

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SKILLS
Status: Definitive
Code: **7116NATSCI** (125495)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences
Teaching School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 114
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 86

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10
Off Site	21
Placement	60
Practical	4
Workshop	19

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	Fieldw RP	Write up of fieldwork: context sheets, site notebook, plans, sections, photographs, fieldwork report. Group and individual contributions.	50	

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	Post-ex RP	Write up of post-excavation analysis in professional report style	50	

Competency	Archaeological Practice
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Aims

The aim of this module is to immerse the students in archaeological fieldwork methods and post-excavation analyses. By the end of the module students will have a thorough understanding of excavation and field research design, the interpretation of archaeological landscapes, site surveying techniques, interpretation of site formation processes, best excavation practices and writing up final reports for research and commercial excavations. Sampling strategies and post-excavation analyses for archaeological and environmental materials will also be taught.

The aim of the practice component of this module is for students to gain competency in archaeological excavation.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Evidence professional competence in archaeological excavation techniques
- 2 Demonstrate the ability to set up an archaeological excavation to commercial and research standard.
- 3 Conduct an excavation, produce stratigraphic report, take and accurately record finds and samples.
- 4 Perform specialist post-excavation analyses of samples collected in the field.
- 5 Produce post-excavation report suitable for funding bodies, commercial and public sector organisations.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Fieldwork Report	2	3
Post-excavation report	4	5
Archaeological Practice	1	

Outline Syllabus

Topic 1: Excavation planning

Topic 2: Landscape archaeology and GIS

Topic 3: Pre-excavation techniques

Topic 4: Excavation methods
Topic 5: Excavation sampling strategies
Topic 6: Case studies in archaeological excavation
Topic 7: Three-day training excavation
Topic 8: Sieving and flotation, Sediment analysis
Topic 9: Micromorphology
Topic 10: Pollen, charcoal and phytolith analyses
Topic 11: Artefact materials analysis: pottery, lithics, XRF
Topic 12: Residue analyses
Topic 13: Isotope analysis
Topic 14: Faunal analyses
Topic 15: Synthesising specialists' analyses
Topic 16: Production of the final excavation report

Learning Activities

This module will be delivered through hands-on workshops, lectures and fieldwork. A competency placement will consist of a minimum of 60 hours of excavation or post-excavation practice in an archaeological site.

Notes

This module is compulsory for Human Evolution MSc students and optional for Forensic Anthropology MSc students. For the Human Evolution students, the module is well integrated with the other modules on the programme. For the Forensic Students, dating and chronology and thematic overviews will be covered in the 7201NATSCI Ancient DNA and Proteomics, and GIS will be further explored in the 7117NATSCI Virtual Methods in Bioarchaeology module. All students will gain experience in the excavation and post-excavation of human and other bioarchaeology remains, thus providing insights into the forensic and archaeological contexts in which such remains are found and in the post-depositional processes that have shaped their preservation.