



# Maritime Archaeology MSc

Bournemouth University

The School's Maritime Archaeology Research Group was formed in 2001, and has an international reputation for high quality research in this area. The Group is currently engaged in research on many of England's Designated Historic Wreck sites.

Bournemouth students have worked on designated sites which include: Salcombe 'B' (a middle Bronze site that provides evidence of early contacts with the Mediterranean), Salcombe Cannon Site (the wreck of a 17<sup>th</sup> century vessel and one of the most spectacular wrecks found in UK waters), and the Erme Ingot Site (a site with tentative connections with *Diodorus* 1st century BC reference to south west Britain tin trade). Currently students are undertaking work on the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Swash Channel Wreck (the extensive remains of a very large high status ship whose exact character is yet to be determined).

The *MSc Maritime Archaeology* consists of 5 units plus a *Personal Research* project. The aim of the programme is to develop the skills and initial experience required to undertake maritime archaeology in the field and/or prepare students for further study. Key skills taught during the programme, such as project management and analytical skills are widely transferable to a range of disciplines.

The programme consists of an introductory unit: *Methods and Practice in Maritime Archaeology*, which will introduce the students to the subject. This will be followed by a *Research Methods* Unit and *In Situ Preservation of Underwater Archaeology*, which will teach the students *in situ* degradation, protection, preservation and monitoring environmental threats to submerged archaeological sites. With climate change creating long term alterations in the marine environment, this unit will be the first taught course internationally to address these issues. The second semester will consist of a *Professional Practice in Maritime Archaeology*, which will provide the students with the background knowledge to undertake the final taught unit *Applied Maritime Archaeology*. This double weighted unit will be taught in the field with the students working alongside the programme team on one or more of the School's maritime archaeological projects.

Diving skills/qualifications are not essential to undertake the course.

**Start Date:**

October

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**Duration:**

1 year full-time; 2 years part-time

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**Entry Requirements:**

Honours degree or equivalent professional experience

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**Preferred subject:**

Archaeology and related subjects including Anthropology, History, Heritage and Marine Science

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**If English is not your first language:**

6.5 IELTS (Academic) or equivalent

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**Contact the Programme Administrator:**

The School of Conservation Sciences,  
Bournemouth University, Christchurch House,  
Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset BH12  
5BB

**Tel:** +44 (0)1202 965176

**Email:** [consci@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:consci@bournemouth.ac.uk)

**Open Days:**

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/opendays)

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**For more course information:**

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/msma](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/msma)



## Course Content

- Maritime Archaeology
- Research Methods
- *In Situ* Preservation of Underwater Archaeology
- Professional Practice in Maritime Archaeology
- Applied Maritime Archaeology
- Dissertation

This course is suited to graduates from disciplines as diverse as archaeology, history, heritage and the marine sciences. Mature students with an appropriate professional background may also apply.

Formal lectures, seminars and practical field-based sessions will be delivered by the course team, all of whom have excellent reputations in their subject areas.

## Learning and Teaching

Students experience a wide variety of learning and teaching methods including maritime archaeology practicals, lectures, workshops, seminars, field trips and individual tutorials. Hands-on experience of analytical techniques and tools is an essential part of our teaching programme and Information Technology skills and a vocational approach underpin the course. Methods of assessment are also varied and address theoretical issues, practical problems and tasks likely to be encountered in the professional environment.

Coursework will include analysis of shipwreck assemblages, production of professionally-structured reports, essays, oral presentations (in individual or group contexts), practical identification tests and the preparation of specialist assessments and reports based on the student's own analysis of materials. From this blend of teaching and assessment styles, students gain the confidence and skills to flourish in their chosen profession.

The School has a strong research-active academic community with collaborative links to other academic and professional institutions overseas and in the UK. It is part of European Union funded schemes such as Socrates- Erasmus, Tempus and Leonardo adding to the cultural diversity of the School and providing opportunities for overseas study.

## Resources

The course is fully supported by extensive technical and scientific facilities available within the School of Conservation Sciences. These include dedicated research and analytical laboratories, with

a wide range of instrumentation including X-ray facilities, Scanning Electron Microscope, workshops and layout rooms, a GIS and spatial information suite, map library and a postgraduate student computer laboratory.

In addition the School is fully equipped for undertaking archaeological diving operations in accordance with the UK's Health and Safety Executives *Diving at Work Regulations 1997* and has an extensive equipment base dedicated to the support of archaeological operations in the inter-tidal and marine zone.

## Status

In accordance with regulation 7(1) of The United Kingdom's *Diving at Work Regulations 1997* (S.I. 2776) Bournemouth University is registered to act as a diving contractor and is a World Underwater Federation (CMAS) Scientific Diving Centre.

## Maritime Archaeological Research Partners

The Group's research partners include or have included the British Museum, Department of Material Science, Oxford University, English Heritage, Devon County Archaeological Service, Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, Mary Rose Trust, Nautical Archaeological Society, NAS Scotland, National Maritime Museum, National Maritime Museum (Cornwall), Poole Museum, South West Marine Archaeological Group, St Andrews University, York Archaeological Trust, University of Wales, Bangor and Wolverhampton Universities.

*Please note:*

*The University reserves the right to introduce changes to the information given, including the addition, withdrawal, re-location or restructuring of courses.*

