



An exciting six-week program uncovering ancient Etruscan, Roman, and Lombard civilization!

The "la Biagiola" program is open to any archaeology or anthropology students, or simply to students interested in learning more about the subject. We provide an exciting opportunity for a first-hand experience in archaeological fieldwork. You'll take part in the exploration of an ancient site in Tuscany, working alongside expert archaeologists and foreign students.

This program is offered in collaboration with the cultural heritage office of Tuscany, the regional authority that manages archaeological sites and monuments.

In addition to the archaeological experience, you will be able to enjoy a wide range of cultural sites, historic monuments, and natural sites of Tuscany.

Featured disciplines

Anthropology and Archaeology.

Coursework

You will experience all aspects of an archaeological career; fieldwork, architectural archaeology, burial archaeology, scientific analysis, physical anthropology, artifact conservation, and cutting-edge open source digital archaeology. Moreover, coursework will explore and focus on the major features of ancient Etruscan, Roman and Early-Medieval cultures.



The site

The evolution of an Etruscan villa through centuries: from the Roman period, to the Lombard occupation, up to a Modern era rural settlement.

"La Biagiola" archaeological site, near Sovana di Sorano (GR), Tuscany, was discovered by the volunteers of *Gruppo Archeologico Torinese* in 2004, during a survey project led by the *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana*.

After a few sample digs, held from 2008 to 2011, the Association "*Cultura e Territorio*" (ACT) has been entrusted with the following archaeological research.

At present, the history of the site is quite clear in outlines: beginning with an Etruscan villa, at least three phases of a Roman villa, a Lombard graveyard and a modern farm follow each other.

The excavations are carried on thanks to *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana*, "*la Biagiola vitivinicola*", Kaustic Plastik and the municipality of Sorano.

Now we are ready to expand our excavations of the medieval cemetery and to explore new facilities of the Roman *villa*.

In 2016, after two successful campaigns, we intend to open again the Summer School to foreign students of archaeology and anthropology, who wish to experience archaeological excavations in Italy.

The Summer School is taking place from 11/July to 21/August/2016.

First shift from July 11 to July 31.

Second shift from August 1 to August 21.



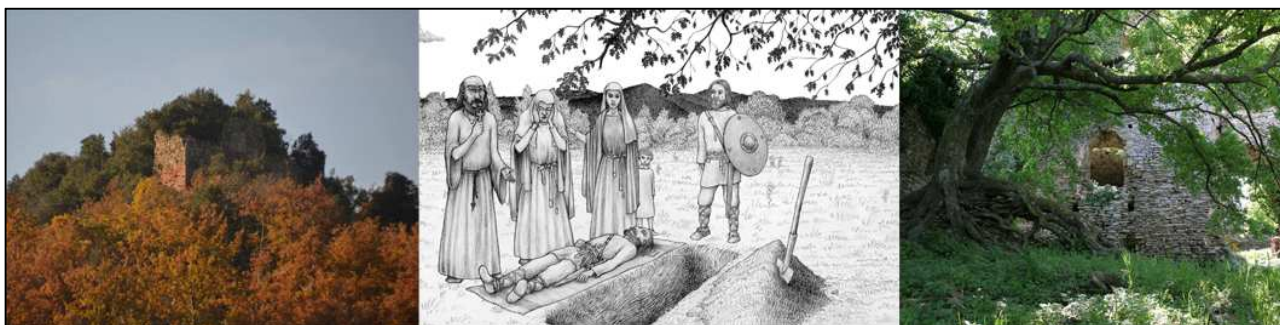
The aims of the 2016 Campaign are:

- Completing the excavations of the Roman ruins' nearby to uncover the ancient *villa* plan;
- Exploring the Lombard cemetery;
- Investigating some service facilities of the Roman farm: a likely oil or wine press area.

The program will be beneficial for both Classical and Medieval archaeologists.

As bonus activities, students will be involved, one day per week, in survey activities that aims to discover and study three lost medieval castles identified this fall in the territory of Sovana. The program will include photogrammetry and wall stratigraphic analysis.

In addition, first shift students will be involved in the organization of a early medieval reenactment festival.



Tutorial activities will be focusing on the following topics (a complete dossier will be given to participants):

Archaeology

1. Roman pottery
2. Roman rural facilities
3. Medieval pottery
4. Early Medieval metallurgy
5. Modern pottery

Methodology

1. Archaeology of standing buildings
2. Burial archaeology
3. Total station and archaeological drawing
4. Open source documentation software
5. G.I.S.
6. Preservation of archaeological finds
7. Analyzing, drawing and cataloging archaeological finds.

History

1. Roman settlement in the Sovana territory
2. Sovana in the Early Middle Ages: a contended territory between Langobards and Byzantines
3. The Aldobrandeschi medieval dominion
4. Archeology of the Modern era: rural settlement archaeology.



The fieldwork excavations will be a major portion of the training focus for the participants. The trainees will be guided through this new adventure by a team of skillful archaeologists who will be able to explain clearly every aspect of the research process.

Since the site is located in the middle of a rich archaeological area, several cultural excursions in the surroundings are planned, such as the Etruscan necropolis of Sovana, the impressive *vie cave*, Sorano and the Pitigliano museums and castles.

Not to forget the various leisure activities that are also included: Bolsena Lake, Saturnia baths and the numerous Italian festivals will make the experience enjoyable and unforgettable.



History

The territory of Sovana has been inhabited since Prehistory.

Today the area is well known for its Etruscan necropolis, medieval castles and churches.

Archaeological research however, continues revealing new artifacts and new interesting aspects of human civilization through centuries.

For example, it is well known that the Romanization phenomena in the area took place between the 3rd and the 2nd century BC, but little is yet known about the Roman settlement in the countryside. Undoubtedly during the 6th and 7th c. AD here was the awkward boundary between the Byzantine and Lombard lands, but archaeological evidence from this period are very scarce.



Indeed, the peculiarity of the site lies in its multilayer stratification: a Roman villa grew over a late Etruscan settlement; afterwards, the Roman facilities were re-used by a Lombard group during the early middle ages, when the site was turned into a cemetery. Those graves that have already been excavated contained an abundance of precious and interesting goods. Finally, the villa was largely abandoned up to the present time: only one building survived over the centuries, which was transformed into a shed.

Though the walls and the tombs are only partially preserved, they can still undoubtedly supply a lot of archaeological information. When the research is completed the site will be converted into an archaeological park, and "la Biagiola" will become one more attraction in the already rich cultural landscape of Sovana.

Since 2012 the site has represented the core of research and promotional activities carried out by professional archaeologists, coordinated by the association "Cultura e Territorio" under the supervision of the Superintendence for Archaeological Heritage of Tuscany (SBAT).

The project is supported by the Municipality of Sorano and it is funded exclusively by private donations. In addition, individual donors and companies, sensitive to the local cultural development, have decided to invest in the 2013 campaign of archaeological investigation and maintenance; they are



“LA BIAGIOLA”: ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL

well aware that popularization and promotion must be based on a rigorous scientific research and must ensure the protection of the Cultural Heritage.

The start of the project in 2012 was thanks to the financial support of the winery "la Biagiola", leading to the discovery of the surviving structures of the Roman villa. In the meantime, archaeologists also continued the excavation of the graveyard previously started by GAT's volunteers.

To know more, take a look at these videos (subtitled):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHCioAuDfI0>; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVdK-ACc-uE&list=PLK1_iz-oV1WjmG7mcRd-elTCMiRH1J-g

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**The Summer School
General schedule**

Activity	3 weeks session, hours	6 weeks session, hours
Excavation and survey (class and field activities)	75	150
Archaeological drawing and photogrammetry	15	30
Pottery lab	15	30
G.I.S. lab	9	18
Catalog, anthropological and archaeological record	15	30
Classes, cultural trips	24	48
Total work hours	153	306

Daily schedule

Time	Activity	Location
6.30-7.00 am	Breakfast	At home
7.30 am	Arrive on site/start lab activity at home	At home/on site
7.30-8.00 am	Daily briefing	At home/on site
8.00-10.30 am	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
10.30-11.00 am	Break	At home/on site
11.00 am-1.00 pm	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
1.30-2.30 pm	Lunch	At home
2.30-5.30 pm	Classes/lab activities/cultural trip	At home/nearby
5.30-8.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
8.00-9.30 pm	Dinner	At home
9.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Saturday schedule		
6.30-7.00 am	Breakfast	At home
7.30 am	Arrive on site/start lab activity at home	At home/on site
7.30-8.00 am	Daily briefing	At home/on site
8.00-10.30 am	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
10.30-11.00 am	Break	At home/on site
11.00 am-1.00 pm	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
1.30-2.30 pm	Lunch	At home
2.30-8.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
8.00-9.30 pm	Dinner	At home
9.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Sunday schedule		
6.30-7.00 am	Breakfast	At home
7.30 am-1.30 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
1.30-2.30 pm	Lunch	At home
2.30-8.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
8.00-9.30 pm	Dinner	At home
9.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby

Classes, labs and field activities will take place daily, from Monday to Friday. Drawing, G.I.S. and pottery laboratories will be held regularly in parallel with excavation. Such activities will be held at staff's discretion and will involve only small groups of students (2-5) at a time. Saturday's schedule will be a half day of work and Sunday is totally free, in order to give students the chance to enjoy their stay in Italy. Students are encouraged to take sightseeing trips to nearby cities and the staff will be glad to help organize and guide their, if their destination is in the surroundings.



Field activities

2016 Campaign will focus on three sectors of the site. Students will practice in each sector, led by one or two archaeologists of the staff.

The villa’s ruins: two rooms of the original Roman villa have been reoccupied during the Modern era and transformed in a typical farm. Special attention will be paid to the standing walls: they will be analyzed according to the methods of the Archeology of standing buildings. In 2016 the exploration of the rests of the villa will allow us to discover the original building plan.

The Lombard graveyard: previous excavations uncovered an impressive graveyard in which Langobard objects have been found. Those typical findings allowed us to date the graves to the first half of 7th century A.D. With the help of our students this past summer, an extremely successful exhibit of this period was presented to the public, raising interest to continue the investigation of the Lombard graveyard. Since surveys have detected clues pointing to more burials to be discovered, one of the first aims of the new campaign is to outline the topography of the surrounding landscape. Burial Archaeology methods and anthropological analyses will be adopted for the discovered graves. As metal objects are the typical findings related with the burials, special attention will be paid to the methodology of metal artifacts preservation.

The villa’s facilities: a complex of farm facilities has already been detected. The 2016 Campaign will try to interpret and understand their function in the light of Roman rural production cycles.



Lab activities

Laboratories will run parallel to field activities, involving small groups of students at a time under the supervision of a staff instructor.

Training in drawing, pottery, total station, G.I.S. and open source archaeological record labs will be provided. In addition, depending on the needs of the field research, the laboratories will also focus on other topics, such as Archaeology of standing buildings, metal find preservation and anthropological analysis.



Lectures

Lectures will be focused on local history and on the archaeological method and theory. They will take place in the afternoon, interposed to cultural trips.

The staff

All activities will be led by a staff of qualified archeologists, skilled in both archaeological research and teaching methods.

The staff has been entrusted by the *Soprintendenza Archeologica della Toscana* of researching and preserving the "la Biagiola" site, since 2012.

The scientific supervisor is Dr. Luca Mario Nejrotti, *Chercheur Associé* at the LA3M – Université d'Aix-Marseille – CNRS, Ph.D. in Medieval Archaeology.

univ-amu.academia.edu/LucaMarioNejrotti

Each member of the staff has been chosen for their specific technical knowledge in archaeological methods and in the recording activities linked with our field work; they have also been chosen for their experience in managing archaeological field campaigns with volunteers and students.

We are well aware that archaeological research is a fascinating study but very hard work and we will do our best to make the experience formative and pleasant at the same time.



Safety first!

All students will be equipped with appropriate safety devices. The activities and cultural trips will be conducted in compliance with the higher safety standards.

All ACT's activities follow the rules prescribed by the Legislative Decree no. 81 of 9 April 2008, also known as "*Testo unico in materia di salute e sicurezza sul lavoro*", and the related corrective measures, according with the Cultural heritage office of Tuscany's dispositions.



Admission procedures

The Summer School of "la Biagiola" focuses on archaeological method, applied on a multilayered site: from the Etruscan age to the Modern era.

The 2016 Campaign is open to both undergraduate and graduate students in Archaeology.

Admission is limited to 15 students per session.

No prerequisites are requested for the Summer School; students will be adequately trained during the campaign.

Students interested in the Summer School must submit their application with a cover letter (1000 characters maximum) and a CV to info@culturaterritorio.org.

Application deadline: **30/05/2016**. Nevertheless, the applications will be examined as soon as they are received and every applicant considered suitable will be admitted immediately.

The staff reserves the right to verify any information reported in the CV and to request additional documentation (e.g.: advising reports; references) at its discretion, before coming to a decision on the enrollment.

An e-mail of confirmation or refusal will be sent to each applicant no later than **June 15, 2016**.

Upon acceptance, students will receive detailed information on the following enrollment requirements:

1. Medical certificate of good mental and physical health and medical history – if students have medical conditions, the certificate should be filled out and signed by a treating specialist.
2. Proof of Insurance – students must have a valid international health and injury insurance and must provide the insurance provider's contact information as well as the policy number.
3. Release form – the participant must read and accept the terms of the field school; a signed release form must be submitted before the starting date of the Summer School.
4. Travel itineraries – all students must provide their detailed travel itinerary as soon as possible. This information will allow the staff to arrange airport/train station pick-ups and drop-offs in advance.
5. Payment, to be made through credit transfer. 50% of the payment will be requested within 3 weeks after acceptance (last deadline: **10/06/2016**). Balance should be paid upon arrival at the Summer School.

Students will be required to provide all documentation and the 50% deposit within three weeks from acceptance. The failure to provide all above mentioned documents and payment within the terms means an automatic forfeiture of the student's place in the Summer School.

For any further question, please e-mail our director Dr Luca Mario Nejrotti at

presidente@culturaterritorio.org. Or look for further information at www.culturaterritorio.org.



Fees

Student will pay support fees in the amount of € 1200 for the each Campaign shift (three weeks). For the whole Campaign the fee is € 2000.

NO USD PAYMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED.

AIA Members will get a € 50 reduction.

We do encourage the participation of small groups of friends or class mates. If a participant brings **three or more friends** he/she will get a **50%** reduction on the balance.

Fees will cover local transports, housing, meals, excavation, laboratory equipment, and staff costs; anything not specified is not included.

There are no application fees; however, students are required to pay half support fees within 3 weeks after admission.

Travel to and from Sorano, where the Summer School is held, is not included.

In case of withdrawal within **June 10 2016**, the fee will be refunded minus a non-refundable deposit of € 300.

After June 11, 2016 fees will not be refunded.

Credits

In order to enable students to gain credits from their University, a signed certificate will be issued, testifying all the activities of the Summer School in details.

General info

Arrival and departure

Students are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Italy. The Summer School is taking place in the municipality of Sorano (GR), in the south of Tuscany.

The closest airport is located in Rome. We suggest the students to reach Rome by flight and take a train to **Orvieto**.

On Monday, July 11, a meeting point will be arranged at **Orvieto Railway Station**. Students will be driven to the Summer School accommodation by the staff.

On Monday, August 1, the staff will drive the students to **Orvieto Station** in the morning, where they could take trains to their departure place or any further destination.

On Monday, August 1, a meeting point will be arranged at **Orvieto Railway Station**. Students will be driven to the Summer School accommodation by the staff.

On Monday, August 22, the staff will drive the students to **Orvieto Station** in the morning, where they could take trains to their departure place or any further destination.

Accommodations

Students and staff will be housed in the local school building at Sorano, in dormitories for 6-8 places each, with communal bathrooms and facilities.

The school building address is:

Istituto Vanni, Via S. Marco 6, 58010 Sorano GR

Meals

The meals will be cooked by an Italian cook.

The breakfast (consisting of coffee, milk, tea or cappuccino and pastries) will be consumed at the accommodation.

On Sunday lunch, students and staff will be provided with lunch-boxes.

Lunch and dinner, consisting of typical Italian dishes, will be held at the accommodation (Summer School fee includes water; all other drinks are not included).

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with food allergies (nuts, shellfish, etc.); students with food allergies are required to inform the staff of their specific dietary restrictions upon application.



We will try to accommodate individual lifestyles and dietary choices (vegetarianism, veganism, etc.) too: student must inform the staff of any special request upon application.

On request, it will be possible to go shopping every 3/4 days; students may ask staff members for any personal shopping request (not included in the fee).

Health and medical information

The participation in the Summer School implies intense physical activity and probably high temperatures (up to 100 °F) during the workday. It is mandatory that all students consult their family doctor to confirm that they will be able to endure the demands of working outdoors for several hours.

All students accepted in the program will be required to provide a doctor's note stating that they are in good health and able to participate in the field school safely. In case of students with medical conditions and/or special needs, a specialist's note will be required. In order to guarantee safety and proper intervention in case of emergency, medical history information must be included in the physician's note. Such information will be treated with absolute confidentiality and will not be disclosed to any third party, unless required to safeguard the student's health.

All the students enrolled in the field school must have a valid international medical insurance for the entire duration of their stay in Italy. Students are required to provide policy information prior to their arrival in Italy.

Given the potential exposure to pathogens in the soil, students must have had a tetanus vaccination or booster within the past ten years; no other vaccinations are required to travel in Italy.

Local Transportation

The staff will drive the students, materials, and supplies to and from the site on every workday, during cultural trips, and in case of emergency as well. Staff will try to grant students' wish of special trips, when free from activities.

Clothing and Equipment

Students should plan to bring appropriate clothing for summertime, providing the following items specifically for the field work:

- comfortable, lightweight pants (no shorts allowed on the site) and shirts to be worn during excavation (shirts with shoulders and sleeves are preferable to tank tops);
- closed-toe work shoes with reinforced soles (no trainers, sandals or flip flops are allowed on the site);
- comfortable work gloves;
- a hat to protect the head during the hottest hours of the day;
- backpack;
- sunscreen and insect repellent;
- a flask or water bottle.

The following items are required for the accommodations:

- sheet set (top and bottom sheet, standard pillow slip) OR a sleeping bag;
- shower and hand towels;
- personal toiletries;
- any personal medicine;
- swimsuit and beach towel;
- basic school supplies.

Language

The official language of the field school is English and no knowledge of Italian is required. However, Italian knowledge will be taken as an advantage.

Visas

US citizens are required to carry a valid passport for at least six months following the date of their arrival in Italy. No visa is required to enter the country for a stay shorter than 90 days. All students are highly encouraged to read and review information relevant to traveling to Italy posted on the [US Department of State's website](#).

Internet access

Internet access will be available at the accommodation, at no additional cost. Personal computers and internet connections will be allowed.

Laundry

Laundry service is not included. Students should do their own washing (detergents will be supplied by the staff). They can also find some launderettes in the near town of Pitigliano.

Currency and personal shopping

Every cash purchase has to be in Euros.

Up-to-date data about Euro-US dollar exchange can be easily found online. Students will not incur in any additional fee for the duration of the field school, but they may want to purchase souvenirs, gifts and other personal items. Although major credit cards are widely accepted, a modest sum in cash may be useful. Money may be exchanged at local banks and exchange agencies, or simply withdrawn at local ATMs.

