites using ground and aerial photography, and laser scanning
- Help to organise community projects, events and talks
- Supervise students, volunteers and staff on site
- Create 2D and 3D images to show how sites, people and artefacts might have looked

Working conditions

You could work in an office, at a university, in a museum or visit sites.

Your working environment may be outdoors some of the time and you may spend nights away from home.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Social and humanities scientists

Weekly Pay £750	Annual Pay £39,000
Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £19

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
11.1%

The workforce is projected to grow by 11.1% over the period to 2035, creating 4,700 jobs.

You might find this job in

- Public admin. & defence
- Legal & accounting
- Information services
- Other personal service
- Advertising, etc

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Archivists, conservators and curators

Weekly Pay £660	Annual Pay £34,320
Hours/Week 44h	Hourly Pay £15

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
12.2%

The workforce is projected to grow by 12.2% over the period to 2035, creating 2,000 jobs.

You might find this job in

- Libraries, etc
- Legal & accounting
- Education

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Higher education teaching professionals

Weekly Pay £960	Annual Pay £49,920
Hours/Week 36h	Hourly Pay £27

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
9%

The workforce is projected to grow by 9% over the period to 2035, creating 23,800 jobs.

You might find this job in

- Education
- Health
- Scientific research
- Services to buildings
- Agriculture, etc

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Social and humanities scientists

Social and humanities scientists study and analyse human behaviour and the origin, structure and characteristics of language undertake research in areas such as sociology, economics, politics, archaeology, history, philosophy, literature, the arts organise the collection of qualitative and quantitative information and perform subsequent analyses.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies society and the manner in which people behave and impact upon the world
- undertakes research across the humanities that furthers understanding of human culture and creativity
- traces the evolution of word and language forms, compares grammatical structures and analyses the relationships between ancient, parent and modern languages
- identifies, compiles and analyses economic, demographic, legal, political, social and other data to address research objectives

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Archivists, conservators and curators

Archivists, conservators and curators collect, appraise and preserve collections of recorded and other material of historical interest.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines, appraises and advises on the acquisition of exhibits, historic records, government papers and other material
- classifies material and arranges for its safe keeping and preservation
- maintains indexes, bibliographies and descriptive details of archive material and arranges for reproductions of items where necessary
- examines objects to identify any damage and carries out necessary restoration whilst preserving original characteristics

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Higher education teaching professionals

Higher education teaching professionals deliver lectures and teach students to at least first degree level, undertake research and write journal articles and books in their chosen field of study.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares, delivers and directs lectures, seminars and tutorials
- prepares, administers and marks examinations, essays and other assignments
- advises students on academic matters and encourages independent research
- provides pastoral care or guidance to students

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Archaeologist – Day in the Life



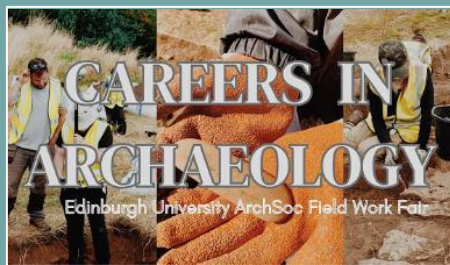
[Day in the life of an Archaeologist](#)

Archaeology Apprenticeships



[A Career in Archaeology - Apprenticeships](#)

Careers in Archaeology



[Careers in Archaeology | Edinburgh University Field Work Fair](#)

Archaeology Degrees



[What do you get out of an archaeology degree?](#)

Useful Websites

[Homepage Council for British Archaeology](#)

[Working as an archaeologist: Rich's story - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Archaeologist job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Information for future archaeologists | CfA](#)

[Becoming an Archaeologist | Step by Step Guide](#)

[Archaeology Subject Guide | Why Study Archaeology At Uni? | UCAS](#)