



## AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

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### EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM APPLICATION AND INFORMATION **Deadline: December 15, 2021**

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens conducts a program for volunteer excavators wishing to participate in the archaeological excavations of the Athenian Agora during the summer. College students, graduate students, and postgraduate students with an interest in Archaeology, Ancient History, Classical Studies, and related subjects are invited to apply for the Volunteer Staff. Approximately thirty-five volunteers will be selected. Applicants will be chosen on the basis of academic qualifications and previous archaeological field experience. Priority is given to graduate students preparing for professional careers in Classical Archaeology and those willing to work the entire season.

#### **Archaeological Excavations**

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens has been excavating in the area of the Athenian Agora since 1931, bringing to light the history of the area over a period of 5000 years. Finds range from scattered pieces of pottery of the late Neolithic period (ca. 3000 BC) to the contents of 19th and early 20th century basements. The Agora of the 5th and 4th centuries BC has been the main focus of attention. Scholars have identified the often scanty material remains on the basis of ancient references to the Agora as the center of civic activity of ancient Athens. Public documents inscribed on stone, weight and measure standards, and jurors' identification tickets and ballots reflect the administrative nature of the site, while traces of private dwellings in the area immediately bordering the open square, with their household pottery and other small finds, throw light on the everyday lives of Athenian citizens.

After the initial phase of excavation, in the 1950's, the area was landscaped and the Hellenistic Stoa of Attalos was rebuilt to serve as museum and workspace. All material excavated from the site is stored in the Stoa, together with the complete archaeological record: day-by-day notes of the excavators, conservation procedures, photographs, plans and drawings, and completed publications. This makes the Agora a unique resource in Mediterranean archaeology, in that every object and its complete archaeological record are housed together and can be studied side by side. Choice objects from all periods of the history of the site are on display in a museum on the ground floor of the Stoa, including important remains of Bronze and Iron age burials from the earlier periods, and objects from Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine times representing the post-classical Agora.

The site, the Stoa of Attalos and the finds from the excavations are the property of the Greek State, and are administered by the 1st Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Greek Archaeological Service. The excavation archives are maintained by the American School of Classical Studies from offices in the Stoa.

The web site for the Athenian Agora is located at: <https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/excavations/athenian-agora> and is designed to provide you with more information about recent excavations. One long term project is the creation of a single integrated and coherent digital archive of all the archaeological resources at the Athenian Agora: from object databases, photographs, site guides, virtual-reality tours, architectural plans and drawings, to new excavation data, reports, and publications. As part of this project, the Athenian Agora maintains a separate website (<http://www.agathe.gr>) for experimenting with methods of presenting archaeological data to the general public and for creating experimental digital tools that can be used by the scholarly community and excavators in the field.

In recent years, the Athenian Agora has also been involved in another project (<http://www.ascsa.net>) to develop a common interface for all the digital resources of the American School of Classical Studies. The uniqueness of this experimental website is that it allows one to search across all the included collections simultaneously.

### **Work of the Volunteer Staff**

The Volunteer Staff will participate in all aspects of the archaeological fieldwork under the supervision of a staff of field archaeologists and technical experts, all of whom have extensive field experience and advanced academic training in Classical Archaeology. Volunteers will be trained in the basic techniques of excavation: working with pick, trowel, shovel, and wheelbarrow; cleaning and investigating stratigraphy; delicate cleaning of artifacts in the ground; sifting of excavated earth and techniques of flotation; washing and basic conservation of pottery and other objects; clerical work involved in the keeping of excavation records. Tasks will be assigned in rotation, and volunteers are expected to participate in all of them. Fieldwork is in progress five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a 30-minute break at midmorning. Volunteers should be on the site during these hours.

### **Summer Season**

The excavations are planned for eight weeks beginning in early June and continuing until early August. Volunteers should be prepared to work at the excavations for the whole season.

### **Living Accommodations**

Members of the Volunteer Staff will be provided with living accommodations in Athens at no cost during the time they are working for the excavations. Small groups of volunteers will share rented apartments in the Pangrati district of Athens, a short distance from the American School, approximately a 30-minute walk from the excavations. No provisions can be made for spouses or roommates unless they are also accepted as volunteers in their own right.

In addition, a modest expense allowance, consisting of the Euro equivalent of approximately \$120 per week, will be paid to each volunteer in order to cover the cost of meals.

Those persons who are already resident in their own accommodations in Athens are welcome to apply for the program and will receive the same expense allowance as other volunteers, although no rebate for their housing is possible.

Applicants chosen to participate in the program will be expected to make their own travel arrangements between the USA and Greece.

### **Health Considerations**

Archaeological excavation can be physically difficult and it is important to be aware of conditions that may factor into your planning. Dust, pollution, and smoke from wildfires may aggravate allergies and/or lung conditions. Temperatures are regularly in the 90s or low 100s Fahrenheit and there is limited or no access to shade during working hours. Work includes heavy lifting and repetitive muscular exertion. The typical excavation posture is squatting or bending. It is rare for excavation contexts to permit sitting or lying down while working. Trenches are typically accessed by stairs and/or ladders and some additionally require navigating narrow wooden walkways. Tools used during excavation include both small and large pickaxes, trowels, brooms and dustpans, and shovels. Excavated soil is removed by means of large rubber buckets. Excavation contexts can be narrow and enclosed. Because of the location of the excavation in a tourist district in Athens, loud noises, crowded streets, and a variety of smells are common. Bathroom facilities and access to drinking water are located in the Stoa of Atalos, approximately 500m (0.3 miles) from most areas of excavation.

Volunteers typically walk to and from work (distances up to 1.5 miles) and excavate from 7:00am until 2:00pm, with up to 1 hour of additional light work after excavation ends. There is a 30-minute break at midmorning for lunch (food not provided by the excavation) and a short break around 1:00pm. Volunteers are encouraged to bring water bottles to the excavation area, and these can be refilled through the day.

Accepted volunteers will be required to submit confidential medical and insurance forms. Such confidential disclosure will not affect your acceptance into the program.

### **Visas**

Any U.S. or Canadian citizen who plans to spend more than 90 days in any given six-month period in Greece and/or any other member of the Schengen block of countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland) within a six-month period must obtain a special visa BEFORE entry into the Schengen zone. This visa must be issued by a Greek consulate/embassy in a country where the applicant is a resident, and the application process can take two or more months. The Agora season accounts for 56 of these days and any participant who plans also to attend, for example, a spring or fall study abroad program may exceed the 90-day limit. Consult the School's web site at <https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/apply/living-in-greece/residence-permit-regulations> for necessary information concerning visa application.

### **ASCSA General Information**

Members are reminded that collecting antiquities, however small, is strictly forbidden by Greek law. Never pick up anything at any archaeological site, not even a single sherd. Violations will result in expulsion from the School.

The School is committed to providing a safe, secure working and living environment for its students, staff, and researchers. Any discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, or disability will not be tolerated (the School is EOC compliant). Such action should be reported immediately to the Director of the Agora Excavations or to the Director of the School.

## **APPLICATION**

A complete application should consist of the following parts:

1. The attached application form should be fully completed.
2. Two letters of recommendation should be requested by the applicant from persons familiar with their academic studies or archaeological fieldwork. These letters should be forwarded directly by their writers to the address given below.
3. Personal statement. Please attach a personal statement explaining your interest in the Agora Excavations. Please discuss more fully your qualifications, previous excavation experience, career goals and interests, and any other relevant information. This essay should not exceed one side on one 8 1/2 x 11 page.
4. Personal interview. Applicants are urged, if at all possible, to arrange for a personal interview with the Director of the Agora Excavations either in the USA or in Athens. Appointments can be made during the months of November and December. In order to arrange interviews, applicants should contact Professor Camp at [jcamp@agathe.gr](mailto:jcamp@agathe.gr).
5. Acknowledgement of health considerations. Check the box on the application form to acknowledge that you have read and understood the above "Health Considerations."

Completed applications, letters of recommendation, and further inquiries should be directed to:  
Professor John McK. Camp II:  
American School of Classical Studies at Athens  
Department of Classics  
Randolph-Macon College  
Ashland, VA 23005

Applicants can expect to receive notification after February 15

*The American School of Classical Studies at Athens does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, national or ethnic origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation when considering admission to any form of membership or application for employment*

**EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA  
APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM 2022**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for correspondence): \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION:** Institutions: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ Date (or Expected Date): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Occupation (if not enrolled as Student): \_\_\_\_\_

List courses taken in Archaeology, Classics, and related fields (continue on back if necessary):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE:**

Give name of site, name of Director, dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special qualifications and other relevant information:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dates Available: Full Season (8 weeks) \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Please attach a personal statement explaining your interest in the Agora Excavations. Please discuss more fully your qualifications, previous excavation experience, career goals and interests, and any other relevant information. This essay should not exceed more than one side of one 8 1/2 x 11 page.

**INTERVIEW**

To arrange a date and time for an interview, please contact Professor Camp at [jcamp@agathe.gr](mailto:jcamp@agathe.gr)

**HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**

Check this box to acknowledge that you have read and understood the above "Health Considerations."

**REFEREES:**

Give names and addresses of two persons whom you have asked to write in support of your application. They should be familiar with your academic studies and/or archaeological fieldwork.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed applications and letters of recommendation should be sent to either address listed below. All application materials should be postmarked no later than **December 15, 2021**.

Professor John McK. Camp II  
American School of Classical Studies at Athens  
Department of Classics  
Randolph-Macon College  
Ashland, VA 23005