

## **\*\*Summer School Invitation: Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Heritage Field School at Pliska\*\***

**\*\*Dates:\*\* July 15, 2024 - August 4, 2024**

**\*\*Location:\*\* Pliska, Bulgaria**

The Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna is excited to offer a unique summer school program centred on archaeological, historical and cultural heritage studies in Pliska, Bulgaria. This program, running from July 15 to August 4, 2024, is designed to provide students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences in archaeology and heritage studies at the site of Pliska. This year, we are planning to focus on an early medieval mass grave and/or cemetery.



### **\*\*About Pliska:\*\***

Pliska is a unique site in European history; the first early medieval capital of Bulgaria, founded in the eighth century, witnessed the conversion of the society to the Christian faith, resulting in a one-of-a-kind location that encompasses the transformation of a nomadic centre to a vast Christian, early urban centre. In the ninth century, Pliska was larger than Constantinople in size and featured over forty churches combining Western and Eastern influences. As the capital was moved to Preslav at the end of the ninth century, Pliska preserved a rare opportunity to observe the effect of Christianisation on urban planning and transformation. The site has been extensively researched, but due to its sheer size and complexity, it has many more opportunities for future research. The current archaeological investigation of the site features cutting-edge technologies and offers an exciting learning environment. Furthermore, beyond archaeology, Pliska provides the perfect location for immersive, on-site historical learning, both about the historical

particularities of the site, the region and the period, and its display and role in cultural heritage and the political use of heritage.

**\*\*Educational Opportunity:\*\***

This summer school is an excellent opportunity to delve into the depths of European history and culture. Participants will learn not only the technical aspects of archaeological excavation but also how historical findings contribute to current narratives and heritage practices. This program emphasizes the relevance of historical and cultural heritage in shaping modern identities and public histories, providing a meaningful context to the practical skills acquired on-site.

**\*\*Eligibility:\*\***

- Open to any student currently enrolled at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna.
- Applicants must commit to the full duration of the program.

**\*\*Offerings:\*\***

- Meals, accommodation, and travel expenses will be covered.
- Mentorship from experienced professionals in archaeology and heritage studies. From the Hist-Cult Faculty, you will be joined by Dr Mária Vargha. The director of the excavation is Dr Petar Parvanov from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.
- A chance to contribute to significant ongoing historical research and heritage conservation efforts.

**\*\*Application Process:\*\***

We invite interested students to apply by submitting an application along with a statement of interest by June 3, 2024. We are looking for students who are passionate about cultural heritage and dedicated to the entire summer program.

For applications and more information, please contact:

Dr Mária Vargha

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