



*Your Career with  
an Arts Degree*

# Careers in Archaeology



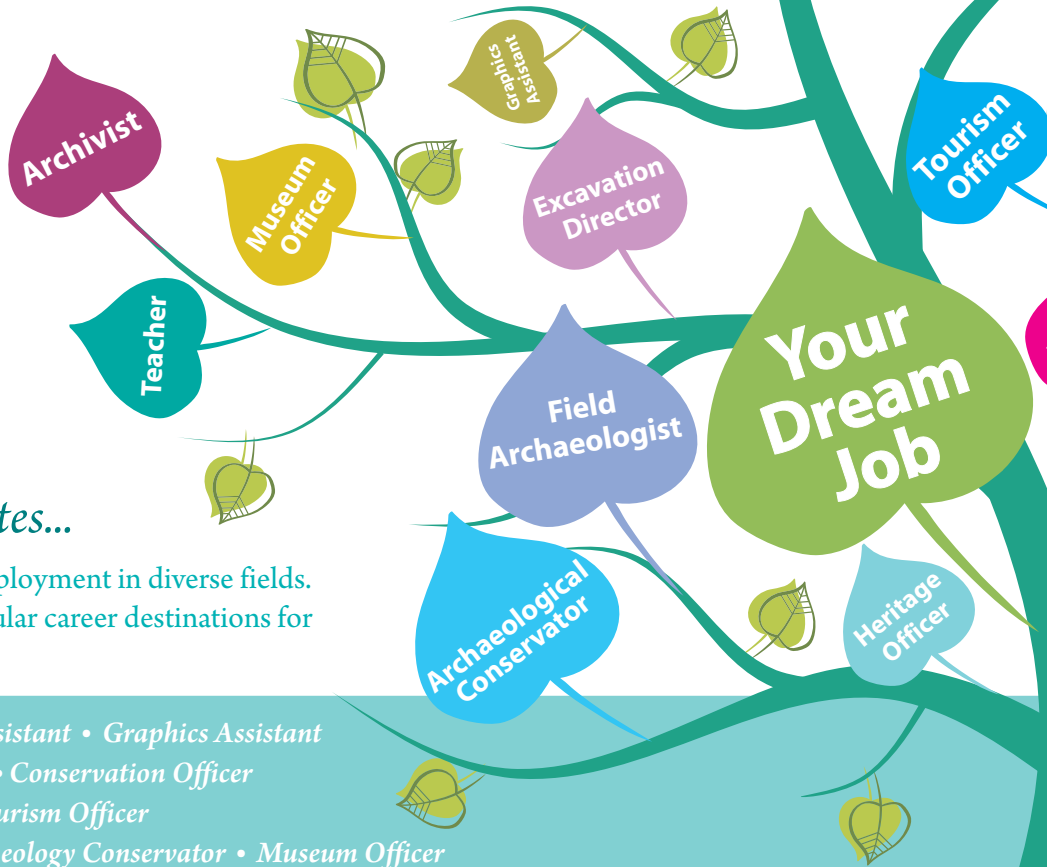
## Archaeology graduates and the employment market

Archaeology students acquire a wide range of skills and qualities that are valuable not just in the Archaeology profession, but also to other professions. This combination of numerate and literate skills is highly sought after by many sectors of employment.

### These skills include:

- Appreciation of the historical, social, cultural and political context of archaeological interpretation
- The ability to use and combine diverse sources of evidence such as excavated, documentary, representational, observational, artefactual, environmental and scientific material
- Use of methodologies to collect, quantify, analyse and interpret data
- A wider understanding of the history and development of the Irish landscape
- Insight into public archaeology and heritage management
- Fieldwork and laboratory techniques
- Selecting and using appropriate statistical techniques
- Produce logical arguments supported by evidence
- Communication skills – oral and written
- IT, information retrieval and presentation skills
- Research skills and Teamwork skills
- Sensitivity to different cultures and the ability to deal with new situations

Source: "Degrees of Skill: Student Employability Profiles"  
The Higher Education Academy.



## Typical jobs for Archaeology graduates...

Archaeology graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Archaeology graduates

*Field Archaeologist • Project Assistant • Graphics Assistant  
Environmental Impact Assessor • Conservation Officer  
Heritage Officer • Archivist • Tourism Officer  
Archaeological Surveyor • Archaeology Conservator • Museum Officer  
Excavation Director • Historical Researcher • Teacher • Lecturer • Data Analyst*

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

## Career Destinations of our Archaeology Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Archaeology graduates took up after graduation:

*Tour Guide, Office of Public Works Offaly  
Tour Guide, Ailwee Caves, Co Clare  
Archaeological field work, Leixlip and Co Louth  
Archaeological Site Supervisor, ADS Ltd Dublin  
Site Manager on construction site, Portmac Ltd Dublin  
Bookshop Assistant  
Year out travelling in South America*

Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey

## Boosting your employability as an Archaeologist

Archaeology is a competitive market. To show an interest and understanding of current projects may help you at interviews.

Work experience is also a key issue and any fieldwork you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. There are various voluntary and long or short-term projects worldwide that offer good experience.

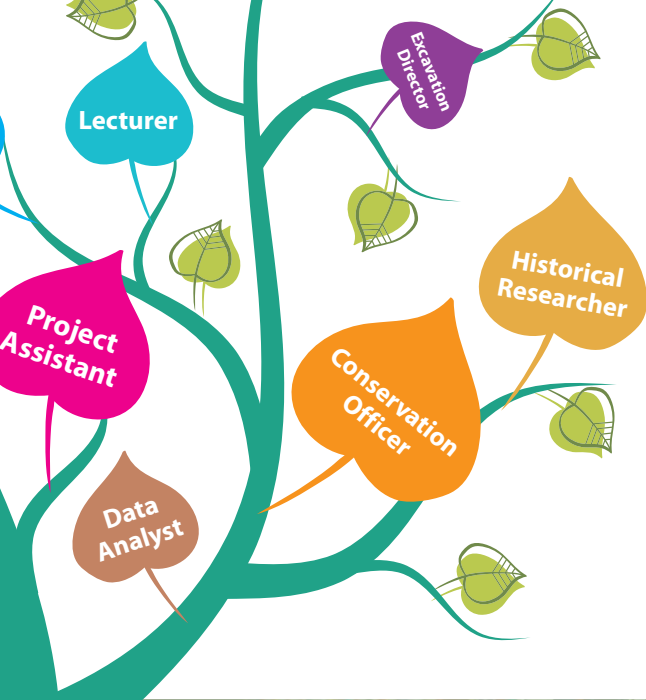
The Career Development Centre at NUI Galway has some reference books that may help you find work experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job search and may be available to reference in the Library.

*'Archaeology Ireland'  
'British Archaeology' and 'Current Archaeology' UK  
'European Journal of Archaeology'*

To work on a site in Ireland, it is necessary to hold a 'Safepass'. This qualification is obtained through a one-day course run by FÁS (<http://jobbank.fas.ie/safepass/>).





## What Postgraduate Courses do Archaeology Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Archaeology graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

MA (Landscape Archaeology)	MA / PhD (research)
HDip Archaeology	MA (Journalism)
HDip Business Studies	MA (Literature and Publishing)
HDip Systems Analysis	MA (Léann Eireannach)
HDip Software Design & Development	PG Dip (Education)



### Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Archaeology graduates include:

- MA/PhD (Archaeology) University of Edinburgh
- MA (Coastal Management and GIS Mapping), UCC
- MSc Forensic/Biological Anthropology, Bournemouth University
- MA (Archaeology) UCC
- MA (Art and Architecture of Archaeology) UCD
- MA (Urban and Building Conservation) UCD

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/careers](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers)

[www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

# What our students say...



## Oleg Kelly

I completed a degree in Archaeology and Gaeilge, and I am currently doing a Masters in Landscape Archaeology.

I think that by starting with an Arts degree, I allowed myself the space to naturally hone in on the various subjects and fields that interested me. When I initially enrolled at university, I began with a pre-existing interest in Irish language and History. During my first year I studied Psychology, Classical Civilizations, Gaeilge and Archaeology, and I chose Gaeilge and Archaeology for my degree. The study of Archaeology has led to a post-graduate course in Landscape Archaeology and it is my intention to build a business around this in the coming year.

At a basic level, I gained proficient use of a second language and hold a broad understanding of prehistoric and historic archaeological subject matter. Specifically, I have been equipped with the skills necessary to form a cohesive and logical argument founded on data acquired through research skills that utilise a variety of different methods and sources. I have the ability to analyse multiple streams of data, to extrapolate new data from the old, to interpret and draw conclusions, based on established practices and sound reasoning. Furthermore, I am fluent in a vibrant and modern version of the Irish language and am fully confident of my ability to compete, engage and interact, using this skill, on the international stage, in the modern world.

## Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Archaeology.

[www.nuigalway.ie/arc/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/arc/)

The Discovery Programme [www.discoveryprogramme.ie/](http://www.discoveryprogramme.ie/)

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland [www.iai.ie](http://www.iai.ie)

Achill Field School [www.achill-fieldschool.com/](http://www.achill-fieldschool.com/)

Irish Museums Association [www.irishmuseums.org](http://www.irishmuseums.org)

Archaeology links portal [www.xs4all.nl/~tbreen/links.html](http://www.xs4all.nl/~tbreen/links.html)

### EUROPE

The Council for British Archaeology [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk)

Current Archaeology (magazine) [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

The Institute for Archaeologists [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

Archaeological Resource Guide for Europe <http://odur.let.rug.nl/arge/>

### INTERNATIONAL

Earthworks (recruitment portal) [www.earthworks-jobs.com/archaeology.html](http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/archaeology.html)

Museums Online [www.museumstuff.com/links/science/archaeology/employment/](http://www.museumstuff.com/links/science/archaeology/employment/)

New Zealand Archaeological Association [www.nzarchaeology.org](http://www.nzarchaeology.org)

Australian Archaeological Association [www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au](http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au)

### GENERAL STUDENT / GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities: [www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html)

Gradireland [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)

Prospects UK Archaeology profile [www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_archaeology.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_archaeology.htm)



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