

How to pick a field school that's right for you

Information Session Summer 2008 Field Programs in Anthropology and Archaeology

January 17, 2008

Prepared by Prof. Stacie King

Questions that you should be able to answer about the program to which you want to apply, either by reading the program literature or by talking to the directors. The idea is that answering these questions will help you to assess your fit with the program. (These are adapted from Madelyn Iris' 2004 article in the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA) Bulletin 22:164-168.)

1. What is expected of you?
2. What is the methodological specialty of the program? Are you comfortable with the project goals and are they in line with your own interests?
3. What is the length of the time commitment?
4. What are the relationships between the host communities and the field school? Are you comfortable with them?
5. Do you meet the language requirement, if there is one?
6. How much structure is provided and what are your needs? How comfortable are you working independently or with a group? How much day to day supervision will you need?
7. Is the field school setting a place where you want to be?
8. Are there any safety concerns you should be aware of?
9. How much mentorship is provided? How much do you want?
10. Is there an orientation and what does it cover?
11. Are there prerequisites and are you adequately prepared?

These are other important questions to consider about yourself and reminders of important issues to talk with the program directors about.

1. Is flexibility a part of your personality and will you be okay if the program schedule changes?
2. Are you willing to experience a group living situation and meet new people? Are you easy to get along with?
3. Can you make a commitment to this program and to this research project?
4. Do you have special dietary needs and can those be accommodated in a field setting?
5. Do you have any chronic medical conditions or disabilities and can these be accommodated?
6. Do you take regular medications that require refrigeration?
7. Can you withstand the physical and cultural environment to which you will be going for the duration of the program (heat, high altitude, wildlife, sanitation, privacy)?
8. Do you have enough spending money for incidental expenses to last through the entire program?

**INFORMATION SESSION / Q&A: Summer 2008 IU Field Programs in
Anthropology & Archaeology
Thursday January 17th, 7:00 pm, Student Building 150**

Anthropology Field Program in Mexico (with IU Overseas Study): Heritage and Cultural Diversity in Oaxaca, Mexico

May 19 to June 9, 3 credits A406, Profs. Stacie King, Anya Royce, Dan Suslak, and Catherine Tucker

This inaugural program will introduce students to the research process in anthropology on the topics of heritage and cultural patrimony, linguistic change, cultural diversity, economic revitalization and human-environment interactions in historic Oaxaca, Mexico. Students will visit museums, archives, archaeological sites, markets, and arts events in Oaxaca City and will travel outside the city to the mountains of the Sierra Norte, the Sierra Mixe, and to the low-lying Isthmus of Tehuantepec and Pacific coast to field research sites.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 28, 2008

<http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/flyers/oaxaca.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/about/news/oaxaca.html>

Archaeological Field School in Montana & Wyoming: Exploring Historical and Social Landscapes of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

May 21 to July 2, 6 credits P405, Prof. Laura Scheiber

This is the 4th cooperative program in archaeological field methods in the beautiful Bighorn and Absaroka Mountain ranges of Montana and Wyoming. This field school is a holistic, field-based program in the social history and human ecology of the northwestern High Plains and Middle Rocky Mountains with a special emphasis on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. If you like camping, hiking, and archaeology, this school is for you!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 7, 2008

<http://www.northwestcollege.edu/area/anthropology/2310wy.html>

**Archaeological Field School in Indiana: Angel Mounds Mississippian Townscape Project
May 6 to June 12, 6 credits P405, Prof. Chris Peebles and Staffan Peterson**

The IU Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology will offer their annual field school at Angel Mounds State Historic Site near Evansville, Indiana, as part of the sites' 70th anniversary celebration. Students will participate in all aspects of archaeological fieldwork, including survey and excavation, geoarchaeological and geophysical remote sensing, site documentation and preliminary analysis. This project also offers opportunities for in-lab analysis for credit following the field school.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15, 2008 <http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/fschool.html>

For more information, contact:

Stacie King, kingsm@indiana.edu

Kim Hinton, kishinto@indiana.edu, Undergraduate Adviser

April Sievert, asievert@indiana.edu, Director of Undergraduate Studies