



Archaeological
Conservation
Field School
Castelluccio
(Rignano sull'Arno, Florence - Italy)

In collaboration with:



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

JUNE 2015

INTRODUCTION

Lorenzo de' Medici is offering a 4-week Archaeological Conservation Field School, in association with CAMNES (Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies), the Municipality of Rignano sull'Arno and the University of Florence. The Program will focus on the restoration of the medieval site of 'castellum de Rignano' or 'Castelluccio', just north of Florence, near the village of Rignano Sull'Arno.

The archaeological project "Il Castelluccio di Rignano" is directed by Prof. Guido Vannini, Chair of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Florence, and is focused on gaining an understanding of the historical events that led to success, abandonment or the complete transformation of these particular types of settlements.

THE SITE

Located in the hills of Valdarno, Castelluccio is one of the small fortified settlements that during the central Middle Ages (11-13 century AD) profoundly changed the appearance of the Italian countryside.

The site where the program will be held is a castle that was ruled by an ancient noble family of Florentine origin that controlled much of the surrounding territory dating from 1089. Castelluccio di Rignano represents a key-site for the archaeological survey that contributes to the reconstruction of the Florentine territory history.

FURTHER DETAILS

Participants will be introduced to the practices of conservation and restoration, and use the

stratigraphic method, according to the principles of the archaeology of buildings. During the course of the conservation processes, participants work alongside Italian students on the fragments of ceramic and the masonry structures retrieved from this once very active site.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this field school/restoration program are:

- to understand the importance of restoring structures and artifacts to enhance our archaeological heritage
- to understand the formation process of materials and structures from archaeological deposit, from excavation to museum display
- to introduce participants to restoration,



preservation and their methodologies, through a basic training on the main techniques used in the field

- to educate participants in the use of products, materials and tools commonly used in the restoration
- to provide a basic skill in cataloging and documenting archaeological finds
- to gain experience in teamwork and the ability to interact with the various professional figures, with different specializations, on an archaeological dig.



OUTLINE OF SCHEDULE

The program will be held from Monday to Friday. On site, students will participate in the restoration and conservation of the structures unearthed during the excavation, while in the lab, they will clean, mark and consolidate the findings from the excavation. The program is enriched by weekly trips and guided

tours in Florence to Palazzo Davanzati, Santa Reparata Archaeological site of Sant'Orsola, Opificio delle Pietre Dure or the Restoration Laboratory of the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany.

ACTIVITIES

Students will participate in a range of activities including but not limited to:

- The preservation of static artifacts (masonry structures in situ) and mobile artifacts (ceramic objects from the excavation).
- Introduction on how to draft a restoration card and report using graphics, photographic and written documentation.
- Practicing conservation on masonry structures, through the removal of surface deposits and consolidation of the lapideous material/ mortar interstitial.
- Practicing conservation on artifacts, through removal of surface deposits, bonding of artifact fragments and consolidation.



DURATION

Arrival Thursday May 28 2015
Departure Friday June 26 2015

LOCATION

Florence (accommodation and visits)
Rignano sull'Arno (field school)

TUITION

See separate price list on www.ldminstitute.com

PREREQUISITES & RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological restoration experience or knowledge of Italian is required. Participants may benefit from previous experience in the field. The program requires cooperation in a professional research project of the University of Florence, and a serious full-time commitment, with a five day involvement per week, including archaeological activities and visits. Saturday and Sundays are off.

REQUIREMENTS & PHYSICAL DEMANDS

As is standard procedure in archaeological contexts, a current tetanus vaccination and international health insurance (valid for study abroad) are mandatory. Students must provide certification of immunization before departure. Students must be in good health and physical condition. This program includes physically demanding fieldwork, including any combination of the following: hiking, climbing hilly slopes, bending, kneeling, digging and exposure to the elements. The program is scheduled during dry, hot summer (where temperatures can reach 30°C/86°F). The field school is not recommended to students with allergies to sun, dust, or insects, or to students with asthma. It is of paramount importance that students communicate any allergies, food intolerances or medical issues when enrolling.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

The below-mentioned equipment and materials are MANDATORY to work on the archaeological site and must be brought from home. If students are found devoid of any of these items, the director of the project may deny access to the site.

- Comfortable clothing for working in hot weather
- Safety-shoes (i.e. with a steel toe)
- Good-quality 100% cotton hat
- Strong sunscreen
- Bug spray



- An A4 size note-book to be used as an Activity Journal
- Students will be provided with necessary work and study materials, covered by the tuition. Further details will be given during the first class. Students are responsible for proper usage and storage of their assigned tools and materials.

TO ENROLL

Prospective applicants must contact LdM for further details about the program and how to apply. [See contact address or web site links on the last page.](#)

A maximum of 12 and a minimum of 4 students are accepted, with preference given to early applicants.

Deadline for applications: MARCH 15th, 2015

The Tuition Fee includes

- a minimum of 148 contact hours and 6 credits (no additional registration fees required)
- accommodation in LdM Florence facilities
- workday lunch at the Dig House or other facility
- travel connected with course related activities
- scheduled museum entries
- social and cultural events organized by the Institute

The Tuition Fee does NOT include

- meals other than scheduled (i.e. day-off meals)
- beverages (to be paid on site)
- required personal materials (to be brought from home)

Further details about expenses will be given during enrollment and first classes.

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