



SEAHA

EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN
ARTS HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

SEAHA Studentship: Evaluating evaluation trenching in archaeological projects

The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in [Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology](#) at University College London, University of Oxford and University of Brighton, in collaboration with [Historic England](#) and [Trent & Peak Archaeology](#) are seeking applications for a fully funded studentship on the topic 'Evaluating evaluation trenching in archaeological projects'. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) through the SEAHA Centre for Doctoral Training and co-funded by the University of Brighton, Historic England and Trent & Peak Archaeology, the four-year doctoral research project will be supervised jointly by UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage, the University of Brighton as well as academics from the partner institutes.

This PhD will assess the usefulness and limitations of evaluation trenching in different environment types, for the detection of different archaeological resources. The project will synthesise and analyse pre-existing archaeological data from projects that included a significant evaluation trenching component that have been followed by a full mitigation excavation stage. These previous data sets will be collected from both grey literature (unpublished) and published sources. These data sets will be collected from archaeological programmes that occurred in a variety of different depositional environments, and that have followed a series of different evaluation trenching strategies. Working within a GIS environment, the project will compare the results from the evaluation excavation trenching stages against the archaeological realities realised in the full mitigation excavation. This will allow an assessment of the effectiveness of the evaluation excavation strategy to identify the nature and distribution of the archaeological remains and how/if the evaluation trenching design influenced the full mitigation strategy. From these, simulations within the GIS environment will be run to test the most effective levels of feature and site identification using a series of different evaluation trenching designs and applications, validating these with results from the full mitigation excavation databases.

The PhD will address five key research questions:

- i. What evaluation trenching strategies are suitable in complex (accreting) depositional environments and how much evaluation excavation is required in conjunction with a deposit modelling framework for these environments?
- ii. What evaluation trenching strategies are suitable for archaeological detection on dryland (shallow bedrock sites, e.g. chalk) and how should it be applied in conjunction with shallow geoprospection methods suitable for dryland shallow bedrock areas?
- iii. What are there different practices for evaluation trenching and how do these compare in their effectiveness for the identification of historic environmental resources?
- iv. What is the ability of evaluation trenching to detect small, less obvious archaeological features from earlier periods, e.g. Creswellian flints, Mesolithic features?
- v. Is the 'industry standard' of 5% evaluation excavation strategy effective?



SEAHA

EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN
ARTS HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Academic entry requirements

UK Second Class Honours 2:1 (minimum or its overseas equivalent) in a relevant subject area (Archaeology, Geography or Geoinformatics; other science disciplines also considered), or a minimum of 5 years' relevant professional experience in lieu of the above requirement, and a letter of support.

English language entry requirements

Proof of meeting the UCL English language proficiency requirements where necessary. For SEAHA candidates, a standard level certificate is normally required. See [International students | UCL London's Global University](#)

Applicants whose first language is not English must have successfully completed a Secure English language Test (SELT) in the last two years. Applicants who have obtained or are studying for a UK degree may apply without a SELT. However, the university may request a SELT is taken as part of any award made.

English language IELTS requirements are minimum of 6.0 in each component.

If you have an English language qualification other than IELTS, please contact us to see if you are eligible to apply for a studentship. The UK Home Office will not accept TOEFL tests as proof of meeting the English language requirements

Eligibility criteria

See <http://www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk/study-with-us/studentships/eligibility-criteria/>

Funding

This project is a four year integrated MRes/PhD studentship in the SEAHA Centre for Doctoral Training (www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk), funded by the EPSRC, UCL, the University of Brighton, the University of Oxford, and SEAHA heritage and industrial partners. The project is fully funded for UK resident students, and fees-only for other EU students. Limited possibility of funding for international students may also be available.

Contact

If you have any questions about this project, funding or application process, please contact:

Dr Chris Carey: C.J.Carey@brighton.ac.uk

How to apply

The application should be submitted by email direct the SEAHA inbox at the University of Brighton:

SEAHA@brighton.ac.uk

and not by the UCL or UoB online admissions system.

To submit an application by **Monday 9th July**, please include all of the following:



SEAHA

EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN
ARTS HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- a substantial covering letter (2–3 pages) including a clear explanation of your motivation for your proposed project
- a statement of your understanding of your eligibility according to the information provided at: <http://www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk/study-with-us/studentships/eligibility-criteria/> and <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/students/help/eligibility/>
- a research proposal (approx. 1,000 words) including project research questions and methodology
- a full detailed CV
- contact details for two academic references (names, postal and email addresses)
- proof of meeting the UCL/UoB English language proficiency requirements where necessary.

We will only consider complete applications.