

### Statement of competence

**Name of applicant:**

Grade applied for: **PCiFA X**      ACiFA      MCiFA

**Education**

Explain how your academic qualifications demonstrate the four areas of the competence matrix

Qualification & date obtained	Competence demonstrated
<p><b>MSc Archaeology and Landscape</b> <b>29/09/2016</b></p>	<p>Main subjects: Territory and Landscape, Archaeometry and Archaeological Sciences, Research Methodologies, Geoarchaeology, GIS, Stable Isotopes.</p> <p>Within such Master Degree Programme, I was able to improve my archaeological skills and knowledge, in the first place as I had the opportunity to be involved in the archaeological excavation of one of the best preserved Bronze Age Argaric Culture Settlement located in the Southern of Iberia Peninsula: “Cerro de la Encina de Monachil, Granada, Spain”. In such site I excavated several kinds of features and deposits, for instance some circular and rectangular huts built in stone and cooked clay. I also carried out the archaeological registration, drawing and topographical surveying using different tools such as optical levels, GPS and total station. Likewise, as I had a previous experience working as an archaeologist in urban contexts, in such excavation I was also in charge of making a 3D Carver Matrix in order to systematize the complex stratigraphy of the site (different occupation moments, terrace constructions on hill slope, human burials inside the huts, etc.), which in general terms covered more than one thousand years of human occupation.</p> <p>On the other hand, within the modules such as Archaeometry, Archaeozoology or Stable Isotopes, several methods and techniques on how to carry out environmental and other samples were taught. In my case, I was involved in a scientific research on absolute chronology that concluded in the elaboration of my thesis dissertation. Therefore proper scientific procedures of taking charcoal, bones and seeds samples were particularly enriching for my professional development.</p> <p>Regarding other archaeological tasks, modules such a Geoarchaeology, Archaeology of Production or Prehistoric Pottery were very helpful in order to improve my working abilities with several kinds of artefacts (pottery, lithic, rocks). Especially my knowledge on geomorphology and geology as the most important instruments for recognizing different depositional and post-depositional formation processes of archaeological sites and contexts.</p> <p>Certainly, I would like to mention that working and studying within an incredible research team, in a work environment formed by different professors, specialists, postdoc students, etc., was the best point of this educative experience in order to help me achieving all the previously proposed goals.</p>

Qualification & date obtained	Competence demonstrated
<b>BA and MA in History</b> <b>30/06/2008</b>	Main subjects: World History, Historiographical Theory, Methods and Techniques of Historical and Archaeological Research, Field Archaeology.

Qualification: Very Good (see degree attached).

Within this combined Bachelor and Master programme I began to understand the fundamentals of the archaeological practice and research. In fact, I started my university studies in 2002 and one year later, in the context of the modules related to Classical Archaeology and Archaeological Theory, I got a fellowship to participate in the "Archaeological Systematic Excavation at Roman Theatre of Malaga" (2003-2004). This experience provided me with the first notions on how to carry out an archaeological excavation, the main methodologies and techniques, as well as allowed me to know different archaeological recording procedures. Basically I was able to dig in several contexts and features, to follow different ways of drawings in different scales, and even learn the use of topographical tools for instance optical levels and total station. Likewise, I carried out cataloguing tasks with several remains and artefacts such as Roman Pottery, sorting out animal bones. Also, I was trained in the first steps of sampling, applied in this concrete case for environmental reconstruction of the fish species used in the production of roman sauces like "garum".

I also obtained a mobility fellowship, funded by the University of Malaga and the University of Porto, to participate in the fieldworks "Excavation of the Archaeological site at Castanheiro do Vento, Freixo de Numao, Portugal" during summer 2005. This experience allowed me to understand the advantages and difficulties of following an excavation methodology in open areas, in this case applied to a Chalcolithic settlement from 3rd Millennium BC. I formed part of an international team composed by archaeologists and specialists from everywhere (Portugal, USA, UK, Spain, France, etc.), which firstly helped me to meet people and, in fact, to know what archaeology means in each country involved in the project. Regarding the field tasks, I excavated several contexts (wall enclosures, storage spaces, domestic households, etc.), and I also learned other registration and drawing systems tailored to archaeological excavations in open areas. Finally, field activities were complemented with laboratory tasks where I was studying and sorting out chalcolithic pottery, lithic tools made on flint and quartzite, as well as processing soil samples in order to get small findings and other remains such as seeds, shells or micro-fauna bones.

In the context of the modules related to Prehistory, Research Methods and Techniques in Prehistoric Archaeology, I was also a student member of the Research Team "Territory and Human Settlement at the Rio Grande, Malaga, Spain, during Prehistory and Protohistory" (2004-2007). In this project I had the opportunity to participate in several activities, especially in archaeological surveys on extensive surfaces, learning the most important principles, methodologies and techniques to undertake an archaeological survey satisfactorily. Consequently I worked with geospatial tools such as GPS, different vector and raster maps in order to locate possible archaeological evidences subsequently treated by GIS. Likewise, intensive archaeological surveys were carried out on specific surfaces in order to get a better characterization of possible archaeological sites, which gave me the possibility to learn different collecting and recording systems of archaeological material as well as its subsequent quantitative and qualitative analyses. Within this project I also participated in the rehabilitation of the Megalithic Dolmen "El Tesorillo de la Llana" (Alozaina, Malaga, Spain) and the fitting out works for tourist visits of the same. In this sense, in addition to archaeological skills, I would like to highlight how this experience provided me with knowledge about health and safety environment in archaeological works, the meaning of wearing hi-vi clothes, security footwear and helmet next to machines working around the site, as well as the importance to have a risk assessment study before starting to work.

### Employed or voluntary work experience

For each post or major project give the job title, the name of the organisation, start and end dates and a description of the role and the responsibilities held and how these meet the four areas of the competence matrix.

Job title:	<b>Field Archaeologist</b>
Employer:	
Start and end dates :	<b>27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017 – currently</b>
Length of time in role:	<b>Over 3 months</b>
<p>I have been employed as a Field Archaeologist for the last three months, working on an Infrastructure Project, as a part of an archaeological team.</p> <p>In the context of such position, I have been excavating several archaeological features and deposits such as animal burials as well as other constructions (irrigation channels, hut foundations, ditch enclosures, different kinds of pits...etc.) dated in different cultural horizons and chronologies (Iron Age, Roman Period, Anglo-Saxon times). In this sense, I have been able to link my previous archaeological experience with the characteristics that define British Commercial Archaeology in order to produce the best archaeological documentation possible. Therefore, these months I have been going into details regarding many examples of context sheets, describing from simple to more complex stratigraphic relationships, as well as different plan and section drawings, and also surveying and photogrammetric documentation of some constructions. At the same time, many examples of environmental and other samples have been taken, particularly in those contexts defined as animal burials.</p> <p>The daily development of this activity has been easier due to the fact that many inductions and briefings concerning general and specific issues (Health and Safety, Risk Assessments, First Aid, Monitoring of Machines, Surveying and Drawing, Systematization of each part of the archaeological register) have been carried out by the archaeological staff and other specialists involved in the Project. In fact, several project officer, supervisors and site assistants have been helping me to know some specific subjects related to British Archaeology such as relative chronologies, pattern of construction and settlement, local and regional geology, set of potteries and other finds, etc., in order to carry out a proper understanding of the depositional and post depositional processes that participated in the archaeological record formation.</p>	

Position held:	<b>Senior Archaeologist, and Field Director</b>
Organisation name:	
Dates position held:	<b>March, 2015 – June, 2016.</b>
Length of time in role:	<b>1 year and 3 months</b>
<p>Within the archaeological company, I developed the role of Senior Archaeologist and Field Director for 15 months, working in the Spanish Commercial Archaeology sector. In this sense, I carried out the following activities: management, protection, research and tutelage of Archaeological Heritage through the direction and coordination of the field and laboratory works. Elaboration of fieldwork projects, scientific reports and management memories. Cartographic, topographical and GIS design; archaeological drawing, classification and cataloguing of different artefacts and remains documented.</p> <p>Mainly, I would like to highlight a field projects I had the opportunity to manage:</p> <p><b>March 2015 – October 2015:</b> <b>Field Director Archaeologist and Senior Archaeologist of ...</b></p> <p>It was actually a Landscape Archaeology Project carried out as a consequence of an Infrastructure Plan, concretely the construction of a new sewer system. In this sense, all the mechanical removal works of soil were examined up to an area where many evidences of metallurgical activities had been documented some years ago.</p> <p>Subsequently, in such point an archaeological excavation was undertaken, recording every feature, context and find through the development of a specific GIS. As result of this activity, some archaeological context from Bronze Age and Late Medieval Age were found, as well as other paleontological evidences.</p>	

Position held:	<b>Senior Archaeologist, Field Director, Supervisor, and Field</b>
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	<b>Archaeologist.</b>
Organisation name:	
Dates position held:	<b>September, 2009 – September, 2012.</b>
Length of time in role:	<b>Over 3 years</b>

Within the archaeological company, I developed several roles and positions, from Field Archaeologist to Senior Archaeologist and Field Director, working over three years in the Spanish Commercial Archaeology sector. Basically, I carried out the following activities: Management, protection, research, tutelage and dissemination of Archaeological Heritage through the direction and participation in many archaeological excavations and landscape archaeological surveys (from Prehistory to Contemporary Age). Elaboration of research and work projects, scientific reports and management memories. Direction and coordination of interdisciplinary groups through field and laboratory tasks. Cartographic, topographical, photogrammetric and GIS design; anthropological and anthropometric studies; samplings and other archaeometric and environmental analyses. Drawing, classification and cataloguing of different artefacts and remains documented.

Likewise, I would like to highlight some projects I developed in different roles and positions:

#### **January 2011 – September 2012**

##### **Field Director Archaeologist of Preventive Archaeological Excavation**

Urban Archaeology project in the general context of a Rehabilitation Plan of a Historical Building. After monitoring the mechanical excavation, during the archaeological fieldworks carried out in the place of the new foundation of the building (where severe health and safety procedures had to be implemented) a complex stratigraphy was documented. In this sense, a long human occupation sequence, represented in archaeological contexts from Punic and Republic Roman Era to Modern and Contemporary times (see publication attached as an example of work) was excavated with satisfactory results.

#### **August 2010– December 2010**

##### **Senior Archaeologist and Field Co-director in the 2nd stage works of Preventive Archaeological Excavation**

Urban Archaeology Project carried out in the general context of the Rehabilitation Plan of the 16th Century Aristocratic Palace designated to house the art museum. First of all, due to the fact that archaeological fieldworks were developed under such building, severe health and safety procedures had to be implemented. This experience was actually one of the most significant for my professional career as I understood how working a health and safety work environment must be always our main goal to achieve.

Regarding the archaeological tasks, I directed a team formed by more than 60 people being among them archaeologists, several assistants and other specialists, and as a Field Co-director I was in charge of the archaeological excavation of a monumental Roman Nymphaeum found in the context of a Roman Aristocratic Household. Likewise, a human occupation sequence, represented in archaeological contexts from Late Republic Roman Period to Early Islamic Medieval Age, was also documented.

#### **January 2010 – February 2010**

##### **Field Director Archaeologist of Landscape Archaeological Survey**

Landscape Archaeological Survey Project carried out in the context of an Infrastructure Plan in a rural area. Throughout the fieldworks, a set of lithic tools from Middle Palaeolithic was documented, and thus I proceeded to the subsequent study in order to assess the hypothetical risks of destruction that could affect its context (see publication attached as an example of work).

In order to achieve this purpose, several strategies and techniques were developed, from simple drawings of the artefacts documented to more complex cartographic and GIS designs using some tools as GPS, Total Station, etc.

Job title:	<b>Archaeologist Supervisor</b>
Employer:	
Start and end dates :	<b>July, 2009 – September, 2009</b>
Length of time in role:	<b>3 months</b>

Within the archaeological company I developed the role of Archaeologist Supervisor, working over three months in the Spanish Commercial Archaeology sector. Basically, I carried out the following activities: field and laboratory tasks in several archaeological places around ..., bibliographical, topographical and stratigraphic

design; anthropological and anthropometric analyses; archaeological material drawings, studies, classification and cataloguing.

It was actually a Landscape Archaeology Project carried out as a consequence of an Infrastructure Plan, concretely the rehabilitation, expansion and refurbishment of the national road. In this sense, many archaeological sites were documented around the road (from Late Neolithic to Islamic Medieval Age), and I had the opportunity to be in charge of the archaeological fieldworks developed in an Islamic necropolis dated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as the excavation of Late Neolithic pits and hut foundations, most of them also used as human burials.

Job title:	<b>Archaeologist Site Assistant</b>
Employer:	
Start and end dates :	<b>May, 2008 – September, 2008</b>
Length of time in role:	<b>4 months</b>

Within the archaeological company I developed the role of Archaeologist Site Assistant, working over four months in the Spanish Commercial Archaeology sector. In this sense, I carried out the following activities: field and laboratory tasks in...; stratigraphic design; anthropological and anthropometric analyses; archaeological materials drawing, classification and cataloguing.

In fact it was an Urban Archaeology Project carried out as a consequence of a Building Plan, in this case a new hotel equipped with an underground parking. As a Site Assistant, I was actually the link between the Staff and the Field Archaeologists who worked in the Necropolis, and mainly my role consisted to explain them the archaeological and anthropological register. Concretely, due to de fact that I had already experience with digging human burials, the staff trusted me the responsibility to introduce the field archaeologists in the anthropological digging methods and techniques as well as in some basic anthropometric analyses. The results were very fruitful as, although the presence of an Islamic necropolis was known in the area, we were also able to document other necropolis in the lower layers dated during all the Roman period.

#### Additional Relevant Information

I am aware that the majority of my archaeological career has been principally developed in the Spanish Commercial Archaeology. In fact, there are not many differences on how British and Spanish Commercial Archaeology operate as we can see on the other hand in the transnational project DISCO where the operation of the Archaeology across twenty-one different countries has been studied (<http://www.discovering-archaeologists.eu/>; see also Aitchison, K., Alphas, E., Ameels, V., Bentz, M., Bors, C.,... & Wachowicz, L. (2014): *DISCO: Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe 2012-14: Transnational Report*. York Archaeological Trust.). Therefore, in order to include some more information on how Spanish Commercial Archaeology is, I have attached as an example of work a book-chapter, recently published, where I explain, adopting a critical point of view, what features have historically defined Professional Archaeology in Spain and its development over the last 30 years.

#### List of publications/grey literature

Ensure the examples you provide to the Validation committee support your statement of competence. Please indicate your contribution to your examples of work listed, indicating page numbers where work was a collaboration.

#### **3 examples provided**