



Hólarannsóknin

Field course in Archaeology at Hólar í Hjaltadal in north Iceland 20 June to 15 July 2005



Course Description

In this field course students are given a detailed introduction to archaeological methodology and excavation methods in addition to participation in the Hólar project. Alongside the excavation emphasis is placed on post-excavation and conservation, as well as archaeological field survey. The aim of the teaching is to expose students to the various aspects of excavation work. Students will take part in excavation and associated tasks, such as drawing, surveying, recording and photographing, sampling and the analysis and sorting of excavation records. Students will also, as opportunities arise, carry out desktop surveys, field surveys and the production of a report on such surveys.

Facts about the course

The field school is a module of the University Iceland (Course number: 05.63.60), Hólar University College, The Holar research and the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies, University of Oslo. European students should register with the University of Oslo and may earn 10 ECT. Those desiring ECTS credits should also take part in the pre-course, either in person at the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies, University of Oslo (April – May, 2005) or on line from abroad.

This field school was established 2003 between the University of Iceland, Hólar University College and the Holar project.

Field course at Hólar í Hjaltadal
www.holar.is/~fornleifar

Basic information

Course number: MAS 2300 (University of Oslo)

Faculty/Department: Centre for Viking and medieval Studies

Semester: Summer

Academic Year: 2004-2005

Credits: 5 credits

ECTS: 10 credits

Level: Undergraduate and graduated

Course web page: www.hf.uio.no/middelaldersenteret/english/index.html

The research web page: www.holar.is/~fornleifar



Hólarannsóknin – Holar project – the site

Hólar in Hjaltadalur Valley was North Iceland's main estate, its bishopric and centre of knowledge for centuries. Its grounds contain considerable information on church-, folk- and national history, but from an archaeological standpoint, the site has largely been an untapped resource until now. Research at Hólar is in the form of interdisciplinary scientific investigations and participating in the research are Icelandic and international experts from most disciplines of cultural and historical study.

The Hólar Project extends over the entire area of Skagafjörður. The major emphasis of study is on the tell of Hólar in Hjaltadalur. Research of the Middle Age harbour at Kolkuós promises intriguing results concerning the harbour which serviced the Hólar bishopric in the past. No less exciting are the unexpected finds at Keldudalur in Hegranes (30km west of Hólar), where an early Christian graveyard was discovered in the fall of 2002, and the following summer four Viking graves were discovered some 500m north of the cemetery site.

The Hólar Project is collaboration between three institutes: Hólar University College (www.holar.is), the Glaumbær Museum (www.krokur.is/glaumb), and the National Museum of Iceland (www.natmus.is). The project is primarily funded by grants from The Christianity Millenium Fund.

Offered by

University of Iceland, www.hi.is
Hólar University College, Hólar Hjaltadal, www.holar.is
The Hólar Project, www.holar.is/~fornleifar

In cooperation with

Dalarna University, Falun Sweden
Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies, University of Oslo
Paleoethnobotany Laboratory Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at Ucla,
Soil Conservation Service of Iceland
Glaumbær Museum
The network “ Kultur och och miljöhistoria i nordisk Vikingatid och medeltid”
www.holar.is/~fornleifar/norfa

Form of teaching

The duration of the school is four weeks. Student will be expected to put in an 8 hour day in the field, lectures and the lab. The course starts 20. June - 15.July 2005.
Teaching takes place on weekdays from 9:00-17:00 in the form of lectures, fieldwork and post excavation work. During the four weeks of the field school, students will be housed in the school at Hólar in Hjaltadalur.

Students have to pay for the travelling cost to the field school at Holar in Hjaltadalur (North Iceland) but accommodation and meals are provided free of charge by the Hólar research and Hólar University College.

Teachers

Ragnheiður Traustadóttir, director of the Holar project
e-mail: ragnheidur@natmus.is

Christian Keller, professor, Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies.
Daniel T. Rhodes Ph.d, Student University of Ulster, Coleraine.
Guðný Zoëga MSc, osteologist and archaeologist, Glaumbaer Museum
Hjalti Þórðarson BS, geographer, Soil Conservation Service of Iceland
Magnus Hellqvist, Ph.d., Geoarchaeologist, Dalarna University,
Sigríður Sigurðardóttir MEd., ethnologist, Director Glaumbaer Museum
Steve L. Martin paleoethnobotanik, Paleoethnobotany Laboratory Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at Ucla
Þór Hjaltalín, Cultural Heritage Manager for Northwest Iceland.

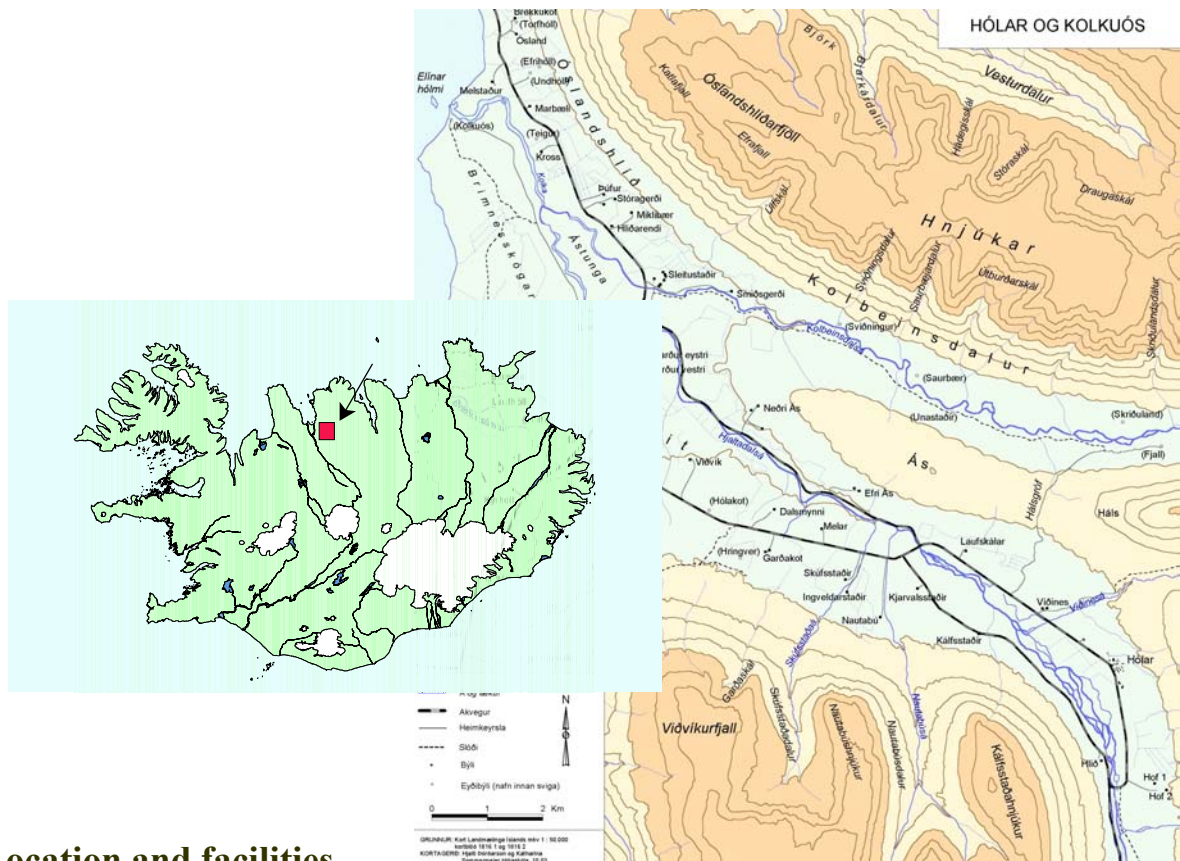
<http://www.holar.is/~fornleifar/starfsfolkmain.htm>

Reading material

All participants will receive a reading list before the course starts and a report of the project Hólarannsóknin. Hólar field manual 1 and 2 will be handed to student at the beginning of the course. Student should study these web pages.

www.holar.is/~fornleifar

www.intrasis.com/



Location and facilities

Hólar is beautifully located in the valley Hjaltaadalur in the Skagafjörður district of the mid-northern part of Iceland. The nearest town is Sauðárkrókur (32 km) with pre-schools, elementary schools and a junior college, hospital and shops. Inhabitants are approx. 2600. Hólar University College, Dep. of Aquaculture and Fish biology has a research and teaching facility on the quay at Sauðárkrókur harbour (www.holar.is). Hólar is 379 km from Reykjavík and 133 km from Akureyri. Skagafjörður is a farming district, renowned for horse breeding and training, history, heritage tourism and it's tradition of choirs. The permanent population at Hólar is around 100, with the numbers swelling during the academic year. A pre-school and elementary school are located at Hólar. The regional office of the Institute of Freshwater Fisheries, the residency and cathedral of the Bishop for Northern Iceland, a fish farm producing arctic char, a regional office for the Soil Conservation Service, a Freshwater Aquarium, the Icelandic Horse Historical Centre and the office of the equestrian veterinary medicine are also located here. Bordering the college grounds are 54 acres of reforested land.

Admission

Participant will be recruited from Iceland and Europe. Both graduate and undergraduate student are accepted, but all should have had some prior courses in archaeology, at least one year.

Contact information

Deadline for application is 15. april 2005

- A letter that outlines your academic interests, future plans
- A CV including details about your education, the courses you have completed and exams taken.
- Two letters of reference

Inquiries and applications should be e-mailed to dr. Christian Keller at the Centre for Viking and medieval Studies, University of Oslo.

j.c.keller@mellomalder.uio.no