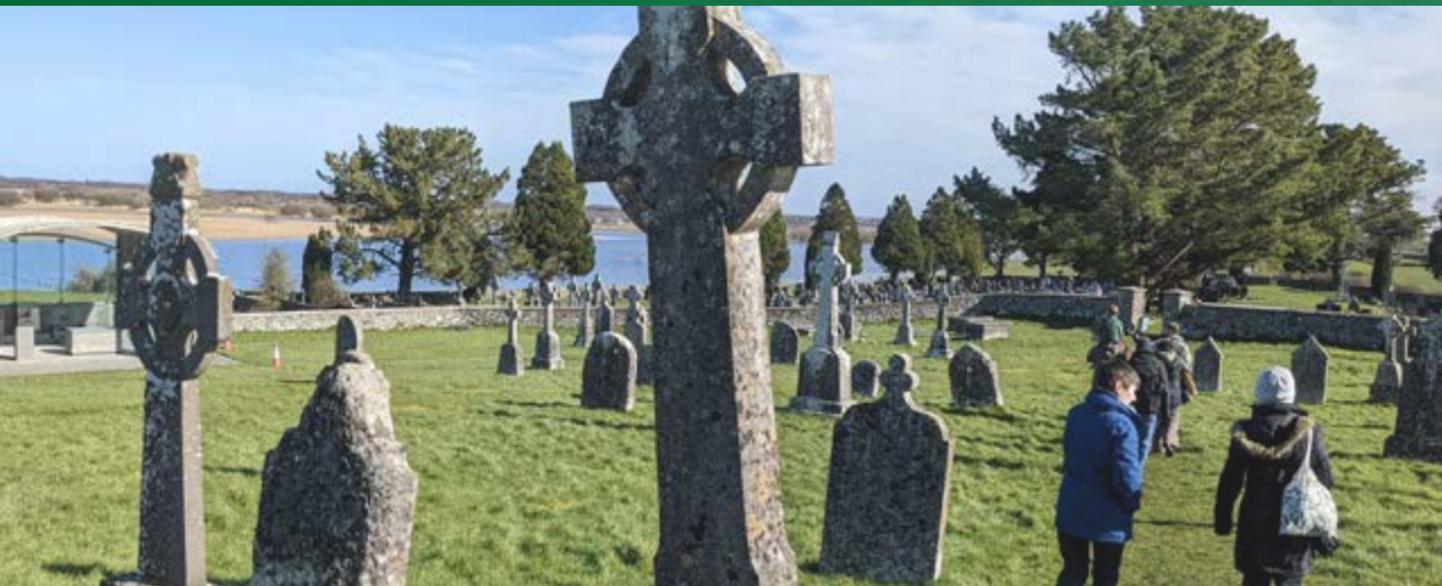




Summer 2023: The Monastic Midlands, Umcovering the Archaeology of Irelands Hidden Heartlands

Field Archaeology Program
July 16th - August 12th 2023





Enroll Now

The Monastic Midlands: Uncovering the Archaeology of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Field Archaeology Program
July 16th - August 12th 2023



'The Monastic Midlands, Uncovering the Archaeology of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' program provides a practical introduction to the archaeological process including, survey techniques, post-excavation and dissemination, which will add to the education you have gained to date and equip you with confidence for conducting field work professionally after your studies.

This one of a kind course, taught by experts in their field provides 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter units).

Enroll Now [or find out more](#)





**The Monastic Midlands:
Uncovering the Archaeology of
Ireland's Hidden Heartlands**

Field Archaeology Program
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Program Details

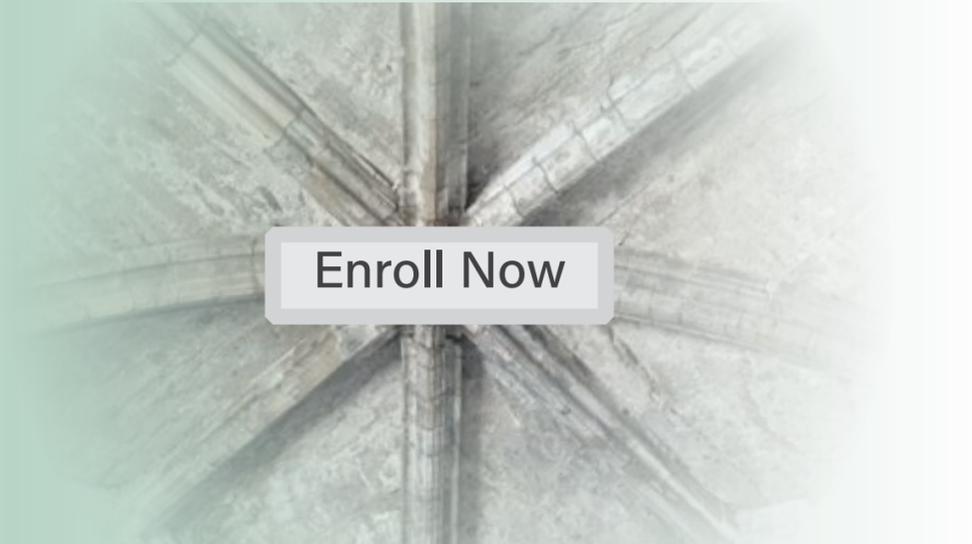
Duration: 4 weeks

Tuition: TBC

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

Application Deadline: June 5th, 2023

Payment Deadline: June 5th, 2023



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This fieldschool takes a truly landscape scale approach to archaeological research, assessing the Monastic Midlands region of Ireland. The program will examine the geological and glacial processes that shaped the landscape in which the early saints founded their monasteries. It will apply a range of survey techniques to interpret the sites they left behind, recording the structures, architectural fragments and grave slabs that continue to survive at the monasteries.

The program will also include significant laboratory elements, including processing and cataloguing artefacts from comparable sites. The program also incorporates comprehensive human bone osteoarchaeological training, through simulated excavations and analyses of teaching collections.

Described as a 'flowering garden of monasteries', County Offaly, in the heart of the Irish Monastic Midlands, is best known archaeologically for

the number and scale of the early medieval monasteries, which to this day continue to dominate the landscape.

The field school is based in the heritage town of Birr, a handsome and charming town, which was the location at which St Brendan founded his c. sixth century monastery. Our campus in Birr serves as a base for all our course teaching and lab work, but also acts as a launching pad to investigate several regional monastic sites.



"Attending...Irish Archaeology Field School was one of the best things I've ever done. It was an amazing experience and I got the opportunity to learn about something I was interested in. The instructors were knowledgeable about their areas of history and went out of their way to help the students. I absolutely loved every minute of it and I'm so glad that I was able to participate in a field school that made me a better person, student, and future archaeologist."

Gaile Juknevicius, University of Missouri – Kansas City




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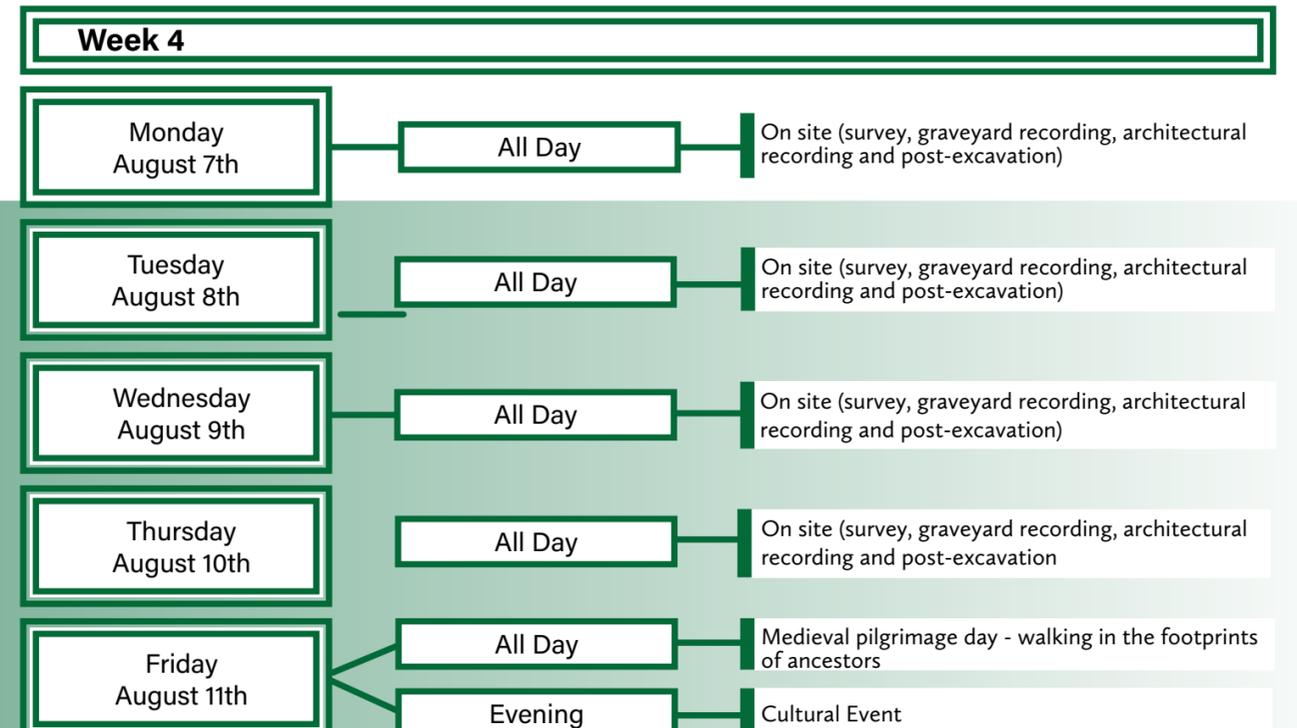
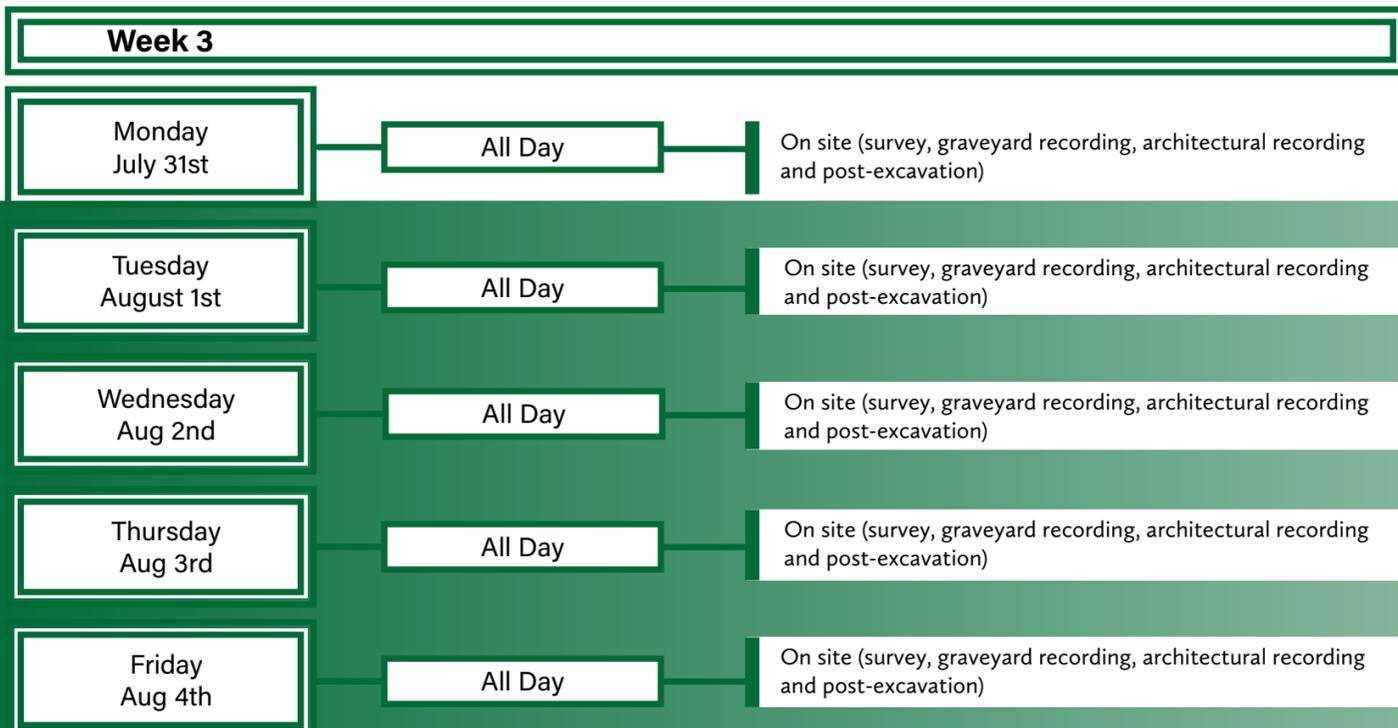
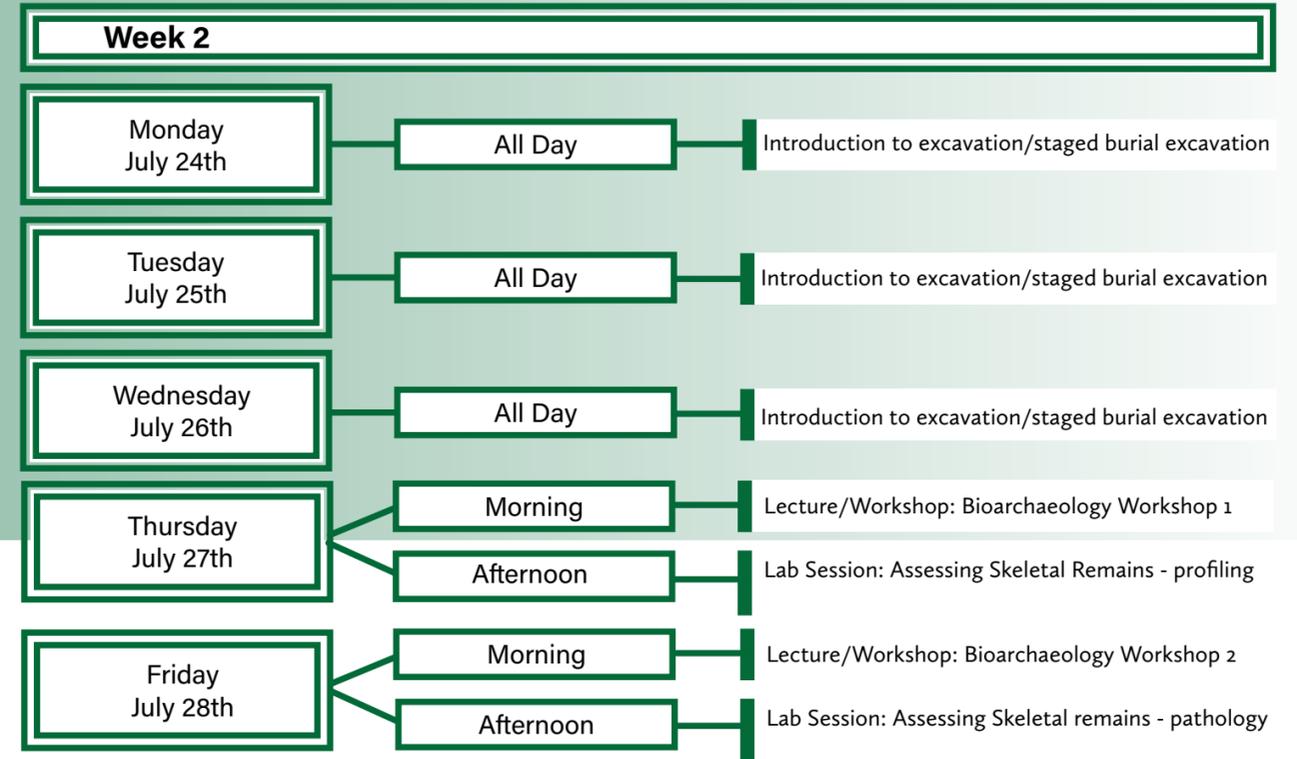
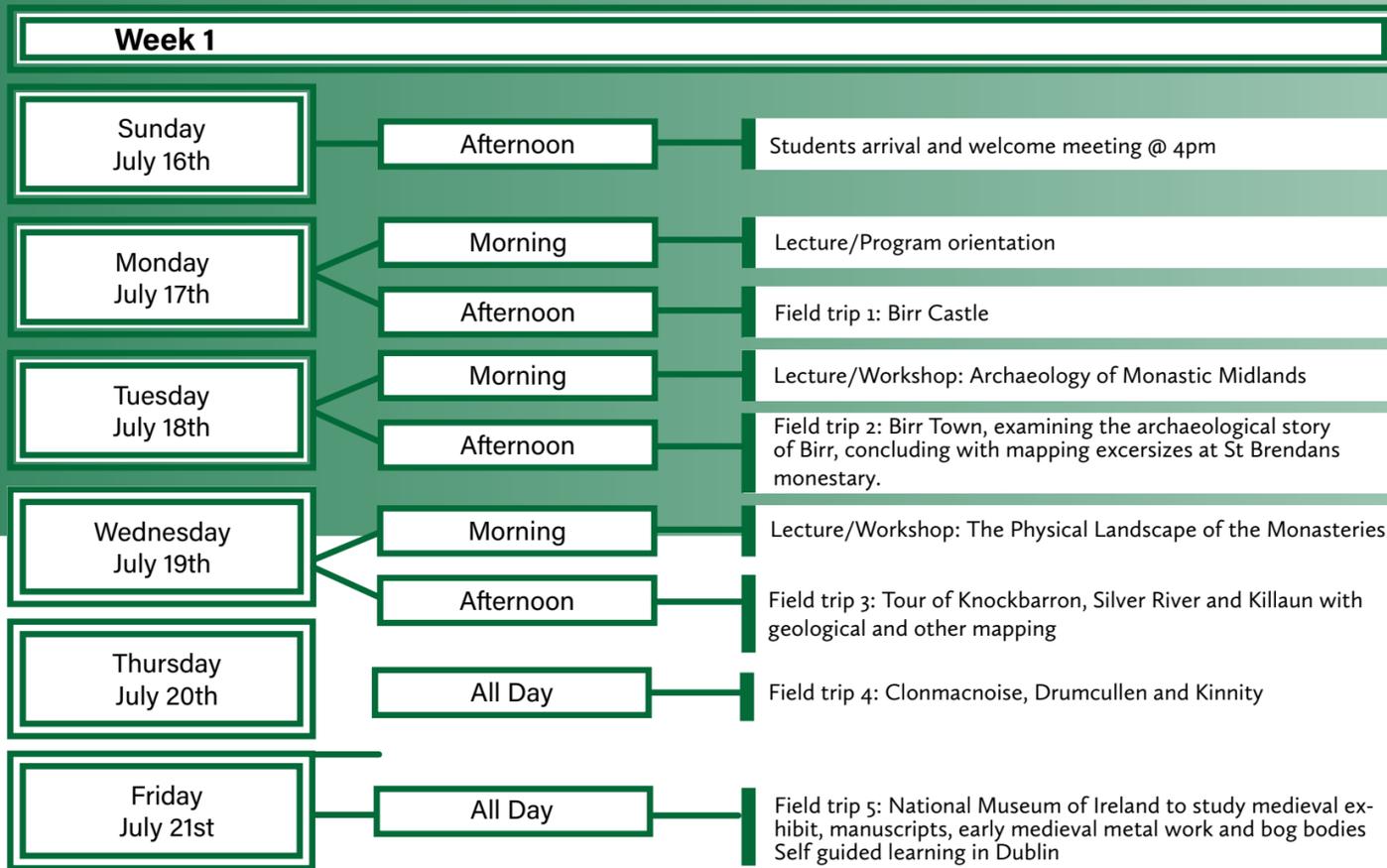


Course Objectives

- Understand how to interpret the landscapes geology and geomorphology and how, ultimately, this dictates the possibilities for human settlement
- Understand different strands of archaeological enquiry and their application in an archaeological research context
- Critically interrogate historical records and, especially, archaeological survey data. as part of an overall research design
- Have an understanding of site survey skills, including the principles of baseline survey (tape survey), total station survey, graveyard recording, GPS survey etc.
- Obtain a base introduction to the skills required for the conducting of an archaeological excavation
- Understand on-site laboratory protocols, and how these contribute to artefact research, conservation and interpretation



Indicative Timetable





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Prerequisites

There are no academic prerequisites. This program is hands-on, experiential learning and students will learn how to conduct archaeological research in a live field environment. What is required is enthusiasm, an open mind and a readiness to 'give it a go'.

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Teaching and Learning Methods:

Program marks will be allocated during continuous assessment while students are studying with the IAFS.

- Field School Participation (50%): students are required to participate in all field school activities, including research, archaeological survey, staged burial excavation and laboratory work.
- Research Paper (20%): Students will submit an individual research paper (1,500-2,000 words) due two weeks after the end of the field program.
- Field school journal/paperwork (30%): students will keep and present a field school journal and some paperwork for evaluation during their final week on site.





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Why Study with IAFS?

We are Ireland's leading provider of accredited, site-based archaeological research and training.

The ethos of the school is to provide an opportunity for students and enthusiasts of archaeology and anthropology to experience at first hand the excitement of archaeological excavation in a teaching environment.

[Learn More](#)



Home Stay

Students will be housed in home stay accommodation in Co. Offaly. Our home stay offers students a unique experience to live with local families, and appreciate true home life in provincial Ireland. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily along with a packed lunch. At weekends students are encouraged to avail of their free time and explore Ireland.



"Overall, my experience(s) with the Irish Archaeology Field School greatly influenced the archaeologist, and person, I am today. I will forever be thankful for the experience, and would encourage anyone who is interested to get attend, or get involved in whatever way possible!"

Madeline Harris, University College Dublin - Ireland

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Course Instructors



Dr. Denis Shine current research interests lie in the sub-disciplines of medieval archaeology, landscape archaeology, community archaeology, Indigenous Australian archaeology and the historical emergence of identity. He has published extensively locally, nationally and internationally on these topics. Denis joined the Irish Archaeology Field School in 2014 and co-founded the Irish Heritage School in 2016. He is a co-founder and/or course instructor for each of their major research projects in Ferrycarrig, Ferns and Birr.



Richard Reid has been the senior field supervisor for the Carrig Project since January 2018. He spent more than 10 years working as a professional archaeologist supervising the excavation of archaeological sites across Ireland ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the post medieval period; he has also worked extensively in other areas of the Heritage Sector, with a focus on exhibit design and heritage communication. Richard holds a BA (1999) in History with Nautical Archaeology from the University of Bangor (Wales) and Level 8 Dip (2011) in Enterprise Innovation Program from Institute of Technology, Tallaght.



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Contact IAFS:

Website: <https://iafs.ie>

Email: info@irishheritageschool.ie

Phone: +353 89 4276912 (GMT +0/+1)

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