



South Africa

Kromdraai Human Origins Excavation

Dig into the origins of humanity at Kromdraai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site within South Africa's Cradle of Humankind. Set within a fossil-rich landscape of caves and sweeping grasslands, this field school explores how ancient environments shaped the emergence of our early human ancestors in Africa nearly two million years ago. You'll work alongside an internationally recognized research team, gaining in-demand field experience and an opportunity to unearth unique fossils while living and learning in one of the world's most important regions for understanding our evolutionary story.

Why you'll love this program



Real-World Research

Excavate a renowned fossil site investigating key gaps in the story of human evolution.



Field & Lab Skills

Train in survey, excavation, fossil recovery & processing, 3D mapping, & more.



Unforgettable Location

Live, work, and explore South Africa's iconic Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site



Make a Difference

Contribute to a project reshaping our understanding of our shared human origins.

Field School Details

Summer Program in South Africa

- 2-week immersive research program
- Earn academic credit through Connecticut College
- Fieldwork, seminars & lab-based research
- Cultural enrichment activities and field trips included
- Shared guesthouse accommodation + all meals provided



Discover More



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Institute for Field Research

Make an IFR Field School Your Next Adventure

Our programs take you straight into the field, where archaeological sites and dynamic ecosystems become your classroom. Don't just study abroad—participate in important research, develop real skills, and make a lasting impact. With IFR, you're not only seeing the world—you're uncovering it.

Admissions at a Glance

- One-on-one guidance available
- Competitive tuition rates
- Simple online application
- Quick decision turnaround
- Rolling enrollment deadlines
- All majors & academic backgrounds welcome



The World is Our Classroom

Immersive field training programs in the U.S. and around the globe ranging from 2-6 weeks in length.



Field Research that Matters

Unique programs in archaeology, environmental science, paleontology and more.



Career-Ready Skills

Transformative field experiences that develop life and professional skills you can learn no place else.

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