

Department of Archaeology University College Cork

Graduate Book

We recently caught up with some former students of the Department of Archaeology to ask about their time at UCC, and to find out a little bit about where they are and what they are doing now. Their studies and hard work have taken them all down very varied and rewarding paths in life, with many finding work in Irish archaeology and others venturing as far afield as the US. Virgin Islands!

They have kindly agreed to share their stories, so read on if you would like to find out more...



Toureen Peakau



University Lecturer

Colin Breen



"I am senior lecturer in archaeology at the University of Ulster. I specialise in maritime and historical archaeology and I conduct research both in Europe and Africa, investigating medieval port towns, shipwrecks and coastal landscapes.

As an undergraduate in UCC my primary degree provided a thorough and fascinating grounding in both Irish and world archaeology. Teaching was conducted in an exciting, dynamic and well-resourced environment, with highly motivated and professional teaching staff. The degree provided me with a set of key core skills that allowed me to subsequently develop a rewarding career."

Cork City Council

Ciara Brett



"I am the City Archaeologist with Cork City Council.

Based in the Planning and Development Directorate, I advise developers on any archaeological implications and requirements within a proposed development. I also carry out archaeological excavations in the city and undertake special projects, such as publishing guides to the archaeology of the city.

I graduated with a BA and a MA, the latter in Methods and Practice in Irish Archaeology. The course modules involved were varied and involved both Irish and international archaeology. The degree courses also had practical applications, necessary for excavation projects, and it was during my time studying for my MA that I was first introduced to the importance of archaeology in the planning process. My time at UCC certainly provided a stable grounding for my subsequent career as an archaeologist."

Tracy Collins

Commercial Archaeologist

"I studied archaeology at UCC graduating with a BA and MA degree. Following my graduation I gained experience in various areas of archaeological work, eventually progressing to become an excavation supervisor and subsequently I became eligible to hold an excavation licence, so I could then direct my own sites.

I formed Aegis Archaeology Limited, with Frank Coyne, and the company deals with a whole range of



archaeological projects, including excavations and surveys as part of conservation, road projects and other types of development. We also undertake desk-based assessment which involves monument inspections and research in libraries, museums and on-line. We sometimes give lectures to local communities and academics on our findings. On occasion, archaeological finds can be very important, and change our views of the past, such as the Mesolithic cremations at Hermitage, Co. Limerick, which are the earliest in Ireland.

Working as an archaeologist is a very exciting career and I benefitted greatly from the many transferable skills I acquired during my time studying archaeology at UCC."

Kourtney Donohue

U.S. Virgin Islands National Park Service

"I graduated with an MA in Archaeology. Currently I work as an archaeologist for the U.S. Virgin Islands National Park Service on the small Caribbean island of St. John. The fieldwork I conduct involves hiking through the tropical forest in search of historic ruins and prehistoric archaeological sites. We test the integrity and extent of the sites we find using excavation techniques. We also conduct salvage excavations of sites and monuments that are threatened by erosion along the beaches. I am also on the NPS Dive Team, conducting underwater surveys in the area of the National Park.

My education at UCC qualified me to conduct archaeological and osteological fieldwork, lab analysis, research and the report writing that I use in my job on a daily basis. Since graduating I've been afforded a variety of job opportunities that include working as a contract archaeologist for multiple private cultural resource management firms, public universities, and the U.S. federal government."



The Heritage Council

I graduated with an MA in archaeology from UCC. For most of my career I have worked for the Heritage Council on projects as diverse as conserving the former Bishop's Palace in Kilkenny, assessing grant-aided projects, drafting conservation plans and advising government on heritage policy.



Ian Doyle

I was always fascinated by archaeology and wanted to pursue it as a career. My time at UCC taught me a lot of transferable skills, including how to research and analyse data, and, crucially, writing and teamwork skills.

Commercial Archaeologist

"I am the Managing Director of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. and Know Thy Place Ltd. Since graduating I have



Colm Moloney

worked exclusively in commercial archaeology in Scotland, France, England and Ireland. I am responsible for the strategic business management of Headland Archaeology, but I also engage in fieldwork as much as possible, publishing the results in both academic and popular media.

I love my job, enjoying the outdoor lifestyle as well as the academic challenge of making sense of the sites and monuments we excavate and survey. An added dimension for me is the commercial aspect of my job, which involves promoting and running a successful business.

My days can involve business meetings in the office, excavation and survey in the field, writing or being interviewed for radio and TV.

My time at UCC provided me with a solid foundation for work as a professional archaeologist both in Ireland and abroad."

Connie Kelleher

Underwater Archaeologist

"I graduated with an MA degree in maritime archaeology and now work with the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. As part of my work I have directed numerous dive projects on shipwreck sites, including two Spanish Armada wrecks, the possible remains of a pirate ship, and wrecks from the Cromwellian and 1798 Rebellion periods. This work has afforded me the opportunity to be involved in exciting, developing projects that have opened a window of knowledge into our maritime past.



Studying archaeology in UCC provided me with the foundation to specialize in underwater archaeology and with the skills, experience and information to ensure I was able to follow a successful career that is fulfilling, rewarding and never boring!"

Griffin Murray

Kerry County Museum

"I currently work in Kerry County Museum, an institution dedicated to the history and archaeology of that county. My position is principally a curatorial one where I am responsible for the care and documentation of the collections, but I also acquire artefacts and advise the public on objects they may have. I am also involved in the development of exhibitions and educational programmes. While essentially office based, this is also a very sociable job and there is sometimes fieldwork involved.

Studying archaeology at UCC equipped me with the vital knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a career as a museum archaeologist in Ireland. During my time there I found the staff to be very supportive and encouraging, which allowed me to develop my particular interests and advance my qualifications. Through UCC I also had the opportunity to study in both Copenhagen and Los Angeles, which further broadened my knowledge and experience."



Maeve O' Callaghan

"I graduated from UCC with a BA and continued my studies at UCD, completing an MA in Regional & Urban Planning. Currently working for the National Monuments Service as an archaeologist, my work is varied and interesting and involves fieldwork as well as office-based work.

On a daily basis I advise Local Authorities and developers, and their agents, on archaeology and planning-related archaeological assessments, excavation, pre-planning enquiries and Development Plans. I also work closely with the Office of Public Works on conservation projects and maintenance works at National Monuments.



Dealing with monument protection under the National Monuments Acts is another challenging aspect of my work. My studies at UCC equipped me well for my career in archaeology. 'Dig in' to your studies at UCC and it should give you a 'dig out' in the future!"

National
Monuments
Service

Maeve Sikora

"I graduated with an MA degree in archaeology. I now work as an Assistant Keeper in the Irish Antiquities



Division of the National Museum of Ireland. My work at the museum is very diverse and involves both office-based projects and fieldwork. I have been involved in a variety of important museum projects, including the excavation of the site of discovery of an early medieval manuscript at Faddan More, Co. Tipperary, as well as a number of Bronze Age burial sites. Research into the national collections and the development of exhibitions are both important parts of museum work. I have also travelled overseas to bring loan objects to various exhibitions.

National
Museum
of Ireland

The undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in UCC provided me with the knowledge and practical skills to work as an archaeologist in a museum

Forensic Archaeologist

Irene O' Sullivan



My career began with my undergraduate degree in archaeology in UCC. There was great emphasis placed on developing analytical and critical skills, and independent research was encouraged here. I took these skills with me into my postgraduate research in forensic archaeology in the UK, and I continue to use and develop them today.

At present I am working as a forensic advisor at the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), Ministry of Security and Justice, working solely on international cases. The NFI is also the principal forensic provider to the international tribunals based in the Netherlands. The job is varied and challenging, and I never know from one day to another what may cross my desk relating to crime scene investigation.

My job involves close contact with the National Police of the Netherlands (KLPD) as well as with international policing agencies, such as Interpol, Europol, the FBI, etc. My previous employment has involved working for the United Nations, the International Commission on Missing Persons and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia."

If you would like more information on studying Archaeology at UCC, then please don't hesitate to contact us or visit us on the web:



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