



Short Summer Course in Forensic Archaeology, July 22-26, 2019

Forensic Archaeology I - search, excavation and documentation of clandestine graves

The five-day course is aimed at forensic and medical practitioners who would like to improve their search, documentation and excavation skills for clandestine graves. The course applies up-to-date archaeological theories and methodologies to medico-legal and forensic settings, and is presented by forensic archaeologists from the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) in collaboration with the Dutch National Police, the Engineering Unit of the Dutch Royal Army and academics from the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. The itinerary includes theory and practical exercises. The outdoor part addresses practical applications for the search, discovery and excavation of buried human remains through a simulated crime scene.

After completion the participants:

- are able to recognize human skeletal remains,
- are able to organize and perform a search for a clandestine grave and know the advantages and limitations of different search techniques,
- have a practical knowledge of the documentation of outdoor crime or incident scenes and know the advantages and limitations of each documentation technique,
- have a practical knowledge of grave taphonomy,
- have a basic knowledge of dating techniques for human skeletal remains,
- have a basic knowledge and skills for the excavation of a clandestine grave,
- have a basic knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The price of the Short Summer Course for individuals representing a Member or an Associate-Member of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) is EUR 675,-. The price for other individuals is EUR 775,-.

Summer Course Program:

Day 1 Monday, July 22
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General introduction • Archaeology vs forensic investigation
<p>Forensic archaeology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to forensic archaeology • Application of forensic archaeology in mass grave investigations • Introduction to documentation techniques
<p>Documentation techniques, from past to future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels, tape measures and total station • 3d scans, photogrammetry and the latest 'state of the art' tools ➤ Field exercise in documentation

Day 2 Tuesday, July 23
Grave taphonomy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decomposition stages • Decomposition of human remains underground • Geotaphonomy
Basic knowledge for recognising human skeletal remains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human vs other mammal • Adult, juvenile and infant ➤ Exercise in human osteology
Forensic archaeology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dating of dry human remains: contextual dating and radiocarbon dating

Day 3 Wednesday, July 24 (overnight accommodation at a military base)
<i>Transfer to a military base near Vught</i>
Forensic archaeology and search: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS: the basics • The use of databases and GIS in the search for clandestine burials • Archaeological search techniques (including probes, coring and test pits) • Geophysical search techniques ➤ Field exercise in search for and documentation of clandestine burials
Forensic archaeology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to pedology • Excavation methods and techniques for clandestine burials

Day 4 Thursday, July 25 (overnight accommodation at a military base)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Field exercise in excavating clandestine burials ➤ Informal BBQ

Day 5 Friday, July 26
<i>Transfer to the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden</i>
Combining data in GIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visualisation of the crime scene • Photogrammetry, Total Station data and evidence lists in GIS • Crime scene analysis & GIS ➤ Exercise in GIS
Course Evaluation

The Short Summer Course in Forensic Archaeology is limited to 16 participants on a first-come-first-serve basis in order of registration. The deadline for registration is June 28, 2019.

For registration and payment please contact Coen Nienaber (c.nienaber@nfi.minvenj.nl), forensic archaeologist at the Netherlands Forensic Institute. For additional information please contact Mike Groen (w.j.groen@arch.leidenuniv.nl), forensic archaeologist at the Netherlands Forensic Institute and staff member at the Laboratory for Human Osteoarchaeology, Faculty of Archaeology.