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To Sicily and all the wonders, it holds,

I would like to kindly thank the Waldbaum Scholarship for the financial aid, and UNG for the opportunity to apply for the archaeological field school in Sicily. I was delighted when my application (Waldbaum)succeeded and I was able to board a plane that would bring me to study close to Alcamo, Sicily.

Archaeology is at the heart of Sicily since the Romans, Greeks, Phoenicians, and indigenous people lived in the area and left behind several impressive structures still being discovered until this day.

The course objective in Sicily was to teach the students techniques for excavations, and to a certain degree recognizing and locating potential new sites for archaeological research.

The field school began with an introduction about the cultures of the historic people who lived in western Sicily.

Trips to sites such as Mokarta, a bronze age settlement, offered descriptions about housing styles and housing location preferences. These houses were round whereas later housing, such as the one of Greeks and Romans, tend to be quadratic. A visit to Segesta and an ancient Greek settlement granted us a view of a well preserved amphitheater and an unfinished temple; this gave a better understanding of the ancient worlds strength, craft, and potential ideologies. Many more visits to impressive archaeological sites followed during my stay in Sicily, each one bringing with it a new sense of respect for the ancient world.

In the later part of the field school our crew was able to work with another American university on their excavation of a byzantine church. During the excavation we learned to interpret soil changes, and how to follow wall alignments. Excavation techniques proved not to be simple, and each stage of the work required a different skill. A special focus was given to the identification of potsherd. Our group learned to recognize between object forms, tempers displayed with color, and other identifiable traits. All the techniques we learned helped us understand the people and culture once thriving in our site.

I will never forget the knowledge I obtained with my hands-on work in Sicily. Again, I thank you and Sicily for giving me the field work experience of a life time.

Yours Sincerely,

Fabian Waldegger





