CONTACT INFORMATION
Faculty and staff of the program:

Director
Roger S. Bagnall
Institute for the
Study of the Ancient World
New York University

Academic Director
Ellen F. Morris
New York University

Archaeological Director
Paola Davoli
University of Lecce
(Italy)

Associate Director
Olaf E. Kaper
Leiden University
(Netherlands)

Instructor in March Program
William Lyster
Cairo

Program Administrator
Elizabeth Bulls
New York University

Academic and Field Director

Full Semester
Nicola AraVecchia
New York University

Numerous subject specialists (see our web site for a full list) and guest lecturers also contribute to students’ learning experience.

Contact:
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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
Archaeology and History Program in Egypt
Excavations at Amheida

A 16-credit semester program offered each year in the Fall and Spring terms for advanced undergraduates.
New York University invites undergraduates interested in the history and archaeology of ancient Egypt and in the Roman Empire to participate in its integrated field program in Egypt. The program involves classroom study and numerous field trips in Egypt’s Dakhleh and Kharga Oases, hands-on archaeological fieldwork at Amheida – a Roman Period town in the Dakhleh Oasis, and guided visits of most of the major Egyptian sites and museums in the Nile Valley.

What do I learn?

Your time in Egypt is divided into three components, each a course for credit: the oases seminar, the field component, and the traveling seminar. The oases seminar focuses upon the archaeology, society, economy, and culture of the oases of the Western Desert of Egypt.

The field component involves you in the excavations taking place in Amheida, ancient Trimithis, once a bustling town at the edge of the Roman Empire. Its goal is to provide you with the opportunity to participate in numerous facets of a scientific, state-of-the-art excavation. The Nile Valley study seminar offers a broad exposure to the archaeology of Egypt through visits to sites and museums from Aswan to Alexandria, so that you are better able to place the oases in their greater Egyptian and Roman contexts. Finally, there is a 4 credit independent research project due at the end of the academic term.

What do we see in Egypt?

During the approximately two months in the oases, you will see a great many of the main sites (temples, towns, fortresses, etc.) in Dakhleh and Kharga; these date primarily from the Old Kingdom until the early modern Islamic Period. During the month you spend traveling through Upper Egypt and then in the vicinity of Cairo and Alexandria, you will visit such famous places as Luxor, Edfu, Amarna, Abydos, Philae, and Saqqara, as well as many other archaeological sites that tourists rarely see. We also make it a priority to visit active excavations whenever possible.

How many credits is the program worth?

Students receive a full semester’s worth of credit (16 credits) upon successful completion of the program. The project and three courses are worth 4 credits each, and the students must enroll for the full 16 credits.

What are the living conditions like?

The Excavation House is a spacious mud-brick complex inspired by the vernacular architecture of the Oasis. It comes complete with a computer room, library, laboratories and lounge areas. There is a domestic staff to handle all the cooking, cleaning and laundry.