



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Apply Knowledge Of How Archaeological Deposits Accumulate Training

Human and Social Studies / Traditions, History and Legacies

Unit Standard 119863 · NQF Level 3 · 10 Credits · 7 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips participants with the foundational knowledge of how archaeological deposits form and accumulate over time. Learners will understand the natural and cultural processes that affect site formation, enabling them to interpret stratigraphy and depositional sequences accurately in archaeological contexts.

Category	Human and Social Studies
Subfield	Traditions, History and Legacies
Unit Standard	119863
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 3 · 10 Credits
Duration	7 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply principles of stratigraphy to interpret archaeological deposit sequences.
- Analyze the natural and cultural processes that contribute to deposit accumulation.
- Evaluate different site formation processes, including taphonomy and bioturbation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how deposits are dated using relative and absolute methods.
- Implement field recording techniques to document deposit accumulation accurately.
- Assess the impact of post-depositional disturbances on archaeological contexts.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for archaeology students, field technicians, heritage practitioners, and anyone involved in archaeological site management or cultural resource management in South Africa.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Archaeological Deposits and Site Formation

- Definition and types of archaeological deposits.
- Overview of site formation processes: natural vs. cultural.
- Introduction to stratigraphy and the Law of Superposition.
- Factors affecting deposit accumulation: climate, human activity, and time.
- Basic terminology: context, feature, artifact, ecofact.
- Importance of understanding deposits for archaeological interpretation.

Day 2: Geological and Environmental Processes Affecting Deposits

- Geological processes: erosion, deposition, and weathering.
- Alluvial, colluvial, aeolian, and glacial deposits.
- Environmental factors: climate, vegetation, and hydrology.
- Soil formation and its impact on artifact preservation.
- Case studies: coastal, riverine, and cave deposits.
- Post-depositional disturbances: bioturbation, cryoturbation, and human activity.

Day 3: Cultural Formation Processes and Anthropogenic Deposits

- Cultural formation processes: construction, abandonment, and discard.
- Primary vs. secondary refuse and their archaeological signatures.
- Features: hearths, pits, middens, and structures.
- Anthropogenic soils: terra preta, plaggen soils, and occupation layers.
- Impact of agriculture, industry, and urbanisation on deposits.
- Case studies: settlement patterns and land use over time.

Day 4: Stratigraphy and Depositional Sequences

- Principles of stratigraphy: superposition, original horizontality, cross-cutting relationships.
- Types of stratigraphic units: layers, lenses, and interfaces.
- Harris matrix construction and interpretation.
- Facies analysis and lateral variation in deposits.
- Distinguishing between natural and cultural stratigraphy.
- Practical exercise: reading a stratigraphic profile.

Day 5: Dating Techniques and Chronological Frameworks

- Relative dating: typology, seriation, and stratigraphic correlation.
- Absolute dating: radiocarbon, luminescence, dendrochronology.
- Dating organic and inorganic materials: charcoal, bone, shell, sediment.
- Calibration and interpretation of dating results.
- Bayesian analysis for chronological modelling.
- Case studies: dating complex depositional sequences.

Day 6: Field Methods for Recording and Sampling Deposits

- Excavation techniques: single context, open area, and test pits.
- Recording systems: context sheets, plans, sections, and photography.
- Sampling strategies: judgmental, systematic, random, and stratified.
- Collection of bulk samples, micromorphology, and archaeobotanical samples.
- On-site documentation and data management.

- Health and safety considerations in the field.

Day 7: Integration, Interpretation, and Reporting

- Synthesising stratigraphy, dating, and formation processes.
- Building a site formation model: natural and cultural factors.
- Writing interpretive reports: structure and content.
- Case studies: applying knowledge to South African sites.
- Ethical considerations in archaeological interpretation.
- Final assessment: practical exercise in deposit interpretation.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **10 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 3**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 28,200.00	R 28,200.00
1	In-House	R 36,700.00	R 36,700.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 42,300.00	R 42,300.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
07 Aug 2026	17 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
07 Aug 2026	17 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Lagos, Nigeria
10 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 119863) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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