

# ELMALI FIELD SCHOOL OF GEOANTHROPOLOGY, TURKEY

## Program Information

### PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

**What are the average weather conditions during the time of the field school? (average temperature, humidity levels, amount of rain, wind, variation between day and night, etc.)**

Elmalı is a high altitude plain (>1000 m above sea level) and it can get hot (37-38 degrees C), but it cools down during the night. There is almost no moisture and it rarely rains. Potentially, you may encounter snakes, scorpions, and other venomous animals when you are excavating, although we have never had an incident, sturdy boots are required and students should exercise caution.

**Please describe the site(s) where the students will work, for example, outside and/or inside; in a city, town or rural area; shady or sunny, etc.**

Hacımusalar Mound is about 12 km (6 mi) outside the town of Elmalı. The site is situated in the middle of fields and apple orchards. It is a tall mound therefore it is spotted easily. On an average day, we spend 6 hours on the Mound, 6 days a week. With the exception of ½ hr break, we are usually under the sun, in the trenches. We have a small trailer on the Mound, where we take our breaks.

**Are there special features of the program site?**

Elmalı Plain was the highland home for most archaeological cultures that inhabited the SW Mediterranean coast of Türkiye. Elmalı is only 2 hrs from the coast, which is dotted by many Classical (i.e., Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman) cities. We take tours to some of these sites during the day-off. If you are a climber there are many opportunities around Elmalı.

**Will there be other people onsite with the field school or working in the same area?**

Elmalı FS is run by Istanbul Technical University (ITU); there will be faculty from ITU as well as undergraduate/graduate students from colleges around the country. In an average field season, we have a total of 6 graduate students and 30-40 undergraduate students. Undergraduate students usually join the team for 3-5 weeks to meet the practical training requirements of their respective programs.

**What does an average week look like?**

In an average week; we work between Tuesday and Sunday. Each work day starts with 4:30 am breakfast, departure at 5 am. The work at the Mound starts at 5:30 and we stop for tea break at 9 am. The work starts at 9:30 and we end the day at 1 pm (unless it gets too hot; in that case we stop at 12:30). Lunch is served at 1:30 pm at the excavation house, followed by resting time (shower, nap) until 5 pm. Afternoon tea is served at 5 pm, which also marks the start of work at home. Record keeping, data entry, data transmission, drawing, etc. should be done until dinner

(8 pm). If need be, work is continued after dinner. It is recommended that everyone goes to bed by 10 pm. From Sunday afternoon (1:30 pm) to Monday evening (7 pm sharp) we take a break. Students are free to leave the excavation house to go to the nearby towns (about 2 hrs by minibuses that depart from the coach station in the town) on the beach. There are many hostels and hotels where you may spend the night. The team should get together for dinner on Monday (served at 8 pm). If you decide to stay at Elmalı, you may visit the green market that is set up weekly. Farmers from the surrounding villages bring their produce, there are also local clothing and accessories on sale.

### **What are the options for students to access money?**

Elmalı is a midsize town; there are branches of almost all the banks that operate in Türkiye. The excavation house is only 15 minutes walking distance to the center of town where the banks and ATMs are located. Credit cards are accepted at most stores and businesses. It is recommended that you bring some cash with you for emergency use but you will be able to withdraw money from ATMs anywhere in Türkiye.

## **ACTIVITY LEVEL & ACCESSIBILITY**

### **Please provide information about the physical requirements of the program.**

Excavation and complementary research methods require intense physical activity, which generally takes place under the sun. Some of these activities involve; lifting, bending, kneeling, crouching, carrying, and walking over uneven terrain. If you are allergic to dust, hay, and other grasses, please bring your medicine. Please bring sunscreen and wide brim hats, sunglasses (preferably the ones with side covers). Elmalı is a high altitude plain, there is no humidity but exposure to sun without hats, and failing to hydrate yourself may lead to sunstroke in as little as 10 minutes.

### **Please comment how accessible your site is for people with mobility challenges. Would someone using a wheelchair be able to participate? Someone who uses crutches or other assistive walking devices?**

The Mound is accessible only to people who can walk however, because we commute to the Mound with cars and we climb up to the Mound with cars, people who need wheelchairs or crutches have access to the site. Moving on the uneven terrain of the Mound with wheelchairs or crutches will be extremely difficult.

## **PROGRAM COUNTRY & CULTURAL INFORMATION**

### **What do you love about the country and area you work in? What do you think students will be most excited to discover?**

This part of Türkiye is still developing; locals still maintain cordial behavior and they are both curious and respectful to our team. As Elmalı does not receive a lot of tourists, they are excited to host people from outside Elmalı. The region of Türkiye we work at is extremely rich in cultural heritage and ecological resources. In a short car ride (about 2 hrs in every direction), you enter a different cultural and ecological zone. Traditions change with the environmental conditions.

Even if students travel around every Monday, they will not be able to discover the whole potential of the region in a month.

**How large is the community where students will be staying? Will students have opportunities to interact casually with local residents? Please describe.**

The town of Elmalı has a winter time population of 15.000 people. Starting with the summer (mid-June) the population steadily increases to 25.000 people. The 600+ year tradition of oil wrestling (the first three days of September) brings an additional 5.000 people from around the country. The students will have ample opportunity to meet with local residents. Occasionally, we hire workers from nearby villages; this means that they will work with them and at Elmalı, they may enjoy a cup of tea or a cone of ice cream when they chat with the people of the town.

**Primary languages spoken by people in the area:**

Turkish; the younger generation of Elmalı may speak some English

**What are some things students may find surprising about the local culture?**

Local clothing and headdresses, men or women holding hands in public (generally suggests close friendship or being kin relatives), kissing on both cheeks as a way of greeting among people, goat's milk burnt ice cream, the use of medicinal herbs in cuisine.

**Are there cultural aspects that students should be aware of before they come, particularly behaviors that could be offensive or misinterpreted (for example, eye contact, dress, gestures)?**

Students are encouraged to be active observers of their environments. Elmalı is still a conservative town which means that shorts/short skirts/tight shirts may not be acceptable. As a general rule, entering religious structures (mosques, shrines, churches) requires covering arms and legs, in some cases it also requires covering hair for women. Although holding hands in public is customary, couples are advised not to kiss in public. When students are visiting coastal towns, these rules do not apply because these towns have been the center of tourism in Türkiye and the locals are used to different behaviors after years of exposure to people from around the world. Finally; students are reminded not to speak about the particulars of their activities on the Mound or at the excavation house. Treasure hunting is one of the most popular illegal actions in Türkiye and we don't want to encourage anyone with these ideas.

**Will students have opportunities to explore other areas of the country? If so, what options are available to them (such as available transportation or unscheduled time for exploration).**

Elmalı Museum offers an easy start for students. We also take tours to several nearby archaeological sites, some of them also have museums. The city of Antalya (2,5 hrs by minibus) has many Classical sites and several museums, including one of the best archaeology museums in the whole country. Every town in Türkiye has tea/coffee houses, which offer the best venues for people watching and cultural interactions. Elmalı Oil Wrestling Festival takes place during the first three days of September; unfortunately IFR students leave by then. Students who want to explore these opportunities may take off-days or alternatively, they may take time to do so after their FS is over. (Please see the visa section for important information)

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS**

### **Please describe student accommodations.**

The Excavation House is a three-story structure with a large yard in the front. It is situated at the center of Elmalı in a residential neighborhood. The building was originally designed to function as a large townhouse for one family. When it started to function as an excavation house in 2002, an industrial kitchen was added. Three rooms have four bunk beds each with foam mattresses. Former kitchens on the first and the second floors of the excavation house have also been converted to bedrooms, each holding one bunk bed. There is a shower/restroom on each floor. There are also four showers and two restrooms on the ground floor. Please be considerate of others when using these facilities. Two study rooms may accommodate approximately 12 students. We also have outdoor study areas. All rooms have proper ventilation (windows, balconies) and lighting. There are no curtains, please use shutters that cover each window and balcony door. We hire help to clean high traffic areas in the Excavation House daily and to clean bedrooms three times a week.

### **Please describe how/how often students can do laundry.**

There is an on-site washing machine, but only line-drying. Students will share responsibilities keeping the excavation house clean, including rotating cleaning duties.

### **How are room assignments made? If rooms are assigned according to gender, how will you assign rooms for non-binary, trans and queer students?**

The first floor of the excavation house is reserved for women, the second floor is reserved for men. On the second floor, there is a room for the Ministry Representative. Each year we get a different Representative. Even if this person is a woman, she will be staying in the Representative Room on the second floor. In case non-binary, trans and queer students join Elmalı FS, I will ask them what their preference will be. Students will not be put in a room without their consent.

### **Are there options for single rooms? Would there be an additional charge (and approximate cost)?**

There are four single rooms in the excavation house. Two of these single rooms are reserved for the Director and the Government Representative. The remaining single rooms (one on each floor) are reserved for the senior project personnel. Students are staying in small (2 bunk beds) or large (6 bunk beds) rooms. There are no single rooms available for students.

### **Will the program provide meals? If not all meals, please specify which meals students will be responsible for, and what facilities are available for them to get groceries and prepare meals.**

The cost of all meals is included in the program fee; however, students will be responsible for purchasing their own meals if they choose to travel on Sunday evening and Monday. Food will not be served at the Excavation House on Sunday (dinner) and Monday (breakfast and lunch, but the kitchen is open to students to prepare their own food during these times. Alternatively, you may visit one of many restaurants in the town. Monday dinner is a communal event and the team is expected to be present at the dinner table.

**Please describe typical meals that are offered by the program.**

We are providing halal Mediterranean cuisine and we can accommodate a vegetarian diet. Due to our limited staff, we cannot accommodate Vegan, Kosher, gluten free or other types of restricted diets.

## **VISA AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**Indicate the visa requirements, if any, for US citizens. If there is a visa requirement, what type of visa should students apply for?**

Students enrolling at EFSG will participate in academic and scientific research, which requires **research visas** from Turkish embassies or consulates before arriving in Turkey. Please consult the website for detailed information:

<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/general-information-about-turkish-visas.en.mfa>. Paperwork to expedite your visa procedure will be provided by the Director.

Each applicant will be subjected to extensive background checks after the research visa application. The visa process may take 3 months. Citizens not from the USA are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

For students who would like to explore Türkiye after their FS is over; please make sure that you leave Türkiye and re-enter. You are coming in for FS on a research visa. Your research visa expires soon after the FS ends. If you stay and travel on the same visa, it means that you overstayed your visa, which may lead to rejection the next time you are travelling. Most countries do not need a tourist visa (i.e., you may purchase your tourist visa at the border) to enter Türkiye.

The easiest way to exit and re-enter is; take the bus to the coastal town of Kaş (2,5 hrs by minibus from Elmalı). At Kaş, there are boats departing to the Greek island of Kastellorizo (Meis), which is a 30 min journey. It is a beautiful island, you may spend a day and easily stay there if you decide to for a few more days. There are regular boat services between Meis and Kaş daily; you may come back to Kaş and enter on a tourist visa. You may stay up to 3 months with this visa. The Director will help you arrange the details if you are interested.

**If visa or permit requirements are coordinated by the project director, please describe the process, including what documents students will need to provide and deadlines.**

The Director will provide a letter of invitation (in Turkish, addressed to the relevant Consulate of Türkiye where the student is applying to) and the application form for research visa (partially filled in by the Director). The applicant will be filling in the rest of the application form and submit the form, the invitation letter, and the copy of the passport page to the Consulate in his/her region. When the process is completed, the student will be notified by the Consulate, and an appointment is set up to issue the visa. **Do not delay in submitting the paperwork to the Consulate;** this process can take several weeks or months.

## **TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)**

### **If students will fly, what airport should they fly into?**

Most inbound transatlantic flights arrive at Istanbul Airport (code: IST). You will have a connecting flight from Istanbul Airport to Antalya International Airport (code: AYT), which usually takes about one hour. Under normal circumstances you will clear customs at Antalya and leave the Airport from the International Arrivals Hall. The Project Director will meet you outside this Hall. The trip from the Airport to the excavation house at Elmalı takes about 1,5 hrs. The Program has a vehicle to transport students to/from the site. There are also direct flights to Antalya International Airport from most European cities.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the field school director immediately. A local emergency mobile phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

### **If there are other ways students can get to the program, please describe.**

Students may fly into Istanbul, İzmir, Ankara international airports. The best way to reach Antalya is to take a domestic flight. Alternatively, students may take a coach to Antalya. In any case, students are advised to contact the Director (+90-530-978-8067) with arrival information so we can coordinate meeting you.

### **Where will you meet students?**

I will meet students at the exit of the International Terminal at Antalya Airport.

### **If the field site is not close to student accommodations, how will students get there? How long does it take?**

Hacıusalar Mound is 20 minutes by car and we will drive there together.

### **Are there any other aspects of the program, site, or location you want students to be aware of before they arrive?**

We are working under the sun, for extended time, physical activity may become strenuous. Please bring all the medicine that you need. Also consider that we are out in nature; there are snakes, scorpions, and other venomous animals on the Mound. Most importantly, stay hydrated.

## **PACKING LIST**

### **Required**

- Sturdy work boots
- Hat: wide-brimmed hats are usually best for outdoor working conditions
- Sunscreen
- Daypack/backpack

● Any medication you need and prescription medication to last for the duration of the field school (**Important:** if you take prescription medicine, you are allowed to bring the sufficient dose/amount of medication with you provided that you carry your prescription with you during travel.)

- Water bottle, at least 1 liter
- Marshalltown Pointing Trowel - 5" x 2"
- Pocket knife (Swiss army knives work well)
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Insect repellent
- A laptop computer with wireless capabilities that can run Microsoft Office or OpenOffice and Q-GIS
- A usb flash drive
- Passport & Copies of your travel documents
- Credit/Debit card
- Extra glasses or contacts, if worn

### **Recommended**

It is recommended that students have work or military grade boots. Although tap water is drinkable; do not drink tap water since your body is not aware of pathogens in Türkiye. You may bring filters or water bottles with filters as well as spare filters that go with these bottles.

- Will students need formal or nicer clothes? (Possibly)
- Are there items that are hard to get locally, such as tampons or sunscreen? (No)
- Shower shoes or indoor shoes? (Yes)
- Hiking boots/socks? (Yes)
- Swimwear? (Yes)
- How often can students do laundry? (Weekly)
- Items they should not bring? (Drugs, non-prescription pills)

### **MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Instagram: ' hacimusalarhoyuk '