

FIELD SCHOOL IN NORTH ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Vatnsfjörður, Northwest Iceland
June 27 - July 22, 2005



This international field school was established in 1997 for students with an interest in North Atlantic archaeology, and since has served as a focal point for interdisciplinary, cooperative research and teaching by archaeologists and scientists from Iceland, the United States, and Europe. The course aims to provide students with hands-on experience in Icelandic archaeology, to encourage students to develop a research interest in North Atlantic archaeology, and to promote and facilitate research in Iceland.

The course provides:

- thorough grounding in archaeological field methods, including survey, excavation, recording, and sampling
- exposure to a range of post-excavation methods, including the processing of artefacts, faunal, botanical, and sediment samples, and field data
- instruction in Icelandic archaeology, including past and present trends in field work and interpretation, current debates, and the use of written records
- an overview of Viking Age and medieval archaeology in the North Atlantic region
- lectures by leading researchers and specialists in North Atlantic and Icelandic archaeology
- guided excursions to regional sites and museums
- instructors with many years of teaching, excavation, and post-excavation experience in Iceland, Europe, and North America

Accreditation:

The field school is a module of the University of Iceland (course code 05.63.61) and the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies, University of Oslo (course code MAS 2300). European students should register with the University of Oslo, and may earn 10 ECTS credits (EU-standard). See: <http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/middelaldersenter/MAS2300/index-eng.html>

Offered by:



INSTITUTE OF
ARCHAEOLOGY,
ICELAND (FSÍ)

In cooperation with:

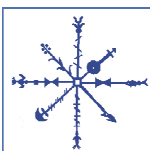


UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

**University of
Iceland**



Centre for Viking and
Medieval Studies,
University of Oslo



Northern Science and
Education Centre
(NORSEC), City
University of New York

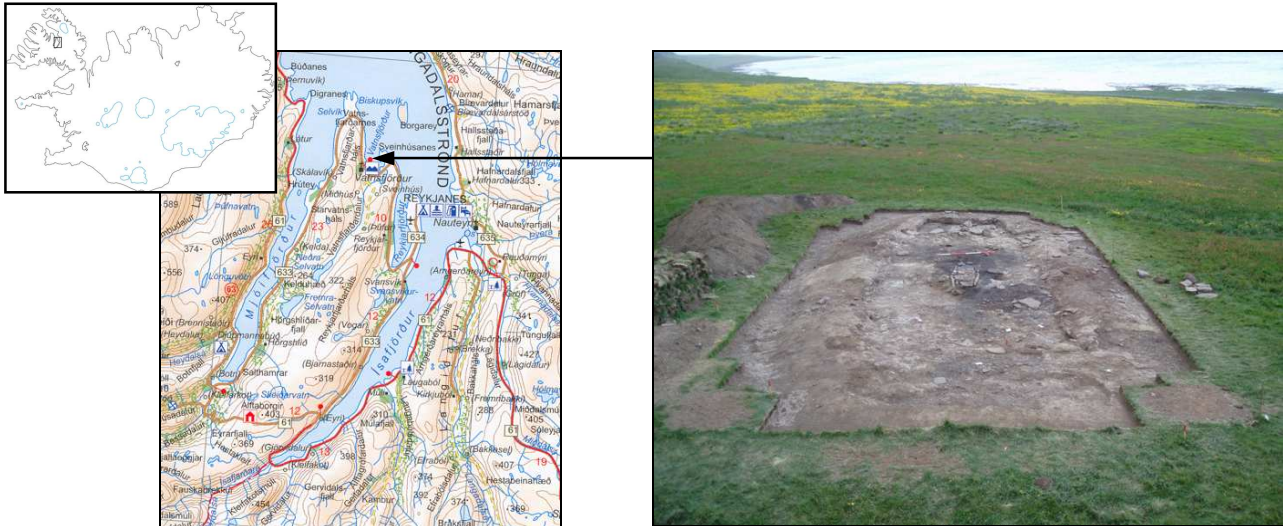


North Atlantic
Biocultural
Organization (NABO)

Medieval Westfjords Society

The site:

The farm of Vatnsfjörður is located in northwest Iceland, on the fjord of Ísafjarðardjúp. It has played an important role in the settlement and economics of the Westfjord region since the Viking Period: it was one of the main seats of power in the area, and eventually, in the later Middle Ages, it became one of the richest farms in Iceland. Excavations by FSI began in 2003, and have so far uncovered the remains of a Viking Age house. In 2005, the excavation around this house will be extended to include another structure and an associated midden deposit. Work will also begin on the farm mound, which contains a complex sequence of buildings from the medieval period through the nineteenth century.



Organisation of the field school:

During the four weeks of the field school, students will be housed in nearby Reykjanes. Students will work on site from 8:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, and will help with post-excavation work in the evenings. In addition, there will be lectures and practicals on some weekday evenings, and on Saturday mornings. Excursions to museums and interesting sites in the region will be organised on Sundays. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation, as well as one personal assignment, and one group assignment.

All participants will receive a reading list and a project briefing manual, and are expected to have acquainted themselves with these before their arrival in Iceland. 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. In addition, those desiring ECTS credits must submit a 10-page essay by November 1, 2005.

Admission:

Enrolment in the course is limited to 12, and will include students from Iceland, North America, and Europe. Both graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to apply, but all applicants should have had some prior courses in archaeology and/or related disciplines in anthropology or cultural history (at least 1 year). Preference will be given to students with research interests in the North Atlantic region, the Viking Age, and the medieval period.

The application deadline is April 1, 2005.

Applications should include:

- 1) a letter that outlines your academic interests, future plans, and why you want to take the course
- 2) a CV, including details about your education, the courses you have completed, and exams taken
- 3) 2 letters of reference.

Inquiries, references, and applications should be emailed to Dr. Christian Keller at the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies, University of Oslo:

j.c.keller@mellomalder.uio.no