

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is required to do summer fieldwork?

All first year students (including combined honours) are required to do at least three weeks fieldwork in the summer after their first year.

What kind of projects can I go on?

You have to go on a project associated with Archaeology at Southampton. We will be running 6 projects, three in Britain and the others overseas, including Georgia, Egypt, Italy, Spain, Romania and the West Indies. All students are eligible to go on all projects.

Does fieldwork cost me anything?

We will always try to ensure that some projects do not require an additional contribution from participants. Some projects are more expensive to run, however, and these will require a contribution to cover travel or accommodation costs. Even for these, your travel, food and lodging is subsidised by the University. For all projects, you have to come up with your own recreational money.

When are these projects? I have to work in July/ go on family holidays in August/ sleep all of September..

The dates vary throughout the summer from the end of exams in June to the beginning of Autumn Term. It is usually possible to work around schedule constraints such as vacations, summer jobs or other commitments, as long as you are prepared to be somewhat flexible. However, you should bear in mind that Summer fieldwork is a requirement of your degree course and you are therefore expected to fulfil that requirement as a priority.

How are project assignments made?

We try to maximize the number of people who go on a project within their top three choices but there is no guarantee that you will be assigned to any of your chosen projects. Assignments are based on students' interests, needs, skills, and on recommendations from project leaders. If you are particularly interested in a specific project, feel free to go talk to the project leader before turning in your questionnaire; you can find their emails on the fieldwork home page. You have a better chance of going on one of your chosen projects if you do not list only the smallest overseas projects as your choices, as these are often oversubscribed.

I am vegetarian/ asthmatic/ allergic to bees/ limited in mobility/ etc. Does this make a difference in what project I go on?

Lots of students have particular needs, and we will arrange satisfactory fieldwork for everyone. The most important thing is that we know about your special needs so we can take

care of your comfort and safety. Most common needs can be accommodated on most projects as long as you are willing to be somewhat flexible (e.g. in substituting foods to suit your dietary needs if the cooking is done collectively) and use common sense (e.g. travelling with any ailment-specific medicines you are likely to need). Special needs will influence project assignments only when (a) they are really likely to make a big difference to your experiences (for instance, if you have very specific dietary requirements you may be happier on a project where you can cook for yourself), or (b) where safety is a real issue (for instance, if there is a good chance you may need emergency medical treatment, we would be wary about sending you on a project where the nearest decent hospital is 150 miles away).

What chance is there of advanced students going on fieldwork this year?

We can sometimes make places available for advanced students, in addition to places for all first-years. If you are interested in coming on a project, you should come to the initial fieldwork meeting and fill out a web form. You should also talk to the project leader of the project you want to go on to make sure they know you are interested. If you do get a place on a project, it may not be possible to fund it on the same basis as the first-years.

I want to dig on a project run by another organisation. Can I do this instead of a departmental project?

No. For the fieldwork requirement, you must go on one of our department-sponsored projects. This doesn't mean that the project must be wholly controlled or even managed by the department, but we do insist that an individual on our staff is present and responsible for the educational content of your fieldwork (we maintain this policy mainly for educational reasons). You are, however, actively encouraged to participate in other fieldwork projects if you have the opportunity, in addition to this departmental requirement.