

FIELD SCHOOL IN NORTH ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGY



Vatnsfjörður, Northwest Iceland
July 26-August 20, 2010



The course provides:

- thorough grounding in archaeological survey, excavation, and sampling
- exposure to a range of post-excavation methods, including the processing of artefacts, faunal, botanical, and sediment samples, and the digitisation of field data
- instruction in Icelandic archaeology, including past and present trends in field work and interpretation
- an overview of Viking Age and medieval archaeology in the North Atlantic region
- lectures by leading researchers in North Atlantic and Icelandic archaeology
- excursions to regional sites and museums
- instructors with many years of teaching, excavation, and post-excavation experience in Iceland, Europe, and North America

Since it was founded in 1997, the international field school in North Atlantic archaeology has served as a focal point for interdisciplinary, cooperative research and teaching by archaeologists and scientists from Iceland, North America, and Europe. The course provides students with hands-on instruction and experience in Icelandic archaeology, field survey, and the archaeological sciences. It also aims to encourage students to develop research interests in North Atlantic archaeology, and to promote and facilitate research in Iceland by helping students make contacts with relevant researchers, and by providing advice about potential research projects.

Accreditation:

The field school is an accredited course at the Universities of Iceland, Aberdeen, and the City University of New York. European students should apply to the University of Aberdeen in order to qualify for 20 ECTS credits.

Admission:

Enrolment in the course is limited to 13, and will include students from Iceland, North America, and Europe. Both graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to apply, but all applicants should have had some prior courses in archaeology and/or anthropology or cultural history. Preference will be given to students with research interests in the North Atlantic region or Viking archaeology.

Application deadline: April 30, 2010

Applications should include: 1) an outline of your academic interests, future plans, and why you want to take the course; 2) details of your education, completed courses, and grades; 3) one letter of reference.

Icelandic students should send this information in the form of a CV and cover letter submitted by email to Dr. Orri Vésteinsson at the University of Iceland: orri@hi.is.

North American students should send this information in the form of a CV and cover letter submitted by email to Prof. Tom McGovern at CUNY: thomas.h.mcgovern@gmail.com.

European students should send this information to Dr. Karen Milek at the University of Aberdeen by downloading and printing the online application form at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/fsaform.pdf>. Please mail your application to the address indicated at the top of the form.

Costs: All students are provided with board and lodging for the duration of the field school. However, you will have to pay for your own transportation to and from Iceland, accommodation in Reykjavik before and after the field school, and the relevant registration or tuition fees at the university through which you are applying (Universities of Iceland, Aberdeen, and CUNY). Please contact the application coordinator at the relevant institution (listed above) for details about registration fees and transfer credits.

The site:

The farm of Vatnsfjörður is located in northwest Iceland, on the fjord of Ísafjarðardjúp. It has played an important role in the settlement and economic history of the Westfjords since the Viking Period: it was one of the main seats of power in the region, and during the later Middle Ages it was one of the richest and most powerful farms in Iceland. Excavations at the site began in 2003, and have so far uncovered the remains of a Viking Age house, smithy, storage buildings, cooking pits, middens, and animal buildings, as well as the remains of the last turf house on the farm, dating to the 19th century. In 2010, excavations will continue on a Viking Age farm building and the 19th century house, and a number of other sites in the valley will be evaluated by soil augering and the excavation of assessment trenches.



Organisation of the field school:

During the four weeks of the field school, students will be housed in the hotel in nearby Reykjanes. Students will work on site from 8:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, and will help with post-excavation work in the evenings. In addition, there will be lectures and practical workshops on most weekday evenings, and for half a day on weekends. Excursions to museums and interesting sites in the region will be organised on weekends. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation, as well as one individual assignment (a field journal) and a group project.

Upon their acceptance to the field school, participants will receive a student manual and a reading list, and are expected to have acquainted themselves with these before their arrival in Iceland. The student manual will probably answer most questions about travel and accommodation, project staff, and the teaching curriculum, but any further enquiries can be sent to the director of the field school, Dr. Karen Milek, at k.milek@abdn.ac.uk.

The Field School in North Atlantic Archaeology is offered by:



Government of
Iceland



INSTITUTE OF
ARCHAEOLOGY, ICELAND



MEDIEVAL
WESTFJORDS
SOCIETY



UNIVERSITY CENTRE
OF THE WESTFJORDS

In cooperation with:



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Northern Science and
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