
SPECIALTIES WITHIN ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology isn't just one field — it's a world of specialties that help us understand the past in unique and fascinating ways. From analyzing bones and seeds to diving underwater or studying ancient landscapes, each specialty opens a new window into human history. Here are some of the most exciting areas students can explore.

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

The study of animal bones found at archaeological sites. Helps us understand ancient diets, hunting practices, and environments.

PALEOETHNOBOTANY / ARCHAEOBOTANY

The study of ancient plant remains. Reveals what people grew, gathered, and ate, and how environments changed.

BIOARCHAEOLOGY

The study of human remains from archaeological contexts. Sheds light on health, diet, migration, and daily life.

LITHIC ANALYSIS

The study of stone tools and how they were made and used. Some of the oldest artifacts in human history.

CERAMIC ANALYSIS

The study of pottery and fired clay. Tells us about trade routes, cultural identity, and technology.

GEOARCHAEOLOGY

The study of soils, sediments, and landforms. Explains how sites were formed and how people shaped landscapes.

PALEOARCHAEOLOGY

The study of ancient human ancestors and early human evolution. Explores how our species and relatives lived long ago.

LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of how people used and shaped the spaces around them. Looks at patterns across regions.

CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of ancient civilizations like Greece and Rome. Examines cities, temples, and artifacts.

MARITIME & UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of shipwrecks, harbors, and submerged settlements. Oceans hold incredible stories.

EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Recreating ancient technologies to understand how they worked. Hands-on learning at its best.

ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY

Studying living communities to interpret material remains. Helps make better sense of the past.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (ARCHAEOMETRY)

Using scientific techniques like dating, isotope analysis, or DNA to study artifacts and remains.

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of the more recent past alongside written records. Often explores contact periods and colonial histories.

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Engaging communities in archaeology through tours, education, and projects. Makes heritage accessible to everyone.

INDIGENOUS ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology done in partnership with Indigenous communities, centring their knowledge and priorities.

PALEOENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of ancient climates and ecosystems. Explains why societies flourished or collapsed.

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

The study of past cities and their infrastructure. Reveals how ancient urban centers were built and lived in.

FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Applying archaeological methods to legal investigations. Helps locate and recover human remains.

NUMISMATICS & EPIGRAPHY

The study of inscriptions, writing systems, and coins. Reveals trade, politics, language, and identity.