

Albania

Environmental Change and Land Use
LAKE OHRID ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL
University at Buffalo, SUNY



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

SUMMER 2026

June 17 – July 22

UB's Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology and Office of Study Abroad Programs offer:

Lake Ohrid Archaeological Field School

LOCATION

The program is based in the mountainous region of Korça in southeast Albania, close to the borders with Greece and North Macedonia. The Korça plain is situated between the pristine alpine lakes Ohrid and Prespa.

Participants will stay in accommodations in the idyllic lakeside town of Pogradec (more below). Research and program activities will take place adjacent to the lakes, in the Korça plain, and in the surrounding mountains and hillscapes.



In addition, planned excursions and field trips will be offered for participants to visit e.g., the Ionian Sea coast, UNESCO World Heritage sites in the region such as Berat, Butrint and Gjirokastër, the Ancient Greek city of Apollonia, and the modern cities of Korça and Tirana - including the National Museum of History in the capital.

BACKGROUND

Neolithic sites in the Korça region represent the earliest farming communities in Albania, dating from 6450 BCE. This region is therefore crucial for studying the arrival and spread of farming in Albania and southeast Europe more generally. The project seeks to document, for the first time, the internal structure of these early settlements, their relationship to each other, and their wider context within the changing regional environmental and chronological landscapes - studying archaeological material from Prehistory through the Early Modern Period along the way.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program will satisfy 5 university credits, offering both an immersive cultural experience in the heart of the Balkan and Mediterranean worlds with international collaborators from Germany (University of Cologne), the U.K. (University of Oxford), and beyond, as well as comprehensive training in archaeological field methods representing the state-of-the-art.



Participants will have the opportunity to learn: archaeological prospection methods covering all archaeological periods, such as surface surveying and remote sensing techniques; single context excavation technique; environmental sampling for paleoenvironmental reconstruction; analysis, photography and documentation for museum accession of artifacts dating from Prehistory through Early Modern times, including the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages, Hellenistic, Roman, and Ottoman periods.

In addition, a program of lectures will be offered from specialists in these fields and others throughout the course of the field school. Visits to regional cultural attractions will be accompanied by qualified guides and experts for an illuminating experience.

Participants will also be encouraged to develop their own research for e.g., BA Honors, MA, or PhD theses with the guidance of the program directors.

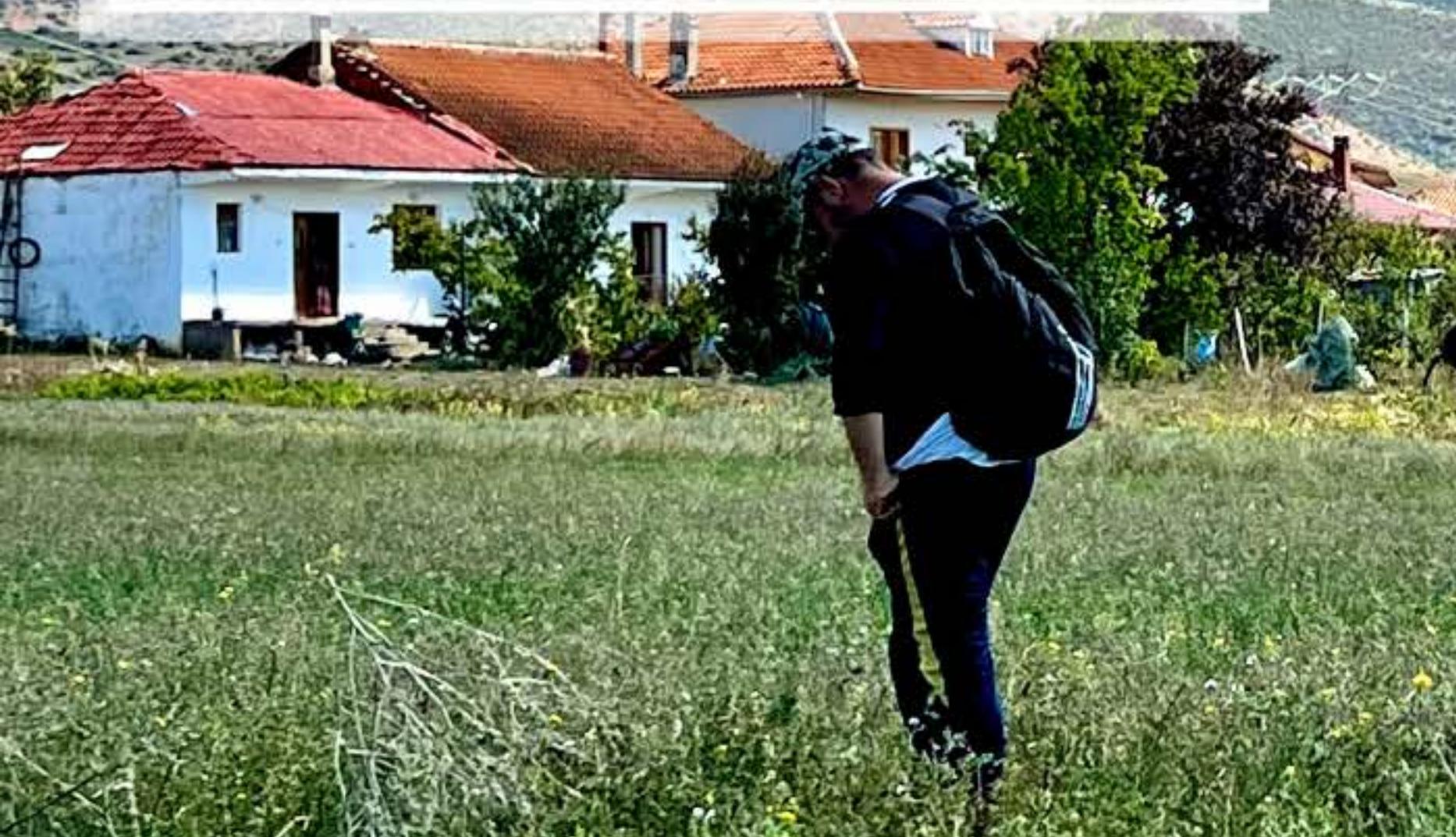


Archeobotanical sampling

ACCOMODATIONS



Participants will stay in the beautiful lakeside town of Pogradec, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a short walk from the shore of Lake Ohrid, one of Europe's deepest lakes. The program will include hotel accommodations, with three meals per day prepared by professional cooks. The region is known for its excellent culinary tradition and outstanding quality of produce.



ESTIMATED COSTS

All participants will pay a program fee that includes tuition and applicable campus fees, accommodation, three daily meals, entrance fees, and most program travel in Albania. In addition, participants will be responsible for roundtrip airfare to Albania, passport and visa fees (where applicable), and personal expenses.

For final program fee, see UB Study Abroad:

https://bit.ly/Study_Albania



For more information about this program:

Contact

Program Director
Dr. Patrick T. Willett
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