



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA



IRLAB
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND LEARNING IN
ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIOARCHAEOLOGY

SUMMER SCHOOL IN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOPATHOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Summer School in Osteoarchaeology and Paleopathology is an academic program offered by the University of Pisa, in collaboration with the Center for Anthropological, Paleopathological and Historical Studies of the Sardinian and Mediterranean Population (Dpt. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Sassari), aimed at training students in anthropological and paleopathological laboratory methods. It is an outstanding opportunity for students to gain practical experience in bioarchaeological investigation by working side-by-side with leading researchers in the field.

The school is designed to provide all participants with an in-depth knowledge of cleaning, restoring and analyzing ancient human skeletal remains. Biological profile reconstruction is also performed using the most advanced bio-medical technology and is aimed at obtaining the greatest possible amount of information on the environment, lifestyle, and diseases that afflicted past populations.

The activities will be carried out at the Laboratory of Paleopathology (within the Medical School of Pisa). The Summer School will take place Monday through Friday over the course of 3 weeks, and will include some lectures (10-12 hours per week), in order to provide students with the basic knowledge of skeletal anatomy, physical anthropology and paleopathology necessary to approach osteological analyses.

Each student will have the opportunity to clean, restore and study skeletons from archaeological contexts. This will allow determining sex and age at death of the skeletons, as well as identifying and recognizing the pathologies most frequently observed in bone in order to reconstruct dietary habits, health status, patterns of subsistence and physical activity of the examined individuals.

The skeletal materials under examination includes samples from Tuscan excavations dating back to the medieval age. The activities will be completed under the supervision of experienced staff of the Division of Paleopathology, directed by Professor Gino Fornaciari and Prof. Valentina Giuffra.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND DATES

The Summer School will take place from **5 to 23 June, 2017** (first session) and from 3 to 21 July, 2017 (second session).

A third session from 11 to 29 September could be activated if the number of students of the second session will exceed.

Lectures will be given daily. Laboratory activities on human skeletal remains will be carried out daily as well, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, with an hour lunch break.

Students are expected to complete tasks timely and accurately, and to participate in all the activities of the Summer School, and absence is only allowed for personal health reasons. Unjustified absences will have a negative effect on the final grade and/or may lead to a student's disciplinary dismissal from the program.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LANGUAGE

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL IS ENGLISH AND NO KNOWLEDGE OF ITALIAN IS REQUIRED.

DATES FOR 2017 SUMMER SCHOOL

Session #1: June, 5-23 | Session #2: July, 3-21

ELIGIBILITY

Admission is limited to 6 students.

Should minimum attendance requirement of 4 students not be met, course will be cancelled.

CREDITS

- 12 undergraduate credits (ECTS) through the University of Pisa
- Certificate of participation from the University of Pisa
- Certificate of participation from IRLAB

TUITION AND FEES

COST: 1,300 euro

The cost includes Summer School activities (lectures, laboratory activities and instruments, staff costs), a "dining card" to access the students' cafeteria for lunch and dinner, the visit to the archaeological excavation of Badia Pozzeveri (train ticket and lunch) and the visit to the Museum of Anatomy. International travel to Italy is not included in these fees and is the students' sole responsibility.

ACCOMMODATION

Housing

Housing is not provided by the Summer School; however, an help to find an accommodation in the student's House of the University of Pisa can be provided. The price for an accommodation in a single/double room is on average 350/300 euro for the 4 weeks.

Meals

Meals are not included. However, participants in the Summer School will be provided with a "dining card" to access the students' cafeteria for lunch and dinner. A complete meal at the students' cafeteria of the University of Pisa cost €4.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
IRLABNP.ORG

For any questions concerning payments, enrolment and required documents contact:
info@irlabnp.org

CALENDAR

FIRST WEEK

Session 1: 5-9 June, 2017 | Session 2: 3-7 July

During the first week of the Summer School students will be trained in:

- Procedures for preparing skeletal remains: each student will be provided with an adult skeleton to wash, restore and label;
- Osteoarchaeology program: skeletal anatomy; bone and tooth identification; methods for sex and age determination;
- Paleopathology program: traumatic lesions, non specific infections, treponematosis

SECOND WEEK

Session 1: 12-16 June, 2017 | Session 2: 10-14 July

During the second week the following aspects of the anthropological and paleopathological study will be dealt with:

- Osteoarchaeology program: metric data collection, with an emphasis on the proper technique to measure different skeletal elements; estimation of stature, indexes of proportion, robusticity, lateralization of limbs, and sexual dimorphism; identification and scoring methods for evaluating muscular attachments (ergonomy)
- Paleopathology program: dentoalveolar diseases (dental caries, periodontal diseases, abscesses, etc.); congenital abnormalities; osteoarthritis and rheumatic diseases
- Visit to the Radiological Unit of the University of Pisa: application of radiological techniques (X-rays and CT) to osteoarchaeological samples

THIRD WEEK

Session 1: 19-23 June, 2017 | Session 2: 17-21 July

The third week will be devoted to:

- Osteoarchaeology program: study and analysis of subadult skeletons
- Paleopathology program: indicators of stress (enamel hypoplasia, porotic hyperostosis, etc.); leprosy; tuberculosis; tumors; metabolic diseases
- Visit to Museum of Anatomy of the University of Pisa
- Travel to Badia Pozzeveri (Altopascio) to visit archaeological excavation with lecture: Computer models and applications for the management of archaeological and anthropological data
- Conclusion of summer school: final interpretation of the results

Warning: the calendar might be modified depending on the speed of progression of the students



ADMISSION PROCEDURES

The *Summer School in Osteoarchaeology and Paleopathology* is focused on the study of ancient human remains and welcomes students in anthropology, paleopathology and allied disciplines at undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Summer School has no formal prerequisites; students will be fully trained for all the activities they experience. Students interested in applying to the Summer School must fill out and submit the online Application Form.

The application deadline is April 30, 2017.

However, applications are reviewed as soon as they are received and successful applicants accepted right away.

Curriculum vitae and/or reference letters (e-mails) may be requested. The staff reserves the right to verify any of the information reported in the application form and request supporting documentation (e.g., advising reports; references) in its sole discretion. Staff will make final decisions regarding enrolment.

In the application form students should indicate the preferred session. Acceptance will be communicated by e-mail. Upon acceptance, students will receive detailed instructions on how to submit required documentation and payments:

- **Proof of Insurance:** students must have valid international health and injury insurance (made available through student travel centers) and must provide the insurance provider's contact information as well as the policy number.
- **Release form:** all students must read and accept the terms of the IRLAB Participation Agreement to participate in the program; a signed release form must be submitted prior to the start date of the Summer School.
- **Fee Payment:** Students will be required to pay fees in full within 10 business days of receipt of the invoice sent by mail in case of admission. In case of student withdrawal, all fees minus a non-refundable deposit of 300 euro will be refunded until April 30, 2017. After April 30, 2017 fees will not be refunded. In the unlikely event of course cancellation, fees will be refunded in full (any applicable processing fees may not be refunded). Failure to provide all the above-mentioned documents and payment within the terms specified at the time of admission will constitute an automatic forfeiture of the student's place in the summer school.

STAFF

Scientific supervisor: Gino Fornaciari, MD

Lecturers and laboratory staff:

Valentina Giuffra, PhD - Simona Minozzi, PhD

Giulia Riccomi, Elena Varotto



AN OCCASION TO VISIT ITALY

Pisa is located in a strategic position that allows you to reach the main cities and touristic localities easily. In half an hour it is possible to arrive in Lucca, a perfectly preserved medieval town surrounded by Renaissance walls. Florence, considered the birthplace of the Renaissance age, featuring countless monuments and art masterpieces, is only 1 hour away by train. The connection to Rome is direct with a 3-hour trip. By coach you can also reach the city of Volterra, located in the interior of Tuscany, with its many archeological monuments, and in 2 hours you can reach the pearls of Ligurian tourism, the Cinque Terre.

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