

Course title:	<b>Excavation exercises – bachelor's studies</b>
Organizational unit:	Faculty of Archaeology
Short description:	<p>Field exercises introduce students to excavation techniques and research methods used in archaeology. The core component of these classes involves learning the various stages of exploration, conducting comprehensive documentation of uncovered features, gaining an initial understanding of artifact processing, selecting materials, and collecting samples for further analysis. The exercises take place in the field, and the specificity of excavations, along with the diversity of sites, influences the scope and balance of the programme content.</p> <p>The classes are entirely based on students' practical activities through hands-on participation and observation. Due to the variety of topics covered, training methods focused on skill development will be applied. To complement practical knowledge, short informational lectures will be included to help structure and consolidate the acquired knowledge.</p>
Mode:	Field classes
Full description:	<p>Field exercises in the form of excavations introduce students to the most fundamental aspect of an archaeologist's work. They provide practical skills for applying knowledge acquired in theoretical courses and allow students to learn and refine excavation techniques. These exercises cover all essential elements of archaeological excavation, including: establishing excavation grids, identifying archaeological layers (fundamentals of archaeological stratigraphy), recognizing archaeological features and identifying cultural materials, conducting systematic excavation, documenting uncovered features and stratigraphy, preliminary artifact processing, selecting materials and collecting samples for specialized analyses.</p> <p>The exercises take place in the field as part of excavation projects led by qualified researchers conducting their own scientific investigations. Depending on the type and nature of the site, the techniques and research methods practiced may vary.</p> <p>Over the course of three years of study, students are expected to become familiar with all technical aspects of archaeological excavations.</p> <p>The classes are entirely based on students' practical engagement through hands-on activities and observation. Due to the variety of topics covered, training methods focused on skill development will be applied. To complement practical knowledge, short informational lectures will be included to help systematize and consolidate the acquired knowledge.</p> <p>Summer excavation exercises are an essential component of the archaeology programme. These field exercises conclude with a graded assessment. Regardless of specialization, each student is required to complete 450 hours of excavation training as a mandatory part of their undergraduate studies.</p> <p>In the summer semester, after the list of excavation projects for the academic year is announced, students must review the detailed information provided by the research supervisors and obtain a Field training form. All participants must receive a graded assessment from their excavation supervisor. The final grade is recorded on the Field training form, which must be submitted to the Faculty Office for Students, Faculty of Archaeology.</p>
Learning outcomes:	<p>K_W01; K_W02; K_W03; K_W04; K_W06; K_W07; K_W09; K_W10; K_W14; K_W15; K_W18; K_W19</p> <p>K_U02; K_U04; K_U05; K_U13; K_U14; K_U19; K_U21; K_U22; K_U24; K_U25</p> <p>K_K01; K_K02; K_K03; K_K05; K_K06; K_K07; K_K08; K_K09; K_K10; K_K11; K_K12; K_K13</p>

	<p>A bachelor's degree student, during excavation exercises, reinforces and consolidates the knowledge acquired in theoretical courses throughout the academic year. They understand the specifics of archaeological excavations and other field methods used in archaeology. In particular, they apply fundamental archaeological concepts and terminology, participate in the description and preliminary interpretation of archaeological finds, and use their knowledge of past societies with an awareness of proper analytical, interpretative, and documentation methodologies. They recognize the research potential of other disciplines to aid in the initial interpretation of archaeological sources.</p> <p>The student is aware of the different approaches required for handling artifacts made from various materials, as well as the procedures for human remains, depending on their nature and state of preservation. They are familiar with safety and hygiene regulations for excavations and understand the fundamental ethical issues relevant to archaeological practice.</p> <p>During excavation exercises, students acquire hands-on skills related to this key aspect of archaeological work. Under the guidance of a supervisor, they learn to plan and organize field research, collect information from archaeological sources following expert instructions, and apply appropriate methods and techniques. They can integrate new information with their existing knowledge to interpret and describe the relationships between artifacts and past cultural and social processes.</p> <p>Students develop teamwork skills and communicate using specialized archaeological terminology. They collaborate effectively with specialists in interdisciplinary research teams. They also apply safety and hygiene principles in practice and use the experience gained in excavation exercises to plan their future studies and career paths under the guidance of their academic mentors.</p> <p>Upon completing excavation exercises, students are prepared to utilize their knowledge and skills while recognizing the importance of consulting expert opinions. They acknowledge their responsibility for the preservation of cultural heritage and understand the unique value of archaeological finds in reconstructing human history.</p> <p>Students are also aware of the social role of archaeology and the duty to promote archaeological heritage in society. They are prepared to engage with the public and encourage community involvement in archaeological projects. They accept responsibility for the accuracy of their decisions in obtaining archaeological sources, ensuring compliance with the legal regulations of the country in which the research is conducted.</p> <p>Additionally, they are conscious of ethical concerns related to academic integrity and honesty. They respect diverse perspectives shaped by different cultural backgrounds and are ready to fulfill professional roles responsibly while adhering to workplace safety and ethical standards.</p>
ECTS credit allocation	9 ECTS
Assessment methods and assessment criteria:	Grading