

Introduction to Archaeological Excavation and Recording

Module Details	
Module Code:	n/a
Full Title:	Introduction to Archaeological Excavation and Recording APPROVED
Valid From::	Semester 2 - 2021/22 (January 2022)
Language of Instruction:	English
Duration:	1 Semester
Credits::	7.5
Module Owner::	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annaleigh Margey• Conor Brady
Departments:	Unknown
Module Description:	<p>This module aims to provide participants with a 'hands-on' experience of an archaeological excavation. Participants will be introduced to the aims and objectives of archaeological excavation and the steps involved in the research process that leads to an excavation. They will also be introduced to the range of techniques used and the components of the on-site recording system. They will participate in a research excavation and also in the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples where appropriate. This module would normally be delivered in an intensive four-week block during the summer.</p>

Module Learning Outcome	
On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:	
#	Module Learning Outcome Description
MLO1	Apply the series of techniques of archaeological excavation on site
MLO2	Integrate the principles of the single context recording system into all on-site excavation and recording practice
MLO3	Discuss the elements of the on-site recording system
MLO4	Apply the range of methods of recording of archaeological information on site
MLO5	Generate preliminary interpretations of contexts, features and other material encountered during excavation
Pre-requisite learning	
Module Recommendations <i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is strongly recommended before enrolment in this module. You may enrol in this module if you have not acquired the recommended learning but you will have considerable difficulty in passing (i.e. achieving the learning outcomes of) the module. While the prior learning is expressed as named DkIT module(s) it also allows for learning (in another module or modules) which is equivalent to the learning specified in the named module(s).</i>	
No recommendations listed	

Module Indicative Content	
Site safety briefing Introduction to the site safety statement and procedures. Everybody responsible.	
Introduction Introduction to the process of archaeological excavation, post-excavation processing and analysis, the need for comprehensive and robust recording practices. Site selection/reasons for excavation. Background research prior to excavation. The role and responsibilities of the individual.	
Legal Responsibilities The legal context for the conduct of excavations in Ireland. The role of the National Museum of Ireland as the ultimate owner and manager of all archaeological objects. The role of the National Monuments Service.	
Site Archive Creation and Maintenance Structure of a site archive. Context Sheets, finds register, Drawings and the Drawings Register, samples register, photographs and the photographic register. Cross-referencing. Checking for accuracy and completeness. Comparison of paper records to physical assemblages. Correcting mistakes.	
Treatment of finds Identification of different finds categories. Processing of finds - cleaning/washing, numbering, creation of the register, identification of material for conservation. Appropriate labelling and packaging. Handling of special materials. Liaison with specialists for further analysis.	
Production of the stratigraphic report Introduction to the first step in the site reporting process whereby the contexts and features encountered during excavation are described and presented, along with the context register, the finds catalogue, the samples register etc. Preliminary interpretation presented. Production and submission of Preliminary Post-Excavation Report to the National Monuments Service.	
Module Assessment	
Assessment Breakdown	%
Course Work	100.00%
Module Special Regulation	

Assessments

Full Time On Campus			
Course Work			
Assessment Type	Reflective Journal	% of Total Mark	60
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	2,3,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description Students will be required to submit a journal of their experiences, maintained on a day-by-day basis for the duration of the module and detailing the tasks assigned to them and what they learned. This assessment element will be maintained simultaneously with and will be integrated with the Learning Journal requirement for the other module in this programme: Introduction to Post-Excavation Processing and Recording. Approx. 1500 words will deal with on-site excavation activities while a further c.1500 words will deal with the post-excavation activities.			
Assessment Type	Continuous Assessment	% of Total Mark	20
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	1,2,3,4,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description This will examine the student's attendance, participation in discussions, willingness to complete tasks assigned in a timely manner, ability to work well in a group situation, comprehension of the management of the excavation, ability to work under direction, attention to detail and accuracy particularly in the production of material relating to the written record.			
Assessment Type	Essay	% of Total Mark	20
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	1,3,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description The essay element requires that students submit a 1,500 word essay on archaeological research and excavation techniques and on-site recording and the post-excavation process. This will be an integrated assessment along with the other module in this programme: Introduction to Post-Excavation Processing and Recording			
No Project			
No Practical			
No Final Examination			

Part Time On Campus			
Course Work			
Assessment Type	Reflective Journal	% of Total Mark	60
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	2,3,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description Students will be required to submit a journal of their experiences, maintained on a day-by-day basis for the duration of the module and detailing the tasks assigned to them and what they learned. This assessment element will be maintained simultaneously with and will be integrated with the Learning Journal requirement for the other module in this programme: Introduction to Post-Excavation Processing and Recording. Approx. 1500 words will deal with on-site excavation activities while a further c.1500 words will deal with the post-excavation activities.			
Assessment Type	Continuous Assessment	% of Total Mark	20
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	1,2,3,4,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description This will examine the student's attendance, participation in discussions, willingness to complete tasks assigned in a timely manner, ability to work well in a group situation, comprehension of the management of the excavation, ability to work under direction, attention to detail and accuracy particularly in the production of material relating to the written record.			
Assessment Type	Essay	% of Total Mark	20
Marks Out Of	100	Pass Mark	40
Timing	n/a	Learning Outcome	1,3,5
Duration in minutes	0		
Assessment Description The essay element requires that students submit a 1,500 word essay on archaeological research and excavation techniques and on-site recording and the post-excavation process. This will be an integrated assessment along with the other module in this programme: Introduction to Post-Excavation Processing and Recording			

No Project
No Practical
No Final Examination
Reassessment Requirement
No repeat examination <i>Reassessment of this module will be offered solely on the basis of coursework and a repeat examination will not be offered.</i>

Module Workload

Workload: Full Time On Campus					
Workload Type	Contact Type	Workload Description	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload	Hours
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	Contact	Central to this module is the student's direct participation in live research excavation which takes place in an 'open-air classroom' on an archaeological excavation site.	Every Week	12.00	12
Lecture	Contact	There will be one formal lecture each week. These will cover an introduction to Irish prehistoric and historic period archaeology and various archaeological techniques. Some lectures will be delivered by invited guest lecturers who are acknowledged experts /specialists in their areas.	Every Week	2.00	2
Practical	Contact	Students will participate in a series of practicals /workshops where they will be introduced to total station surveying, architectural stone handling and recording, and other topics as arise.	Every Week	2.00	2
Directed Reading	Non Contact	Students will be directed to a series of publications on the reading list designed to support the material covered in the lectures and provide detailed information for use in completion of continuous assessment work.	Every Week	2.00	2
Independent Study	Non Contact	Students will spend time researching and writing their reflective journal each day	Every Week	2.00	2
Total Weekly Learner Workload					20.00
Total Weekly Contact Hours					16.00

Workload: Part Time On Campus					
Workload Type	Contact Type	Workload Description	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload	Hours
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	Contact	Central to this module is the student's direct participation in live research excavation which takes place in an 'open-air classroom' on an archaeological excavation site.	Every Week	12.00	12
Lecture	Contact	There will be one formal lecture each week. These will cover an introduction to Irish prehistoric and historic period archaeology and various archaeological techniques.	Every Week	2.00	2
Practical	Contact	Students will participate in a series of practicals /workshops where they will be introduced to total station surveying, architectural stone handling and recording, and other topics as arise.	Every Week	2.00	2
Directed Reading	Non Contact	Students will be directed to a series of publications on the reading list designed to support the material covered in the lectures and provide detailed information for use in completion of continuous assessment work.	Every Week	2.00	2
Independent Study	Non Contact	Students will spend time researching and writing their reflective journal each day	Every Week	2.00	2
Total Weekly Learner Workload					20.00
Total Weekly Contact Hours					16.00

Module Resources

Recommended Book Resources

Green, Kevin and Moore, Tom. (2010), *Archaeology: an Introduction*, 5th edition. Routledge, London.

Renfrew, Colin and Bahn, Paul. (2000), *Archaeology: Theory, Methods and Practice*, 2nd edition. Thames & Hudson, London.

Barker, P.. (1993), *Techniques of Archaeological Excavation*, 3rd edition. Routledge, London.

Roskams Steve. (2001), *Excavation*, Cambridge University Press, p.311, [ISBN: 978-0521798013].

Drewett, P.. (2011), *Field Archaeology: An Introduction*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, [ISBN: 978-0415551199].

Supplementary Book Resources

Museum of London Archaeological Service. (1994), *Archaeological Site Manual*, Museum of London, London.

Gaffney, Chris and Gater, John. (2003), *Geophysics for Archaeologists*, Tempus, Stroud.

This module does not have any article/paper resources

Other Resources

PDF/hard-copy handout, Blackfriary Archaeology Field School. (2019), *Excavation Handbook*, Trim, Blackfriary Archaeology Field School.

PDF/hard-copy handout, Blackfriary Archaeology Field School. (2019), *Course Handbook for Students*, Trim, Blackfriary Archaeology Field School.

Website, Stout, Geraldine and Stout, Matthew. (2013), *The Bective Abbey Excavation Project*,
<http://bective.wordpress.com>

Website, Northern Ireland Environment Agency. (2011), *Excavation at Tirnony Dolmen*,
<http://blog.ni-environment.gov.uk/NIEA/>

Website, Conor Brady. (2011), *Rossnaree Excavation Project*,
<http://rossnareedig.wordpress.com>