



Prehistoric Archaeology

MA in Archaeology

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Archaeology



Welcome to the University of Haifa

Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.

The University of Haifa is one of Israel's leading research universities, the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility.



An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world. We invite you to become one of them.

The Department of Archaeology, founded in 1973, is an interdisciplinary department that combines archaeological sciences, environmental archaeology and bio-anthropological courses in research-oriented programs.

The International MA Program in Prehistoric Archaeology has the objective of providing students with an opportunity to take part in ongoing research of the impressive prehistoric archaeology of Mount Carmel. The University of Haifa, located atop of one of the highest peaks in the Carmel range, provides the ideal setting for this field of study.

The Program

The International MA Program in Prehistoric Archaeology will be carried out in one of the world's most dynamic centers for prehistoric research. Both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a biosphere reserve, Mount Carmel reveals a nearly 500,000 year-long sequence of human evolution



Photo: Dror Maayan

exposed in caves, rock shelters and open-air sites along mountain valleys and the nearby coastal plain. Unlike any other region in the world, Mount Carmel's key sites, such as the caves of Tabun and Skhul, preserve evidence of both modern humans and Neanderthal populations, at sites less than 100 meters from each other. For over 80 years, research expeditions working in Mount Carmel have investigated "Out of Africa" human expansions, the role of past climate change in the evolution of

culture, as well as the establishment of agriculture and the emergence of farming villages - all issues at the heart of world prehistory research.

The program focuses on the prehistory and paleoenvironment of Mount Carmel and each student can choose to specialize in one of many relevant topics, such as lithic, faunal, geological and palynological studies. Students can benefit from a rich variety of courses focusing on prehistoric studies, as well as from a range of additional key topics including environmental archaeology, archaeological method and theory and archaeology of the Southern Levant.

The one-year program is taught in English over three consecutive semesters from October until September. Students wishing to pursue the thesis track will need to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework, which may require remaining at the university for an additional one or two semesters.

Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded a Master of Arts in Archaeology from the Faculty of Humanities and the Department of Archaeology.

Field Work

Archaeology starts and ends in the field. As part of the program, students are exposed to applied sciences, research methods, hands-on experience with sites and settings of Mount Carmel, the



Photo: Dror Maayan

Galilee and the Negev, and an acquaintance with the challenges of prehistoric research. The interdisciplinary curriculum offers students exceptional opportunities for advanced training and individual research in a dynamic learning environment, with exclusive access to the natural laboratory provided by the diverse landscapes and numerous prehistoric sites of Mount Carmel.

Researchers in the Department of Archaeology are currently conducting surveys and excavations in a wide variety of sites and offer students the opportunity to take an active role in these projects.

Program Objectives

- To train students in prehistoric archaeology with an emphasis on field work, ecological settings and fluctuating environments. The program combines training and practical experience in the latest research through excavations, surveys, laboratory work and workshops;
- To teach students how to use a wide range of sophisticated analytical tools in order to analyze archaeological data and test anthropological theories;
- To provide students with a stimulating environment, enhancing mutual interaction and exchange of ideas and approaches, with opportunities to broaden horizons and global perspectives related to prehistoric archaeology.

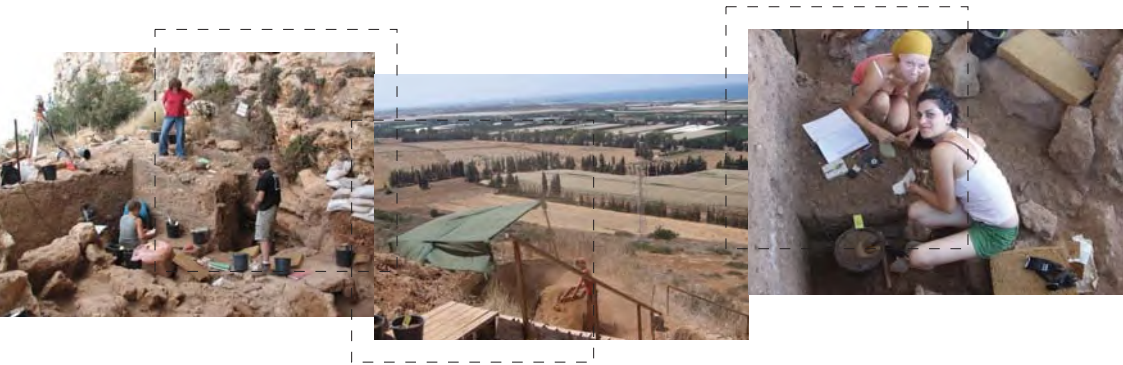
Program Structure and Scope

Study Tracks

Track A* involves preparation of a research thesis and consists of 32 Israeli credits, and includes core courses, an elective course and field days. Supervision and personalized tutorials will be provided to students pursuing the thesis option.

A thesis, which is normally completed in the year following the completion of coursework, is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel. A thesis is an independent research project and the pace of progress depends largely on the student's efforts. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework, may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Studies Authority.

Track B consists of 36 Israeli credits (without a thesis), and includes core courses, field days and a final written exam.



*The ability to pursue the thesis track is dependent upon the student's ability to find an appropriate advisor.

Curriculum*

The curriculum includes classwork, field trips, field campuses and individual field research. Students will spend a total of 13 days on field campuses of three days each in the Negev and Galilee, a concentrated field campus of five days, including excavation, surveying and a workshop in Mount Carmel, and two daylong field trips. During the field campuses, workshops and seminars, students will be able to focus on a specific topic within the curriculum. Individual tutorials will be available.

Exceptional students may want to take advantage of the International School's Hebrew and/or Arabic courses, although it is not required and is not included in the tuition. Intensive language courses are offered during the summer (July and August) and throughout the course of the semester. Please see the International School website for more details (www.uhaifa.org).



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*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Please see program website for the most up-to-date curriculum.

Curriculum

Track A & B Core Courses	Credits
Human Ecology in the Levant: Seminar	4
Selected Topics in Prehistory: Seminar	4
Prehistoric Mount Carmel and the Galilee: Seminar	4
Mount Carmel Field Campus: Workshop	4
Negev Field Campus	2
Galilee Field Campus	2
Archaeology in the Southern Levant	2
Near Eastern Prehistory	2
Advances in Prehistoric Research	2
Introduction to Lithic Technology: Workshop	2
Advanced Lithic Technology: Workshop	2
Department Seminar	0

Track A Electives & Track B Core Courses*	Credits
Archaeobotany	2
Archaeozoology	2
Geoarchaeology	2
Physical Anthropology	2
Practical Osteology	2

*Three of these courses will be offered each year.

Course Descriptions

Human Ecology in the Levant: Seminar

This seminar will review a wide range of topics bearing on human-environment interactions in prehistory. We will attempt to address fundamental issues such as the impact of past climate change on biological and cultural development and the role of early human societies in environmental change in the Levant. Each student will write a seminar paper, either on a theoretical topic or on finds analyzed by him/her (with individual supervision, if needed).



Photo: Dror Maayan

Selected Topics in Prehistory: Seminar

This is a seminar devoted to one prehistoric research topic or period. Topics may vary from year to year. Each student will write a seminar paper, either on a theoretical topic or on finds analyzed by him/her (with individual supervision, if needed).

Prehistoric Mount Carmel and the Galilee: Seminar

This seminar is devoted to the prehistory of Mount Carmel and the Galilee, the academic highlight of the program. Aspects to be discussed include different periods and sites, human adaptations to changing environments and recent research. Each student will write a seminar paper, either on a theoretical topic or on finds analyzed by him/her (with individual supervision, if needed).

Mount Carmel Field Campus: Workshop

The Mount Carmel Field Campus is the highlight of the program. Students will spend five days studying and interpreting prehistoric sites in several ecological settings representing different prehistoric periods. Specific attention will be given to issues of reconstructing past environments and human adaptations. Aspects of cultural heritage, preservation and conservation will be discussed. Students will participate in activities that include excavation and/or survey work, sorting and documentation of finds, analysis of lithic and faunal remains and other activities related to actual archaeological research.

Negev Field Campus

Students will spend three days in the Negev desert studying and interpreting prehistoric sites in several ecological settings, representing different prehistoric periods. Specific attention will be given to issues of reconstructing past arid environments and human adaptations. Aspects of cultural heritage, preservation and conservation will be discussed.



Galilee Field Campus

Students will spend three days in the Galilee studying and interpreting prehistoric sites in several ecological settings representing different prehistoric periods. Specific attention will be given to issues of reconstructing past environments and human adaptations. Aspects of cultural heritage, preservation and conservation will be discussed.

Archaeology in the Southern Levant

This course is an introduction to the archaeology of the Southern Levant, with an emphasis on the Biblical and later periods, including the Chalcolithic period, the Early, Middle and Late Bronze Ages, the Iron Age, the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, and the Islamic and Medieval periods. This course includes two field trips to some of the most well-known archaeological sites in Israel. Possible locations include Jerusalem, the Israel Museum, Tel Megiddo, Tel Hazor and Caesarea.

Near Eastern Prehistory

This course is an introduction to the prehistoric cultures of the Near East. It will provide an outline of research history and the major periods and cultures, from the Lower Palaeolithic through the Pottery Neolithic. Major sites and typical finds will be discussed.

Advances in Prehistoric Research

This is a course devoted to selected topics in current global prehistoric research. Among the topics to be discussed will be architecture, burial customs, site organization and subsistence.

Introduction to Lithic Technology: Workshop

This is an introductory workshop focusing on the fundamentals of flint knapping research. Major trends in lithic research will be discussed, with a focus on flint technologies from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Neolithic. The workshop will consist of hands-on classes where students will examine archaeological specimens.



Photo: Dror Maayan

Advanced Lithic Technology: Workshop

This is an advanced workshop focusing on the analysis of lithic assemblages. During the workshop students will knap flint and analyze archaeological lithic assemblages.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Lithic Technology.

Department Seminar

Students are required to participate in the department seminar, held once a week for two semesters. Lectures will be given on a wide range of topics with a focus on archaeological case studies representing a range of archaeological periods and a variety of scientific methodologies.

Archaeobotany

This course will review major topics in archaeobotanical research including macrobotanical analysis, palynology and phytoliths. Classes and laboratory sessions will focus on sampling, processing, analysis and interpretation of archaeobotanical remains. Emphasis will be given to palaeoenvironmental reconstructions and human impact on the ancient environment. Students will have an opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in laboratory procedures relating to the currently researched prehistoric sites.

Course Descriptions

Archaeozoology

The goal of this course is to provide students with the theoretical background and practical expertise needed for the analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites. A wide range of anthropological and ecological approaches commonly applied in archaeozoological research will be discussed, including hunter-gatherer subsistence, animal domestication and early urban economics.

Geoarchaeology

This is a course devoted to the fundamentals of geological research in archaeological sites. Case studies, research methods and techniques will be discussed.



Physical Anthropology

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of physical anthropology and fundamentals of the theory of evolution. Recent developments in the fields of primate research, hominin anatomical development and modern and ancient DNA studies and their implications for understanding the origins of our species will be discussed.



Practical Osteology

This is a practicum in identification techniques and analytical procedures of vertebrate remains. Students will acquire the skills to identify skeletal parts of humans and diverse vertebrate groups, using actual comparative osteological collections and fragmented archaeological remains.

Admission Requirements & Prerequisites



- Accredited BA degree in the humanities, natural or exact sciences, diploma and transcript
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 76% or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test), 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two letters of recommendation from relevant academic faculty members
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of a valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Personal statement (500-750 words)
- Medical forms

Academic Prerequisites

Students who have not completed an undergraduate degree in archaeology or anthropology will be required to successfully complete the following introductory courses before the first semester of the program:

- Introduction to Anthropology/Archaeology
- Introduction to Quantitative Analysis/Basic Statistics

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the review committee may be willing to consider applicants who do not meet the minimal admissions requirements. See program website for additional details (<http://archinternational.haifa.ac.il>).

General Information



Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the program website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the program website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications once the complete application file is received.

Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for student's use. Refer to the program website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes international students to the full range of events and activities taking place throughout the academic year. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.

Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to experience Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.



Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.



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For additional information:
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