

**Internship Information**  
**Summer School: 6-20 July 2019**  
**Early Byzantine City of Gortyn, Crete**



**The project and internship**

For the first time, Archaeology students from Dutch universities will be able to participate this summer in post-excavation work at the archaeological site of Gortyn (or Gortyna) on the island of Crete. Since 2002, a joint excavation project has been carried out at Gortyn by the University of Siena and the Italian Institute at Athens, under the supervision of Prof. dr. Enrico Zanini. The focus of this project is on the so-called ‘Byzantine District’ within the ancient urban centre. The aim is to investigate a large non-monumental area in the core of the Byzantine city. This is done in an effort to better understand daily life in a medium-sized provincial capital city, as well as to shed light on changes in the socioeconomic dynamics in the central and eastern Mediterranean during Late Antique and Early Byzantine times. This

project tries to resolve three main problems: the complexities and uncertainties surrounding the chronological ‘depth’ of the Early Byzantine city after the Golden Age of Emperor Justinian I (482-565); the changing relationship between town and country; and the abandonment of the city of Gortyn as a marker for the end of an idea of city-life.

The project has produced large amounts of material, dating from ca the 4th until the 9th centuries AD, most of which are ceramic sherds. During the upcoming *Summer School*, our team will start processing the finds from this excavation, under the supervision of Prof. dr. Joanita Vroom. This study will mainly investigate Early Byzantine pottery finds. Students will learn how to document and interpret Late Antique and Early Byzantine material culture. The participants will be involved in many stages of archaeological research, from the ‘simple’ quantitative processing (counting and weighing) of finds to more detailed and in-depth investigation (drawing, photographing and describing artefacts). For those most interested, data from this project will offer ample case-studies for BA and (R)MA theses. Furthermore, fieldtrips, museum excursions, presentations and lectures on related topics are planned.

To prepare for this internship, the participating students are asked to join the three-day ‘workshop’, planned between 20-24 May at the Faculty of Archaeology in Leiden. During these three days, students will be educated in the archaeological skills needed for post-excavation find processing (classifying pottery, artefact drawing, ceramic fabric description etc.). This will help to get started more easily once we are in Gortyn, where time is limited.

### **General information**

- Suitable for **BA** and **(R)MA** students Archaeology of Dutch universities.
- **Dates and duration of the internship:** the internship will start on 6 July and end on 20 July 2019. The time spend on Crete will be therefore 15 days in total, of which 12 workdays. We will arrive on Saturday 6 July. Students can join to travel with Mink van IJzendoorn from Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) to Heraklion on this day. We will fly back on Saturday 20 July. The first workdays are from 7 to 12 July and 14 to 19 July. Saturday 13 July will be a free day.

- **Costs:** the workshops fee of 500-600 euro includes tuition, teaching materials, room and board at Gortyn, food, cleaning costs, car rent. Participants are required to pay their tickets to Heraklion, Crete. Students may apply for a LUF International Study Fund (LISF) grant (300 euro) to cover some of their expenses. For this, go to the website of Leiden University.
- **Visits:** Heraklion Archaeological Museum, Historical Museum of Crete, Museum of Cretan Ethnology, Praetorium Gortyna, Archaeological Site of Gortyna.
- **Project leader:** Prof. dr. Enrico Zanini
- **Partners of the project:** University of Siena, Leiden University, and Netherlands Institute at Athens and Italian Institute at Athens
- **Internship organiser and coordinator:** Prof. dr. Joanita Vroom
- **Other collaborators:** Giacomo Fontana RMA, Mink van IJzendoorn MA
- **Application deadline:** 15 May 2019.
- **Application procedure:** application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA). See [www.nia.gr](http://www.nia.gr). Completed forms (including a motivation letter) should be send before 30 April 2019 to: [nia@nia.gr](mailto:nia@nia.gr).
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### **Special requirements**

Good physical condition and command of manual operations. July is the hottest and sunniest month of the year in Crete. The average summer temperature in the area is at least 30° Celsius and possibly higher. Participants should bring clothes and cosmetics suitable for the hot and sunny weather. If you have food allergies or any other medical requirements, please let us know! It is recommended that participants bring their laptops. All participants are expected to prepare for the internship by reading (some of) the literature send to them. The main language of the internship is English, however students advanced skills in Greek and/or Italian are most welcome.

Everyone should keep in mind the fact that we will be dealing with extraordinary finds from a unique archaeological site. Respect the rules of the Greek, Italian and Dutch supervision and appreciate the delicateness of the artefacts always. We are privileged to be able to work here. The success of this joint project depends as much on academic integrity as mutual respect between team members.

