ISU Student Maya Research Opportunity in the Mirador Basin, Guatemala

Idaho State University/ FARES Field Methods & Research / Maya Hieroglyphic Writing

ISU’s Guatemala Archaeological Research Program is located in the remote Mirador Basin in the northern department of Peten. The research encompasses one of the most exciting research projects on the ancient Maya, and is focusing on the origins, incipient dynamics, and collapse of Preclassic Maya civilization. Under the direction of Dr. Richard Hansen, you will have the opportunity for research and exploration in the largest and earliest ancient Maya cities with teams of scholars from a variety of disciplines. The ISU field school offers the student the opportunity to be on the cutting edge in the application of sophisticated technology, excavation and research strategies and methodologies, innovative conservation measures, and theoretical considerations relative to the origins and demise of complex societies. Experts and scholars from more than 52 universities and research institutions will provide the intellectual backdrop. In addition, Epigrapher Stanley Guenter will teach an Introductory Maya Hieroglyphic Writing course which will allow students to know and understand the fundamentals of Maya writing systems.

FIELD WORK DESCRIPTION

The Mirador Basin Project offers the student unique field experience in Lowland Maya archaeology. Students will hike into the Basin from a small village, providing observations of the variations of the tropical flora, fauna, and archaeological sites in the Basin. The primary base will be the site of El Mirador, where students will be assigned to specific excavation, conservation, and investigation projects depending on skills and interests. Students will work closely with technicians and experienced scientific personnel. Students will gain an understanding of excavation and research strategies, Maya ceramics, lithics, bone and shell collection, architectural consolidation and conservation, and chronometric methods. Students will gain an understanding of Maya art and architecture, archaeology, and tropical forest ecology. A basic understanding of mapping using sophisticated technology in tropical forests, radar instrumentation, and remote sensing will be available. Additional knowledge relevant to the excavation, stabilization, consolidation, and conservation of Preclassic Maya art and architecture will be obtained from experts working on site.

You may attend a conference on Maya Settlement and then travel to Flores where you will hike in with a team.

DURATION & TRAVEL

-Research: June 13- July 31, 2013
-Guatemala Conference on Maya Settlements, June 14-16, 2013
-Roundtrip Airfare: Student obligation from residence to Flores/Santa Elena, Peten, Guatemala. Bus tickets can be obtained in Guatemala City to Flores.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students will be housed in personal tents at the field camp locations. A list of mandatory equipment and personal belongings can be accessed at the ISU Anthropology website. Meals will be provided.

TUITION AND FEES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergrad Anth 4486-03</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>$304/credit/resident &amp; non resident</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Anth 5586-03</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>$358/credit/resident and non resident</td>
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</tbody>
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Intro Maya Hieroglyphic Writing
Anth 5399-01  3 credits

Non-ISU students must apply to ISU. Undergraduate fee is $40.00 and graduate fee is $55. Admission applications can be accessed at: www.isu.edu/enroll/admis.shtml

ADDITIONAL FEES

$1250 Field School Fee
Roundtrip airfare to Guatemala
Medical Evacuation Insurance

INQUIRIES

ISU Anthropology Department
Campus Box 8005
Pocatello, ID 83209
Phone: 208-282-2629
FAX: 208-282-8494
Email: hansric2@isu.edu,miradorbasin@gmail.com or clovrebbe@isu.edu

Application Deadline: May 20, 2013
All field school information such as application form, waiver form, medivac insurance details, list of requirements, and equipment and supply list should be accessed at the department’s website.
All fees must be paid by May 30, 2013.