Archaeometry Research in the Mediterranean Basin: a bridge between Africa, Asia and Europe

Background
ARCHMAT is a 2-years Erasmus Mundus Master Course (120 ECTS) within a consortium of 3 HEI (Evora-UE, Rome-UNIROMA1, Thessaloniki-AUTH) as full partners, 5 HEI (Avignon-UA, Palermo-UNIPA, Zaragoza-UNIZAR-ICMA, Fez-UF and Rio de Janeiro-UERJ) and 3 non HEI Research centres (Laboratório José Figuereido/Direção-Geral do Património Cultural, Scientific Laboratory Musei Vaticani-MV, Archaeological Museum of AIANI) as associated members aimed at providing students with specialized skills in archaeology and analytical characterization of materials from prehistory (megalithic) to classical times (Greek and Roman).

The study and conservation of Cultural Heritage materials is a research area with a strong multidisciplinary connotation and requires skills that span across the Humanities and Science research fields. ARCHMAT provides a common, integrated platform for high quality students coming from different educational backgrounds (Science and Humanities) to understand the advanced scientific methods used to investigate archaeological materials and aims to form highly specialized professional experts in the emerging field of Archaeometry, i.e. Physical Sciences applied to the study of Archaeological and Cultural Heritage materials.

Aims
Since Prehistoric times, the Mediterranean basin has acted as the focal region for trading and cultural knowledge exchange between Africa and Europe. In terms of Cultural Heritage material legacy, an immense variety of archaeological objects (ceramics, stone, metals, textiles, glass) and their production technology know-how have been produced, transported and exchanged throughout the Mediterranean Basin.

As part of the ARCHMAT curriculum of the ARCHMAT second semester (see below) and in line with ARCHMAT rationale, the ARCHMAT 2013-2015 Summer School intends to provide a forum for ARCHMAT students and top researchers and academics from both sides of the Mediterranean basin and both sides of
Archaeological Research (Science and Humanities) to meet and share research experiences, exchange ideas and plan future joint research and educational ventures. It will also be the forum where the 2013-2015 ARCHMAT Master Thesis Projects will be presented and discussed.

**ARCHMAT CURRICULUM**

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<tr>
<th>First semester (Evora)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students with Humanities Bachelor degree</td>
<td>Students with Science Bachelor degree</td>
<td>All Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Aspects of Science applied to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage 9 ECTS</td>
<td>Archaeology – Culture and Context 3 ECTS Methods and Techniques of Archaeological Excavation 6 ECTS</td>
<td>Digital Techniques for modelling and visualization of archaeological data 3 ECTS Introduction to Archaeometry 6 ECTS Mediterranean Culture 3 ECTS Theoretical, Practical and Field Seminars on Archaeometry Case Studies I 6 ECTS Introduction to Thesis I 3 ECTS</td>
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<th>Second semester (Thessaloniki)</th>
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<td>All Students</td>
<td>Greek Archaeology – 4 ECTS Advanced Scientific Methods in Archaeometry – 6 ECTS Preventive Conservation of Archaeological sites – 6 ECTS Theoretical, Practical and Field Seminars on Archaeometry Case Studies II – 5 ECTS ARCHMAT Summer School – 4 ECTS Introduction to Thesis II – 5 ECTS</td>
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<th>Third Semester (Rome)</th>
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<td>All Students</td>
<td>Methods and Techniques of Archaeological Research – 5 ECTS Laboratory of Archaeometry – 5 ECTS Advanced Chemical Methods in Archaeological Materials – 5 ECTS Archaeometry: dating methods and statistical data processing – 5 ECTS Theoretical, Practical and Field Seminars on Archaeometry Case Studies III – 5 ECTS Introduction to Thesis III – 5 ECTS</td>
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<th>Fourth Semester (Evora or Thessaloniki or Rome)</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>Thesis Work on a Collaborative Project between at least two consortium Institutions and/or Associated members – 30 ECTS</td>
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**ARCHMAT Scientific Academic Committee**

Nick Schiavon | University of Evora-PT
Rachid Benslimane | Université Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah-MOROCCO
Evangelia Varella | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki-GR
Giovanni Gigante | University of Rome La Sapienza-IT
Xerman De La Fuente | CSIC-University of Zaragoza-SPAIN
Eugenio Caponetti | University of Palermo-IT
Cathy Vieillescazes | Université d’Avignon et des Pays du Vaucluse-FR
Invited Lecturers

Maria Perla Colombini  ICVBC – Florence – IT
Emma Angelini  Polytechnic of Turin - IT
Gabriel Maria Ingo  SMN – CNR – Rome - IT
Lorenza Manfredi  ISMA – CNR-Rome – IT
Nasser Hamdan  American University of Sharjah – United Arab Emirates
Abdelilah Dekayi  Université Moulay Ismail de Meknes – Morocco
Giacomo Chiari  Getty Conservation Institute – LA – USA
Ziad Al Saad  Yarmouk University - Jordan
Mohammed El Shaer  Zagazig University - Egypt

Student participants
22 ARCHMAT students of the 2013-2015 edition (list in attachment)

Programme
1rst Week (8-12th September) – Archaeological/Geophysical Fieldwork at the new archaeological excavation at the Aouam mine (ISMA-CNR-IT- Leader Dr. Lorenza Manfredi)
2nd Week (14-19th September) – Lectures/Thesis Projects presentations/Exam ((including reports on first week fieldwork) at the Université de Fes

Évora, 11th of July 2014

Nick Schiavon
Coordinator ARCHMAT EMMC
HERCULES Laboratory-University of Évora