IRELAND

Castles in Communities

Summer Archaeology Field Program

July 4 July 29

2020

Contact
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phone: +353 (0) 87 234 5978

Apply Online
https://sites.google.com/view/irelandcastlesincommunities/home
About

Castles in Communities is an archaeological and anthropological research Field School program centered on the rural Irish village of Ballintober and the keepless Castle positioned prominently in its midst.

During three and a half weeks, students will be immersed in the daily rhythm of rural Ireland while taking part in archaeological investigations of its medieval origins. This is a field learning program, where students gain understanding about the past by directly participating in an academic research project.

Students will learn basic field techniques of archaeology, including excavation, survey and laboratory analysis. This hands-on training is combined with coursework in archaeological theory and Irish history. In this interactive manner, students will be exposed to the fundamental processes of social science research that includes working within a research design, collecting data, interpreting data, and situating findings in a broader statement about the significance of human behavior.

Castles in Communities 2020 is in our sixth season with extensive support from the Ballintober and recognition by the Roscommon County. You will be joining a rich cultural team experience that is deeply engaged with the community and wider area.

Archaeological Experience

Archaeological Field Methods: Hands-on learning the methods of field excavation. It will cover mapping, excavation, preparation of artifacts, and written analysis. Students will situate their work within contemporary concerns regarding historical preservation and conservation.

Archaeology Laboratory: An introduction to laboratory methods including cataloging, care and analysis of artifacts, and bone recognition. Learn to apply research methodology through a guided analysis within an active research project. Students develop expertise in the techniques, tools, laboratory terminology and processes of

Archaeological Survey: Introduction to field survey in archaeology. Emphasis on site identification, survey techniques and recording skills. It will involve exposure to laser and GPS survey including geophysical Ground Penetrating Radar and Magnetometry equipment. Students will learn to various software to process data and produce 2D and 3D maps on a daily basis.

Academic Credit Option: ANTR 29C Independent Study (1-2 units)
Students complete a project arranged by agreement between the student and instructor. This is an option for students seeking academic credits. There are additional tuition fees processed through Las Positas College. The program is happy to write letters of support to your host institution for other forms of credit.

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Community Engagement and Cultural Emersion

The Castles in Community Project is driven by our partnership with the Ballintober community. The premise of Castles in Communities is that the construction of knowledge about the past and its use as heritage today is best served through both excavation and ethnography. As the name implies, Castles in Communities seeks to conduct a research and field training programme that expands the traditional archaeology project itself in favour of a fully integrative approach. This means that all stakeholders—landowners, communities, researchers and regulators—work together at all levels to develop a programme that performs research, trains students and constructs interpretative materials about the ancient past and its modern heritage from the varied perspectives of each of those stakeholders.

Students are immediately drawn into the purpose of our program. We encourage all community members to work along our students, invite the village to discuss our work in evening lectures, and participate in planning heritage events. We are actively working with community organizations in leveraging our data sets and use our presence to further advance community goals.

Cost

$3250 program fee

Included in Cost: All in-country, program-related activities, transportation, food and housing during the program dates.

Excluded from Cost: International travel to/from Ireland, and local travel to/from Dublin at the start and end of the program (there is a direct train from Dublin to Castlerea – detailed information will be provided to program participants), enrollment fees (varies depending on California residency status), personal expenses, travel insurance, health care, optional activities on days off.

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