



ARCX1102

Laboratory Methods of Archaeology

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5
<u>Changes from Previous Offering</u>	7

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor & Tutor

Hannah Vogel

hannah.vogel@mq.edu.au

Contact via Convenor's Mailbox: iLearn

25WW B108

By appointment: contact via iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit covers a range of laboratory principles and methods used in archaeology for the description, analysis and critical appraisal of artefacts, features and sites. Through theoretical instruction and practical demonstrations in on-campus laboratories, students learn how the different experts involved in an archaeological project carry out laboratory analyses and artefact studies on archaeological sediments, items of material culture, and plant, human and animal remains using scientific approaches (for example, X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry, Isotopic Analysis, Geomorphology and Sedimentology, Human Osteology and Palaeopathology, Zooarchaeology, Proteomics, etc).

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: Apply knowledge of the principles of archaeological techniques and methods in a laboratory-environment.

ULO2: Integrate knowledge of archaeology while participating in scientific practical experiences.

ULO3: Discuss strategies for study and analysis of archaeological objects with team

members.

ULO4: Analyse archaeological features and materials (pottery, glass, metal, bone, and ivory objects) at an introductory level.

ULO5: Demonstrate critical thinking in the interpretation of the archaeological data.

ULO6: Synthesise and communicate acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical reports.

General Assessment Information

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE UNIT

To complete the unit successfully you need a minimum mark of 50% overall.

GRADES:

F: 0-49% **P:** 50-64% **CR:** 65-74% **D:** 75-84% **HD:** 85-100%

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS - PENALTY

Unless a **Special Consideration** request has been submitted and approved, a **5% penalty (of the total possible mark)** will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, **up until the 7th day (including weekends)**. After the 7th day, a mark of, 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. **Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm**. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as online quizzes, tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the Unit Convenor in a **Special Consideration** application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments due to tardiness – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS

Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the set criteria and standards before task results are released. See further the note on **Results** in the Policies and Procedures section below.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Report</u>	35%	No	13/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Research essay</u>	35%	No	18/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Problem set</u>	30%	No	07/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 22 hours

Due: **13/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A report on a designated topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the principles of archaeological techniques and methods in a laboratory-environment.
- Integrate knowledge of archaeology while participating in scientific practical experiences.
- Discuss strategies for study and analysis of archaeological objects with team members.

Research essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 44 hours

Due: **18/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Your answer to the essay question should demonstrate extensive use of primary and secondary sources. Your essay should be based on an analysis and discussion of primary (ancient) sources. Secondary literature should be used to aid you in your analysis and interpretation of the ancient sources and to place your interpretation within the context of previous scholarship. All opinions included in the essay, whether quoted directly or paraphrased, should be referenced according to the standard academic guidelines.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge of archaeology while participating in scientific practical experiences.
- Discuss strategies for study and analysis of archaeological objects with team members.
- Analyse archaeological features and materials (pottery, glass, metal, bone, and ivory objects) at an introductory level.
- Demonstrate critical thinking in the interpretation of the archaeological data.
- Synthesise and communicate acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical reports.

Problem set

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 6 hours

Due: **07/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Answer short questions based on the seminar content and readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge of archaeology while participating in scientific practical experiences.
- Analyse archaeological features and materials (pottery, glass, metal, bone, and ivory objects) at an introductory level.
- Demonstrate critical thinking in the interpretation of the archaeological data.
- Synthesise and communicate acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical reports.

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

Consult the Unit's iLearn site for weekly updates on delivery and resources.

Unit Schedule

Please consult the Unit's iLearn site for weekly updates on the Unit Schedule.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<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) (<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) (<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.

Changes from Previous Offering

1) For 2026, this unit will be co-taught at 3000 and 1000 levels due to curriculum changes in degree offerings. The relevant unit codes for 2026 are AHIS3302, ARCH1102, ARCX1102. All teaching is equal. Assessment differences are reflected in the word limits for the Research Essay, whereby AHIS3302 students have a 2,500 word limit, and ARCH/ARCX1102 students have a 1,500-2,000 word limit. Please see iLearn for all further specifications and contact the Unit convenor if you have any questions.

2) Note that the 'Report' assessment refers to the e-Portfolio task, as described in iLearn. Please see iLearn for all further specifications and contact the Unit convenor if you have any questions.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the **Handbook**