

DHIBAN EXCAVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

2010 FIELD SEASON INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Dhiban Excavation and Development Project. The DEDP is a cooperative research project led by scholars from the University of Liverpool, the University of California, Berkeley, and Knox College. Work at Dhiban is supported by the researchers' home institutions as well as the National Science Foundation, the Van Berchem Fund, the American Philosophical Society, the Mellon Foundation, and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Our investigations, begun in 2004, continue with another season of field work in the summer of 2010. We will return to Dhiban, a small community in west-central Jordan, to investigate the region's history through archaeological excavation, intensive regional survey, ethnographic interviews, and archival research.

The DEDP investigates the environment, economy, history, and society of the Dhiban Plateau. Our earliest evidence for humans on the plateau appears during the Paleolithic Period and continues through the Bronze, Iron, Classical, and Islamic Periods. Today, the region hosts several small agricultural communities. Throughout time, the plateau's communities have faced the challenges of a semi-arid environment – limited rain, poor soils, frequent droughts and famine. But despite this challenge, communities have survived, and at times, even thrived, finding ways to farm, herd and participate in larger regional economies.

As part of our work, we bring around 20 archaeology students from different institutions to participate in the project. We train them in archaeological field methods by rotating them through various learning stations, including excavation, materials processing, flotation, topographic survey and geologic survey. They are taught to dig, record, and analyze archaeological and geological materials. In addition, there are evening seminars on methods, theory and history twice a week and two weekend field trips to major Jordanian archaeological sites during the season.

Conditions at Dhiban can be difficult – the weather is hot, water is scarce, and project participants must do without many of the comforts of home. We live, work and relax together 24 hours a day, seven days a week for seven weeks. This situation breeds camaraderie, but some people find the close quarters and hard work too much to handle. Please think seriously about whether this project is for you before applying.

In this package, we have included the information and forms necessary for you to apply for the 2010 season at Dhiban. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions that you have regarding the site, our work, or your opportunity to become part of the project. Thanks again for your interest. We look forward to seeing you next summer in Jordan!

Katherine Adelsberger, PhD, Knox College
Danielle Steen Fatkin, PhD, Knox College
Benjamin Porter, PhD, University of California Berkeley
Bruce Routledge, PhD, University of Liverpool

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The DEDP field school provides students with an introduction to Jordanian history and archaeological field methods. As the DEDP is not a credit-granting institution, it cannot provide credit for those who wish to receive academic recognition for their work. However, participants are welcome to arrange the receipt of academic credit via their home institutions, and the DEDP will provide syllabi and a certificate of completion for those who need proof of participation. The DEDP recommends the following credit options for participants:

The History of Jordan

1 Course (varying by institution, 1 credit or 1 course-load equivalent)

Jordan has a rich history that has been recorded at many well-preserved archaeological sites as well as in historical texts. The DEDP focuses on the environment, economy, history, and society of the Dhiban Plateau, where the earliest evidence for humans appears during the Paleolithic Period and continues through the Bronze, Iron, Classical, and Islamic Periods. Participants will be introduced to this evidence as well as the history of the region, as understanding the archaeology of Dhiban is dependent upon understanding the larger context for cultural change during each of the periods under investigation at the site. Participation in evening seminars familiarizes DEDP members with the history and material culture of the region. Their team members discuss the larger research goals of the DEDP within this regional context. The DEDP includes two weekend field trips to major Jordanian archaeological sites during the season in order to introduce the well-preserved and well-known archaeology of the region.

Archaeological Field Methods

1 Course (varying by institution, 1 credit or 1 course-load equivalent)

The primary focus of the DEDP is the excavation and survey of Tall Dhiban. Participants will learn to dig, record, and analyze archaeological and geological materials, and they will be introduced to survey techniques and data recording in the field. Training in archaeological field methods will take place as participants are rotated through various learning stations, including excavation, materials processing, flotation, topographic survey and geologic survey. Participants will spend part of their day in the field and part in the lab processing recent finds. DEDP participants are an integral part of the ongoing research at the tall, and will be working with the actual excavation and artifacts at all times.

VITAL STATS

FIELD SEASON DATES: 23 JUNE – 8 AUGUST 2010

ESTIMATED COST: \$5000 (\$3000 PROGRAM FEE + \$2000 AIRFARE)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 DECEMBER 2009 (MUST BE **RECEIVED** BY THIS DATE)

APPLICATION CHECK LIST:

1. Applicant Information Sheet
2. Essay (double-spaced, max 2 pages)
3. Letters of Recommendation (2) – to be returned separately by writer

Please mail all application materials to:

Dhiban Excavation and Development Project
c/o Courtney Steen
5910 Charles Schreiner Trail,
Austin, TX 78749
USA

You will be informed regarding the status of your application no later than **15 January 2010**.

Please direct questions regarding the application process and the field school to Dr. Danielle Fatkin.

Email: dfatkin@knox.edu

Phone: +1-309-341-7621

OTHER NECESSARY MATERIALS:

If accepted to the project, please be prepared to provide this additional information:

1. **Passport.** If accepted, you will need to provide a copy of the information page of your passport to the project no later than Feb 1. If you do not have a valid passport, please apply for one as soon as possible. Also, your passport should be valid for at least six months after the project's end date.
2. **Medical Clearance.** A doctor's statement that you are capable of participating in the physically difficult business of excavating in the hot, dry summer environment of Jordan.
3. **Proof of Medical and Evacuation Insurance.**

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DHIBAN EXCAVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
2010 FIELD SCHOOL
STUDENT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

This application must be **received** by December 15, 2009 at the following address:

Dhiban Excavation and Development Project

c/o Courtney Steen

5910 Charles Schreiner Trail,

Austin, TX 78749

USA

Applicant Name: _____

Educational Institution: _____

Contact Information:

Email: _____

Mailing Address (school year):

Phone number (school year): _____

Mailing Address (summer):

Phone number (summer, if different than above): _____

Tell Us About Yourself

Please list any courses you have taken that are relevant to your proposed participation in the DEDP field school (also please describe briefly if its relevance may not be immediately obvious).

Please list any previous excavation or other field experience.

Essay:

On a separate piece of paper, please write a short (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced) essay outlining your reasons for wanting to participate in the Dhiban field school. What interests you about archaeology generally? What specifically draws you to doing archaeology in Jordan? On the Dhiban Project? Conditions at Dhiban can be difficult. Do you work well with others? Please share examples of how you have done this in the past.

Letters of recommendation:

Please have two people return the enclosed recommendation forms to the application address by December 15th. At least one recommendation should comment on your ability to work as part of a team in challenging circumstances. If you know one of the project directors, you only need to provide one letter of recommendation.

Recommender 1

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Recommender 2

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

**DHIBAN EXCAVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
2010 FIELD SCHOOL
REQUEST FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

[Candidate: Please detach and give this to your letter writer.]

Instructions to letter writers:

This candidate has requested that you write a letter of recommendation regarding his or her participation in the 2010 DEDP Field School. As appropriate, please address the following topics in your letter: the candidate's academic preparation, the candidate's ability to work as a team member, the candidate's ability to thrive in challenging (physical, emotional, cultural) conditions. Please write the candidate's full name on the top, right corner of your letter.

Please return your letter of recommendation to our application processor:

Dhiban Excavation and Development Project
c/o Courtney Steen
5910 Charles Schreiner Trail,
Austin, TX 78749
USA

Letters may also be emailed to: dedpfieldschool2010@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Fatkin (dfatkin@knox.edu, +1.309.341.7621).

Letters should be **received** no later than Dec. 15, 2009.

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