



ARCHAEOLOGY CAREER PATHS:

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

Archaeology isn't just about digging up old things – it's about uncovering stories, protecting heritage, and connecting the past to the present. Here are some exciting career paths for students who are curious, adventurous, and ready to explore.

Academic Archaeologist / Professor

Teach university courses, lead research projects, and publish discoveries that shape how we understand history.

Education Needed: A PhD in archaeology or anthropology. Lots of fieldwork, writing, and teaching experience required.

Archaeobotanist / Zooarchaeologist / Bioarchaeologist

Study plant remains, animal bones, or human skeletons to understand ancient diets, environments, and lives.

Education Needed: A master's or PhD with specialized training in bioarchaeology or related sciences.

Archaeological Conservator

Preserve artifacts so they don't deteriorate over time – working with everything from textiles to stone tools.

Education Needed: Specialized conservation training or a master's in conservation or archaeological science.

Archaeological Illustrator / 3D Modeler

Create drawings, maps, and digital reconstructions of artifacts and sites. Perfect for those who love both art and science.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology, fine arts, or digital design. Training in illustration or 3D modeling software is valuable.

Archaeological Writer, Podcaster, or Science Communicator

Share archaeology through storytelling – in magazines, books, podcasts, social media, and documentaries.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology or communications helps, but creativity and writing skills are key.



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Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Archaeologist

Work with construction and development companies to protect archaeological sites before new buildings, roads, or pipelines go in.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree to start; many move on to a master's degree. Field experience and knowledge of heritage laws are important.

Field Archaeologist

Be a part of an excavation crew. Dig, document, and uncover artifacts at archaeological site.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology, anthropology, or a related field is usually required. Field schools (hands-on training programs) are essential.

Forensic Archaeologist

Work with law enforcement to recover and study human remains at crime scenes or disaster sites, often helping to identify victims.

Education Needed: A master's or PhD in archaeology or forensic anthropology, plus specialized forensic training.

GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist

Use drones, satellites, and mapping software to find and analyze archaeological sites without even picking up a trowel.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology or geography; training in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and remote sensing technology.

Government Archaeologist / Heritage Officer

Work for federal, provincial, or municipal governments managing sites, creating policies, and protecting heritage.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree is required, but many positions prefer a master's degree plus CRM or policy experience.

Indigenous Heritage Liaison / Community Archaeologist

Collaborate with Indigenous communities to protect, interpret, and manage cultural heritage with respect and care.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology or Indigenous studies, plus training in community engagement and heritage law.



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Laboratory Specialist / Archaeological Analyst

Work behind the scenes cleaning, cataloguing, analyzing, and conserving artifacts like pottery, tools, or bones.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree is the minimum, but specialized lab or conservation training is a big plus.

Museum Curator or Collections Manager

Care for and interpret artifacts in museums, create exhibits, and help tell the stories of the past to the public.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology, history, or museum studies; a master's is often required for curator roles.

Public Archaeologist / Heritage Interpreter

Bring archaeology to life for communities, schools, and tourists through storytelling, demonstrations, and tours.

Education Needed: A bachelor's degree in archaeology or a related field, plus strong communication skills. Public programming or interpretation training is helpful.

Underwater Archaeology

Explore shipwrecks, submerged villages, and underwater landscapes using scuba and high-tech equipment.

Education Needed: A master's in maritime archaeology or a related field, plus diving certification.

Pro Tip for Students

Many archaeologists start with a bachelor's degree and build their careers through field schools, volunteering, and networking with heritage organizations. Graduate degrees open doors to more specialized or leadership roles – but passion, curiosity, and hands-on experience are just as essential as diplomas.

