

Archaeology

Program Description

The International MA Program in Archaeology is 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 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 paleo environment 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 through 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 one or two additional semesters. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be awarded a Master of Arts in 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 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.

Highlighted Courses*

Archaeology in the South Levant | Mount Carmel Field Campus: Workshop
Near Eastern Prehistory | Introduction to Lithic Technology: Workshop
Selected Topics in Prehistory: Seminar | Human Ecology in the Levant: Seminar

*The curriculum is subject to change without notice.



University of Haifa
— International School —



Program Highlights

- 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.
- Teach students how to use a wide range of sophisticated analytical tools in order to analyze archaeological data and test anthropological theories.
- 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.