



**FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
UNCOVERING SOMALILAND'S TROUBLED PAST**

Summary

The aim of this Field School is to familiarize students with forensic anthropological interventions in all stages, from preliminary research to the analysis of the remains in order to identify them. For educational purposes, the EPAF Field School will be eminently practical, but with theoretical elements. Students will be trained alongside members of the War Crimes Commission of the Republic of Somaliland, and intervene on some of the hundreds of mass graves that exist in Somaliland, results of years of violence in the 1980s. Students will participate in the work location and mapping of trenches, digging and collecting evidence at the burial site, ending with the analysis of the remains and evidence recovered.

Objectives

Students will attend theoretical courses and receive practical training on preliminary investigation, location and burial site mapping, excavation techniques, forensic evidence recovery, osteology, taphonomy and trauma. At the end of the program, participants will have an understanding of the application of forensic science in investigations of human rights violations, the process of location, retrieval and analysis of mass graves, and the complete analysis of human skeletons (determination of sex, estimation of age, trauma). As part of the program, students will receive educational materials used to prepare lessons, which will aid them in their development. Materials include reference works, handbooks, tabs and manuals for their use, among others.



Schedule

Week 1 (February 10 - 17)

Students will receive lessons on the history and culture of Somaliland, as well as an introduction to forensic science, including general aspects of preliminary investigations, documentation, location and mapping of burial sites, excavation and forensic photography.

At the end of the week, participants will learn the steps of any forensic investigation, methods to locate and map pits and conduct an excavation.

Date	Type	Topic or Activity
Monday 10	Theory	Introduction to the history and culture of Somaliland Introduction to Forensic Science
Tuesday 11	Theoretical and Practical	Introduction, location and mapping of burial sites
Wednesday 12	Theoretical and Practical	Introduction to forensic excavations
Thursday 13	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Friday 14	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Saturday 15	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Sunday 16	Rest	Weekend in Berbera (beach) – tentative
Monday 17	Rest	Berbera (beach) - tentative

Week 2 (February 18 - 24)

Students will continue with the field practice of excavation, recovery, recording and packaging of the evidence recovered in the assigned sites.

Date	Type	Topic or Activity
Tuesday 18	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Wednesday 19	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Thursday 20	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Friday 21	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Saturday 22	Practice	Excavation, recovery and record of evidence
Sunday 23	Rest	Trip to the beach
Monday 24	Rest	Trip to the beach



Week 3 (February 25 – March 03)

Students will learn to determine the biological profile of the recovered victims, learning the international standards used to identify sex, age, height, handedness, ancestral patterns and traumatic injuries.

At the end of the week, participants will be able to determine sex, age, height and handedness in human skeletal remains.

Date	Type	Topic or Activity
Tuesday 25	Theoretical and practical	Introduction to osteology, determining the biological profile and introduction to traumatic injuries of forensic interest
Wednesday 26	Practice	Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains
Thursday 27	Practice	Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains
Friday 28	Practice	Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains
Saturday 01	Practice	Analysis of recovered human skeletal remains
Sunday 01	Rest	Visit to the camel farm
Monday 03	Rest	Visit to the camel farm

Week 4 (March 04 - 09)

Students will carry out a complete analysis of human skeletal remains assigned and submit a full report of their findings, taking into account the biological profile and traumatic injuries.

At the end of the week, participants will carry out an analysis of remains from beginning to end.

Date	Type	Topic or Activity
Tuesday 4 – Friday 7	Practice	Analysis and report of recovered human skeletal remains
Saturday 8	-	Field School Closure
Sunday 9	-	Departure – Berbera and Dubai