



AHIS8320

Under the Shadow of Vesuvius: Archaeology in Ancient Campania

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MAnchHist or GradCertAncHist or MA in (Ancient History or Coptic Studies)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

AHIS/AHIX8320

Unit description

Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae constitute one of the best known and perhaps the most important archaeological areas of the Roman world - the Vesuvian cities of ancient Campania. Evidence from these cities contributes information of inestimable value to our understanding of urban Roman life. This unit is designed for those wishing to investigate the wide range of evidence from Roman Campania, how it has been interpreted and how, in turn, this has influenced our understanding of urban development in the Roman world.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Present information found in textual and material sources on the mandatory primary archaeological sites and commentary in pertinent secondary sources.

ULO2: Integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge of ancient socio-historical practices from a range of archaeological sources and contexts.

ULO3: Communicate effectively about ancient Campania to different social, cultural, and professional audiences.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Portfolio	30%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Archaeological Exercise 2	35%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Archaeological Exercise 1	35%	No	13/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 38 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Online seminar participation in Weeks 2-6 and 8-12 will explore a range of topics keyed to the life and times of the archaeological site under consideration. Each week you will review information about a particular topic and provide a 100-200 word response to a stimulus: question on the topic in an online forum. At the end of the Session you will submit your choice of 5 of these responses in a single document to be assessed.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate effectively about ancient Campania to different social, cultural, and professional audiences.

Archaeological Exercise 2

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This two-part task is based on knowledge and understanding of archaeology in ancient Campania acquired in Weeks 1-6 and 8-12 (official and non-official inscriptions; politics and public life; production, consumption and exchange of goods and services; and cemeteries and the commemoration of the living and the dead). You will create (1) an archaeological profile of a

particular location; and (2) a brief response on an aspect of archaeology in ancient Campania. A marking rubric, task outline, and word limit will be provided on the unit homepage. Submission: Turnitin Assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Present information found in textual and material sources on the mandatory primary archaeological sites and commentary in pertinent secondary sources.
- Integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge of ancient socio-historical practices from a range of archaeological sources and contexts.

Archaeological Exercise 1

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **13/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This two-part task is based on knowledge and understanding of archaeology in ancient Campania acquired in Weeks 1-6 (topography, rediscovery, sources; public landscapes; private spaces). You will create (1) an archaeological profile of a particular type of material culture; and (2) a brief response on an aspect of archaeology in ancient Campania. A marking rubric, task outline, and word limit will be provided on the unit homepage. Submission: Turnitin Assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Present information found in textual and material sources on the mandatory primary archaeological sites and commentary in pertinent secondary sources.
- Integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge of ancient socio-historical practices from a range of archaeological sources and contexts.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

As a fully online postgraduate *reading* unit, a list of required and recommended readings and video files will be provided each week on the iLearn. Naturally, your attention should be focused on the primary sources. The websites **Pompeii in Pictures** and **Herculaneum in Pictures** and Alison and Michael Cooley's **Pompeii and Herculaneum** sourcebook will be your foundation and guide books. In addition, you may refer to *any* modern scholarship or popular reading

All prescribed reading for AHIS/AHIX8320 is supplied on the unit homepage. If you wish to explore additional sources of information and secondary scholarship available online or via our University Library, then please feel free to consult the **Roman Campania - bibliography** pdf file.

Drop in Zoom sessions are offered throughout the teaching period, and students can communicate with staff to organise others if necessary.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from **Policy Central** (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit **Student Policies** (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit **Policy Central** (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global

MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)