

PETITION FOR CREDIT FROM NON-NYU STUDY ABROAD (SUMMER 2007)

Credit-Granting Programs/ Field Schools in Archaeology:

(1) **Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project Field School** (with University of Mississippi, 6 credits offered)

(2) **San José del Moro Archaeological Project** (with Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 8 credits offered)*

Dear Reader,

As an archaeology student planning on attending graduate school in New World archaeology, fieldwork experience as an undergraduate is essential, and even required for acceptance. Furthermore, because archaeology is essentially a fieldwork-based discipline, such experiences will help jumpstart a possible future career in academia. Thus, archaeology students often spend their summers working on digs all over the world, learning first-hand the methods and techniques that cannot be taught in a classroom environment. Many of them attend specialized field schools that are run by or associated with credit-granting institutions. Unfortunately, because NYU does not host archaeological field school sessions both in New York and abroad, I have had to look elsewhere for such opportunities.

This summer, I plan on participating in two separate field schools, both of which I have already been accepted to. The first, the **Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project (BVAR) Field School**, will involve excavating at a Classic Maya site known as Baking Pot in Belize (*see attached syllabus and website information*). The second, the **San José del Moro Archaeological Project Field School**, will be held at the Moche burial site of San José del Moro near Chepén, Peru (*see attached syllabus*). Both will involve lectures, demonstrations, examinations, and of course, a chance to excavate full-time in the day, and to analyze the resulting finds at night.

I am hoping that both of these field experiences will help me narrow down my research interests from New World archaeology to more specific topics. Since I am planning on applying for graduate school in the fall, this has become a more urgent matter, but one that I believe can be easily resolved. Working in the field will allow me to not only familiarize myself with different technologies and methodologies, it will help me understand the types of conditions under which I am willing and able to work. All in all, the rigorous and strenuous training offered by both these field schools will help me immensely in my preparation for a future in archaeology.

Thank you. I gratefully appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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4/11/07