



## **Advanced Osteological Analysis in the Roman Necropolis of Sanisera** (Menorca – Balearic Islands – Spain)

### **1. General Information**

***The Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field Schools*** offers an annual archaeology dig on the island of Menorca, off the coast of Spain. Since then it has organized courses **for students who come from all over the world to study abroad and who are interested in anthropology and osteology.**

**The fieldwork focuses on the in-depth analysis of human skeletal remains excavated from the Roman necropolis at Sanisera. The aim is to use advanced osteological techniques to understand the lifestyle of the people who lived at this site.**

This course provides a unique opportunity to contribute to research on the individuals buried at the Roman necropolis at Sanisera. So far, *more than 250 individuals from more than 50 tombs have been excavated*, presenting a large amount of material from which we can understand the lifestyles of people in late antiquity. Participants **will learn the techniques of analyzing and recording information from human skeletal remains in an archaeological context. In this lab based course, both lecture and experiential learning will be used to enable students to gain confidence in the identification and analysis of various skeletal conditions.**

We will cover skills in basic demographics such as **the techniques to determine age and sex of a skeleton, but will also progress to more advanced methodologies in osteological analysis.** Students will learn skills such as: correctly measuring and recording skeletal elements according to set international standards, distinguishing between pathological and non pathological bone and assessing patterns in pathological lesions, identifying marks on the skeleton that indicate how muscles were used during the person's life (including determining left or right handedness), and assessing nutritional status from bones and teeth. Additionally, participants will learn how to bring these different sources of information together to re-create the biological life history of the individuals buried at this site.

### **2. What you will learn**

#### *2.1. In the Fieldwork*

- Funerary practices at the Sanisera site
- Taphonomic factors affecting survival of skeletal material

## 2.2. In the Laboratory

- Complete osteological analysis of an individual funerary unit
- Assessment of disarticulated remains and computation of minimum number of individuals
- Application of standard techniques of bone measurement, age estimation, sex estimation, classification of dental pathology and tooth wear
- Identification of fragmentary bones
- Utilization of anatomical terminology to describe and discuss skeletal elements
- Recording osteological information on complex forms
- Recognition of non-metric traits and pathological bone

## 2.3. Theory

- Development and application of osteological methods
- Assessment of cremated remains
- Chemical analyses of human bone – isotopes and DNA
- Identifying trauma in archaeological bone
- Challenges in paleodemography and paleoepidemiology
- Estimating ancestry of human skeletal remains

## 3. Directed at

As the name implies, this course is designed for participants that have previously studied biological anthropology. This Sanisera Field School course does not include excavation, but **centers exclusively on the study and teaching of osteology using the remains excavated from the Roman necropolis.**

Participants will learn to draw conclusions and reconstruct aspects of the population's demographics such as pathologies, illnesses, etc. Because this course is specifically centered on biological anthropological concepts, this course is limited to four participants in order to best assimilate and apply anthropological concepts.

## 4. Field School life & language

The fieldwork runs 7 hours a day with time dedicated to the study of human osteology by the analysis of the skeletal remains.

For every seven course days there are two days off.

**The course is taught in English.**

## 5. Certificates

At the end of the Field Program, students will receive a certificate of participation stating the hours and activities of the course.

Participants that perform exceedingly well in the course may receive a letter of recommendation from our organization upon request.

## 6. Sessions & Cost

Sessions	Dates	Cost
Session #1	2026   April 12 – April 27	\$ 1600
Session #7	2026   August 19 – September 03	\$ 1800
Session #8	2026   September 06 – September 21	\$ 1800

## 7. Course fee

- Course tuition.
- Accident insurance at the site.
- Certificate of participation.
- Visits to museums and archaeological heritage of the island. It is also possible to visit places of charm and beaches.
- Accommodation in the Student Residence in Ciutadella. Rooms separated by sex provided with air conditioning for the summer season and heat pump for the fall and winter months.
- Scrupulous daily cleaning of the entire residence by professionals.
- [In case of needing to process Schengen Visa](#) the mandatory letter of invitation will be written so you can travel

**Airfare not included from the student home to/from Menorca (Spain).**

**Meals are not included, although we will recommend some cafés and restaurants that do not exceed the average of 23 € /day in meals.**

**\* If you sign up for two sessions in a row (32 days) that take place in Menorca, the days between sessions (3 or 4 days) you will have the accommodation for free.**

## 8. Spaces available

The course is limited to 8 participants per session. Reservations are only effective when payment of the registration fee is received. If for any reason the course is cancelled, payment is returned according to the field school refund policy.

## 9. Information and Reservations

For more information, contact:

Email: [info@archaeology.institute](mailto:info@archaeology.institute)

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