



National Institution Stobi



Museum of Archaeology - Sozopol

## CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ANCIENT GREEK & ROMAN POTTERY – NORTH MACEDONIA & BULGARIA

Course ID: ARCH 365V

June 6–July 4, 2020

*Academic Credits: 8 Semester Credit Units (Equivalent to 12 Quarter Units)*

*School of Record: Connecticut College*

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### INTRODUCTION

This course is mainly focused on conservation and restoration of ancient Greek and Roman pottery. It consists of two parts, implemented in two neighboring European countries. The initial two weeks will take place at the site of Stobi, Republic of North Macedonia, and the final two weeks will take place in Sozopol, ancient Apollonia Pontica, Bulgaria. Stobi was an important Roman city and reached its zenith of power during the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries CE. Apollonia was one of the richest and most prosperous Ancient Greek colonies in the Black Sea region in the Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic period.

The main goal for this program is to provide theoretical and hands-on training experience in pottery conservation. It does this by exposing students to two different site labs, enabling them to evaluate and appreciate similarities and differences in conservation problems, approaches, methods, technique, design, and material choice applied on different types of artifacts. This field school supports the archaeological efforts at both sites and will integrate conservation efforts into the larger scheme of the broad archaeological project.

The pottery for the workshop in the Republic of North Macedonia come from excavations of the Roman and Early Byzantine city of Stobi and are provided by the National Institution Stobi (NI Stobi). These are mainly locally produced Roman and Late Roman ceramic shapes. The pottery for the workshop in Bulgaria is part of the collection of the Archaeological Museum Sozopol, Bulgaria and originates from cult/funeral fireplaces in the ancient Greek and Hellenistic necropolis of Apollonia Pontica (6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE) which is one of the largest ancient Greek necropoleis ever excavated. The represented shapes are black glazed drinking vessels and plates with local or imported origin.

Students begin their training with replicas of ancient vessels and then progress to originals once they reach an acceptable level of skill, accuracy, and precision. Most students will be able to master conservation and restoration efforts within the course of this field school and expect to complete work on 2-5 artifacts by the end of the program, depending on the initial state of objects' conservation, the necessity of conservation treatment and the individual performance of the student.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be prepared to take part in projects for conservation, restoration, and documentation of archaeological pottery, under the supervision of professional conservators and restorers.

#### ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

**Transcripts:** An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvurkl>.

#### PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will work in the lab and learn how to conduct conservation, restoration and documentation work. These activities involve patience, careful work and concentration, and thus require a measure of acceptance that is not found in the typical university learning environment. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and the understanding that conservation and restoration endeavor requires hard work, patience, discipline, close concentration and attention to detail.

The Conservation & Restoration Field School will host students and professionals from all over the world. With such an international team, it is vital that all students respect the IFR code of conduct, each other's cultures, and local organizational, social and cultural rules and laws.

### DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our primary concern is with education. Traveling and conducting field research involve risk. Students interested in participating in IFR programs must weigh whether the potential risk is worth the value of education provided. While risk is inherent in everything we do, we do not take risk lightly. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it complies with all our standards and policies, including student safety.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We encourage students to explore such insurance on their own as it may be purchased at affordable prices. [Insuremytrip.com](http://insuremytrip.com) or [Travelguard.com](http://Travelguard.com) are possible sites where field school participants may explore travel cancellation insurance quotes and policies. If you do purchase such insurance, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition. See this [Wall Street Journal article about travel insurance](#) that may help you with to help to decide whether to purchase such insurance.

We do our best to follow schedule and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permitting agencies, political, environmental, personal, or weather conditions may force changes. This syllabus, therefore, is only a general commitment. Students should allow flexibility and adaptability as research work is frequently subject to change.

You should be aware that conditions on the Balkans are different than those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. Note that South European (subtropical) climate dominates in the region, making summers hot (30-40°C). Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but not unheard of.

We do our best to follow schedule and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permitting agencies, political, environmental, personal or weather conditions may force changes. This syllabus, therefore, is only a general commitment. Students should allow flexibility and adaptability as research work is frequently subject to change.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this program is to prepare students to take part in archaeological ceramics conservation and restoration activities. The activities in this program will include the following:

1. Introduction to fundamental ethical principles of conservation and restoration. These include among others the principles of reversibility, compatibility, re-treatability and authenticity, and the principle of minimal intervention. Detailed documentation process and basic requirements for conservation materials are also discussed.
2. Introduction to the aesthetic principles of conservation: partial or complete restoration of the original appearance of the object without eliminating the impact of time on it, preserving the artistic values of the artifact, hiding or pointing out restored parts.
3. Presentation of the main causes for deterioration, especially upon excavation.
4. Introduction to preliminary pottery analyses and condition assessment of the finds: observations under low and high magnification, sampling and samples, instrumental analyses. Results as a base for informed conservation treatment proposal.
5. Training through practical exercises: basic conservation and restoration activities: damage assessment and classification, conservation plan, mechanical and chemical cleaning, desalination and consolidation of pottery sherds, reassembling fragmented objects, in-filling, retouching, and detailed documentation.

6. Introduction to conservation documentation, including its visual, historical, and technical aspects as well as conservation treatment performed on the object.
7. Introduction to post conservation monitoring process.
8. Introduction to technological characteristics and technology of ancient pottery and their changes through time.
9. To prepare students to create, organize and maintain artifacts and conservation databases.
10. Collection and keeping both data and metadata about objects and their documentation safe.
11. Introduction to the archaeological and historical contexts of the restored materials – sites, cultures, research problems, etc.
12. Introduction to health and safety requirements in a conservation lab.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field schools begin with safety orientation. This orientation includes proper behavior at the field area, proper clothing, local cultural sensitivities and sensibilities, potential fauna and flora hazards, review of IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and review of the student Code of Conduct.

Both workshops' schedules consist of four modules:

**MODULE I** - Theoretical module (35 hours for both workshops). Covers the following topics:

1. Greek, Roman and Late Roman pottery history and technology. This will include production technology, physical and chemical properties, shape & design.
2. Conservation documentation. Lectures focusing on visual documentation, including regular photography, software manipulation (Corel Draw) and data & metadata documentation of visual record, technical photography.
3. Analytical methods used to determine the chemical composition and the physical properties of artifacts, the damaging processes influencing the artifacts' condition upon excavation.
4. Preventive conservation treatment in situ and subsequent lab conservation treatment of retrieved objects.
5. Lectures focusing on the historical and archaeological context of the treated materials.

**MODULE II** – Practicum (approx. 115 hours for both workshops). Consists of four components:

1. Workshops dedicated to materials and production, which include the full production of replica vessels and explore the challenges related to production technology as practiced in the past.
2. Workshops dedicated to pottery photographic and graphic technical documentation.
3. Workshops dedicated to ceramics conservation.

**MODULE III** - Excursions accompanied by lectures, presentations and study visits to sites of historical/archaeological significance such as the town of Bitola (Archaeological Museum) and the Heraclea Lyncestis excavation site, the town of Ohrid (Ancient Lychnidos, UNESCO World Heritage Site) in Republic of North Macedonia, the Bulgarian capital Sofia (Optional / join daily Sofia free tours) and the ancient town of Nessebar (UNESCO World Heritage Site) on the Black Sea Coast.

**MODULE IV** – Homework (est. 10 hours for both projects) will be assigned to all students, which will consist of editing and processing students' conservation documentation (journal, conservation forms, drawings, photos, etc.) and preparing presentations and reports.

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Day 1		Arrival in North Macedonia and transfer to Stobi. Traditional North Macedonian welcome dinner
Day 2	<b>Orientation.</b> Presentation of National Institution Stobi, Balkan Heritage Foundation – Institute for Field Research Joint Program, the	<b>Lecture:</b> From the Field to Storage: <i>review of basic methods for recovering, "first aid" consolidation in situ, cleaning, lifting and packing for</i>

	Field School agenda and goals, the team and participants, some practicalities <b>Lecture:</b> History of Stobi and Macedonia in Roman and Late Roman period (2 <sup>nd</sup> century BCE – 6 <sup>th</sup> century CE)	<i>transportation, labeling, documenting and storing ceramic artifacts</i> <b>Stobi sightseeing tour</b>
Day 3	<b>Lecture:</b> Material Science and Technology. Clay properties and changes during firing. <b>Lecture &amp; Workshop:</b> typology and chronology of Roman and Late Roman pottery with examples from Stobi. Sorting and selecting different types of Roman and Late Roman pottery sherds	<b>Lecture:</b> Deterioration of ceramics objects. <i>Soluble salts, porosity, firing; choosing the most appropriate conservation treatment for each object</i> <b>Workshop:</b> Cleaning and sorting of Roman and Late Roman pottery sherds
Day 4	<b>Lecture:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects. Basic steps and principles. Ethics and conservation <i>Cleaning of ceramic objects: methods of dirt removal, mechanical and chemical methods of salt efflorescence removal, desalination of the ceramic body. Extraction of cleaning and/or desalination agents from the ceramic body. Consolidation – need, methods and materials; requirements. Assembly of the fragments – adhesives and requirements. Methods of temporary fixing. Molds and temporary supports. Gap filling, modelling and finishing touches.</i> <b>Lecture:</b> Required documentation for pottery and conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Graphic documentation</i></li> <li>• <i>Graphic reconstruction</i></li> <li>• <i>Photographing</i></li> <li>• <i>Conservation journal</i></li> <li>• <i>Conservation history list</i></li> <li>• <i>List of used materials and safety data sheets</i></li> </ul>	<b>Study Excursion &amp; Workshop:</b> Visit to a local traditional pottery workshop in the town of Veles. <i>Experimenting with pottery making</i>
Day 5	<b>Lecture &amp; Workshop:</b> Introduction to technical photography	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects. Preliminary assembly of fragmented objects – methods of temporary fixing of the loose parts. Final assembly – fitting the fragments together, application of adhesive and cleaning of the excess adhesive around the joints. Methods of temporary mechanical stabilization during adhesive setting.
Day 6	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects. Gap filling – methods. Preliminary processing of break lines and surrounding areas. Temporary protection. Temporary supports for plaster in-fills. Additional modelling of the reconstructions. Cleaning of the areas surrounding the in-fill. Documentation – finishing touches.	<b>Lecture &amp; Workshop:</b> Technical drawing documentation. Pottery fragments
Day 7	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects. Conservation	<b>Lecture &amp; Workshop:</b> Technical drawing documentation. Entire vessels.

	<p>treatment of original objects. General instructions.</p> <p><i>Assigning selected number of objects to each participant. Specifics of working with original objects. Removal of unwanted material (soil, salts, etc.) and extraction of cleaning agents. Assembly of the fragments with appropriate adhesive, removal of excess of adhesive. In-fills and their additional processing.</i></p>	
Day 8	<b>Excursion:</b> Guided visit to Bitola and the ancient city of Heraclea Lyncestis	
Day 9	<b>Excursion:</b> Guided visit to Ohrid: Ancient Lychnidos (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Ohrid lake	
Day 10	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Vessels.</p> <p><i>Conservation treatment of original objects. Continued (the exact activities depend on the number of assigned objects and the complexity of each object; as well as on the individual progress of each participant. All activities are closely supervised by and discussed with professional conservator)</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Vessels.</p> <p>Conservation treatment of original vessels.</p> <p>Continuation: <i>refining the plaster, cleaning the vessel from extra plaster, consolidation</i></p>
Day 11	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects</p> <p><i>Conservation treatment of original objects. Continued (the exact activities depend on the number of assigned objects and the complexity of each object; as well as on the individual progress of each participant. All activities are closely supervised by and discussed with professional conservator)</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Archaeological Documentation – <i>Digitalization of pottery graphic documentation</i></p>
Day 12	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects.</p> <p><i>Conservation treatment of original objects. Continued (the exact activities depend on the number of assigned objects and the complexity of each object; as well as on the individual progress of each participant. All activities are closely supervised by and discussed with professional conservator)</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Archaeological Documentation – <i>Digitalization of pottery graphic documentation.</i></p>
Day 13	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of Roman and Late Roman Objects.</p> <p><i>Final conservation treatment of original objects. Continued (the exact activities depend on the number of assigned objects and the complexity of each object; as well as on the individual progress of each participant. All activities are closely supervised by and discussed with professional conservator)</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Accomplishing the conservation documentation for the conserved vessels.</p>
Day 14	<p><b>Preparation of power point presentation of the workshop’s results.</b> Discussion with the instructors. Evaluation meeting and conclusion.</p>	<p>Trip from Stobi to Sofia.</p> <p>Arrival and check-in.</p>
Day 15	Trip from Sofia to Sozopol. Arrival and check-in. Welcome dinner	

Day 16	<b>Orientation.</b> Presentation of the workshop agenda and goals, the new team and the participants, some practicalities, etc.	Sozopol Old Town sightseeing and orientation walk
Day 17	<b>Lecture:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery – part I. ( <i>Conservation of artifacts “in situ”. Properties and deterioration of the pottery from Apollonia Pontica, V-VI century BCE. Conservation strategy and methods</i> ). <b>Lecture:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek Pottery – part II. <i>Analytical methods used to determine the physical and the chemical parameters and properties of ceramic artifacts, as well as the changes occurred in the materials due to environmental influences</i>	<b>Lecture:</b> Technology, typology and chronology of ancient Greek and Hellenistic Pottery with examples from Apollonia Pontica. <b>Visit</b> to Sozopol Archaeological Museum. <b>Workshop:</b> Analyzing, sorting out and selecting of ancient pottery sherds for conservation and documentation.
Day 18	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery. <i>Preliminary study of the objects; condition assessment and documentation</i>	<b>Lecture:</b> History of the Greek colonization of the Western Black Sea coast (7 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> century BCE)
Day 19	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery. <i>Initial treatment – mechanical removal of deposits from the ceramic surface</i>	<b>Lecture:</b> History of Apollonia Pontica in Antiquity (7 <sup>th</sup> century BCE – 6 <sup>th</sup> century CE)
Day 20	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Chemical removal of deposits from the ceramic surface</i> <i>Problems caused by the presence of salts.</i> <i>Desalination of the ceramic artifacts –necessity and specifics of the desalination of ceramics from marine areas; limits (theory and practice).</i>	<b>Lecture:</b> Ancient Greek cemeteries and funeral rites with examples from the Western Black Sea coast
Day 21	<b>Excursion</b> to Nessebar (UNESCO World Heritage Site)	
Day 22	<b>Day off</b>	
Day 23	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Consolidation of the ceramic body. Consolidants and methods (theory and practice).</i> <i>Requirements, new materials. Compatibility.</i>	<b>Lecture &amp; Workshop:</b> Drawing of Ancient Greek Pottery
Day 24	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Assembly of fragmented objects – adhesives for ceramics. Requirements, properties and types. Obsolete and new materials (theory and practice).</i>	<b>Workshop:</b> Drawing of Ancient Greek Pottery (conserved and restored vessels)
Day 25	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Reconstruction of missing parts of the ceramic body. Different materials and their properties. Requirements, compatibility.</i>	<b>Workshop:</b> Drawing of Ancient Greek Pottery (conserved and restored vessels)
Day 26	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Reconstruction of missing parts of the ceramic body. Different materials and their properties.</i>	<b>Workshop:</b> Drawing of Ancient Greek Pottery (conserved and restored vessels)
Day 27	<b>Workshop:</b> Conservation of ancient Greek pottery <i>Retouching of the reconstructed parts.</i> <b>Exam</b>	<b>Lecture</b> Ethics and aesthetics in the conservation of archaeological ceramics <b>Workshop:</b> Conservation and restoration of ancient Greek pottery. Finalizing activities.

Day 28	Submission of the treated vessels at the Museum of Archaeology - Sozopol <b>Presentation</b> of the Workshop results. Evaluation meeting and Conclusion	- Free time - Dinner and farewell party
Day 29	Departure	

### TYPICAL WORK DAY

7:00 – 8:00	- Breakfast
8:30 - 13:00 / 13:30	- Workshop for Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Pottery
13:30 - 15:30 / 17:00	- Lunch and siesta
15:30/17:00 – 19:00/19:30	- Lectures and workshops
19:30/20.00 – 21:00	- Dinner

### GRADING MATRIX

Students will be graded based on their work as follows.

% of Grade	Activity
25%	Roman and Late Roman Pottery Conservation
25%	Ancient Greek Pottery Conservation
15%	Technical drawing of pottery
15%	Digitizing of the pottery graphic documentation
20%	Final Exam

Students' performance in the both parts of the field school (in North Macedonia and in Bulgaria) will be evaluated separately. Grades and the performance will be communicated by the both teams under the Balkan Heritage Foundation supervision.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of the field school is 85% of the course hours. Any significant delay or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity. An acceptable number of absences for a medical or other personal reasons will not be taken into account if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings, homework or tutorials with program staff members.

### EQUIPMENT LIST

- Work clothes
- A set of walking and hiking shoes.
- Clothing suitable for outdoor activities (consider weather conditions from hot and sunny to rainy and chilly).
- Wide brim hat.
- A small backpack (for your food, bottle of water, wet wipes, camera, papers etc.)
- Medication - It is not necessary to bring over-the-counter medicine from your country since you can buy all common types in North Macedonia/Bulgaria (e.g. aspirin, anti-insecticides, sunscreen, etc.) It is recommended that you bring your individual prescription medicines, if any.
- Don't forget to bring a converter to an EU type electricity wall-plug if needed.
- It is recommended that participants bring PCs having at least 5 GB free disk space and a mouse. Operating system recommended: Windows.
- A good attitude for work, fun, study and discoveries.

### ACCOMMODATION

**In Stobi, Republic of North Macedonia**



Participants will stay at renovated air-conditioned cabins at the archaeological base next to the ancient ruins of Stobi. Students will be housed in rooms with 2-3 beds each. Each cabin has four bedrooms, a living room and two bathrooms with showers. A washing machine and Wi-Fi are available for free.

The closest village to Stobi is Gradsko (4 km), where there are a couple of food & beverage shops, a pharmacy, an ATM and a medical office. The closest supermarkets, drug-stores, pharmacies, banks with ATM and hospitals are in the towns of Negotino, 12 km away, Kavadarci, 17 km away, and Veles, 23 km away.

### **In Sozopol, Bulgaria**

Accommodation is either at Dom Mladenovi guest house (<http://www.dommladenovi-sozopol.com/en2/>) or at the VMK Military Club, both of which have comfortable rooms with private bathrooms, air-conditioning, refrigerators and TV. Internet is available at the lobby area of the hotels. Both hotels are located close to the town beaches, the Old Town Quarter, the Archaeological Museum, and within 15 min walking distance from the archaeological site.

Staying an extra day costs 30 USD. Single rooms are available upon request for an additional fee of 125 USD per week (**The prices may slightly vary due to the USD rate fluctuations**).

Alternative more luxurious accommodation (for single, double and triple rooms) is available for an additional fee of 200 to 300 USD per week upon request at Villa Kera (<http://villa-ker.com/newsite/index.php#!/pageHome>). Places are limited.

### **MEALS**

#### **In Stobi:**

Three meals (fresh, homemade food) per day are covered by the tuition fee. Meals, except for lunch packages during the excursion, usually take place at the field house premises in Stobi. This field school can accommodate vegetarians, vegans and individuals with lactose-intolerance diets. Kosher and gluten-free restrictions are impossible to accommodate in these locations.

#### **In Sozopol:**

Only the morning breakfast on work days as well as the welcome and the farewell dinner are covered by the tuition fee.

Sozopol offers variety of restaurants that can meet everyone's preferences and dietary requirements – from fast food options to cozy gourmet restaurants.

### **TRAVEL & MEETING POINT**

Hold purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to departure date. Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and a range of other factors may require the cancelation of a field school. The IFR typically takes a close look at local conditions 6-7 weeks prior to program beginning and make Go/No Go decisions by then. This time frame still allows the purchase of discounted airline tickets while protecting students from potential loss of airline ticket costs if we decide to cancel a program.

**Arrival:** Please arrive on June 6 by 7.00 pm at the National Institution for Management of the Archaeological Site of Stobi, 1420 Gradsko, Republic of North Macedonia (+ 389 43251 026). A transfer to Stobi from the airports in Skopje (North Macedonia) or Thessaloniki (Greece) may be arranged by request. Individual or group transfers' price may vary from 36-120 USD depending on both distance and number of passengers. (**The prices may slightly vary due to the USD rate fluctuations.**) The trip takes approximately 1.5 hours depending on traffic. It is recommended to exchange/withdraw some North Macedonian Denars and buy a bottle of water and visit the restroom before the trip.

If you missed your connection or your flight was delayed/canceled, call, text or email the project staff (email: [bhfs.admissions@gmail.com](mailto:bhfs.admissions@gmail.com)). Local contact information will be provided to enrolled students.

**Trip from Stobi to Apollonia:** Students will be fully assisted by project staff for their trip from Stobi to Sozopol. They will use public transport from Stobi to Skopje, then from Skopje to Sofia and from Sofia to Sozopol. A taxi transfer for any of these destinations could be arranged for an additional fee.

Students will have an overnight stay in Sofia. Dorm based hostel accommodation in Sofia is covered by the admission fee. Private double and single rooms are available upon request for an extra fee.

A detailed travel info sheet will be sent to enrolled students. The meeting for the welcome dinner is at 7:45 pm in the garden of Dom Mladenovi guest house, Sozopol.

**Departure:** This field school ends in Sozopol. Students may continue onward travel or return home. The closest airport is in Burgas, approximately 1 hour by car or bus. Other optional airports are those in Varna (3-4 hours), Sofia (5-6 hours) or Plovdiv (4-5 hours), Bulgaria. All airports may be reached by bus or by organized transfers. Students are responsible for their travel from Sozopol to the airport.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of EU, EEA, USA, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand **do not need a visa** to visit Bulgaria and North Macedonia for up to 90 days.

Citizens of all other countries may need a visa. The Balkan Heritage Foundation can send an official invitation letter that should be used at the relevant embassy to secure a visa to the program.

Note that if you plan to visit Turkey during your stay in the Balkans you will need a visa. The Turkish government facilitates the process for tourists by providing the option for obtaining an e-visa at <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>.

For more information about border crossing visit the Balkan Heritage Field School web site and look [North Macedonia](#), [Bulgaria](#) and [Visa Help](#) pages.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety and health orientation will take place at the beginning of the program. Stobi's neighboring towns Negotino and Kavadarci (12/17 km away) and Sozopol offer medical care, first aid and pharmacies. Good personal hygiene and relaxation after a day's hard work are good preventatives for the summer flu.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**North Macedonian dialing code:** +389

**Bulgarian dialing code:** +359

**Time Difference in North Macedonia** (Summer time): UTC/GMT +1 hours (April through September)

**Time Difference in Bulgaria** (Summer time): UTC/GMT +2 hours (April through September)

**Measure units:** degree Celsius (°C), meter (m.), gram (gr.), liter (l)

## Money/Banks/Credit Cards:

The Bulgarian currency is the Bulgarian LEV (BGN). Since 1997, the Bulgarian LEV has been pegged to the EURO at the exchange rate of 1 euro = 1.955 lev (usually sold for 1.94 lev). Bulgarian banks accept all credit cards and sometimes travelers' checks. Usually banks open at 8.00-8.30 am and close at 17.00-18.00 pm. They work from Monday to Friday. Shopping malls, supermarkets and many shops in Sofia and/or bigger towns and resorts will also accept credit cards. This is not valid for the smaller "domestic" shops throughout the country where the only way of payment is cash. You can see Bulgarian notes and coins in circulation at: <http://www.bnb.bg/NotesAndCoins/NACNotesCurrency/index.htm?toLang= EN>

The North Macedonian currency is the North Macedonian DENAR (MKD). North Macedonian banks accept all credit cards and travelers' checks. Usually banks are open from 8.00 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday and from 8.00 a.m. to noon on Saturday. You can see North Macedonian notes and coins in circulation at: [www.nbrm.mk/?ItemID=C2B15406ABC3BC46B2525F66092FB01D](http://www.nbrm.mk/?ItemID=C2B15406ABC3BC46B2525F66092FB01D)

In both countries, you cannot pay in Euros or other foreign currency except in casinos and big hotels (where the exchange rate is really unfair)!

The exchange of foreign currencies is practiced not only by banks but also by numerous exchange offices. **NB!** Most of them don't collect commission fee and have acceptable exchange rates (+/- 0.5-1,5% of the official rate). However, those located in shopping areas of big cities, resorts, railway stations, airports etc. can overcharge you variable amounts. Ask in advance how much money you will get!

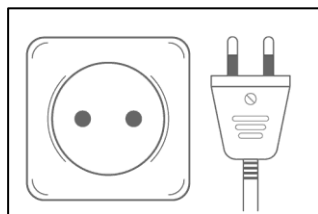
ATMs are available all over both countries, and POS-terminals are in most bank offices.

If you plan to use your credit/debit card, please inform your bank on your intention before departure! Otherwise it is very possible that your bank will block your account/ card for security reasons when you try to use it abroad! Unblocking your card when abroad may cost you lots of phone calls and money.

### **ELECTRICITY**

The electricity power in the both countries is stable at 220 - Volts A.C. (50 Hertz). Don't forget to bring a voltage converter if necessary!

Outlets generally accept 1 type of plug: Two round pins. If your appliances plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter.



### **EMERGENCY IN NORTH MACEDONIA**

National emergency number is **112**

Police: **192**

Fire brigade: **193**

Ambulance: **194**

Road assistance: **196**

### **EMERGENCY IN BULGARIA**

National emergency number is **112**

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Cherneva, D. *Richly Decorated Pottery from Apollonia Pontica (4th Century B.C.). Technical Study, Damage Phenomena, and Approach to Conservation.* - Report in the Interim Meeting of the ICOM-CC and Glass Working Group and Corpus Vitrearum - ICOMOS in Amsterdam (In print)

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