

Scott Pike, Environmental Science

SCRP 2022 Research

This summer's geoarchaeological researcher will work at an on-site field science laboratory in Orkney, Scotland to undertake geochemical analysis of archaeological samples recovered from the Late Neolithic (roughly 5,500 years ago) Ness of Brodgar archaeological site. The sediments are from floor deposits collected from various monumental-scaled enigmatic structures within the site. The geochemical data is an integral part of a multi-method, multi-year approach to identify and interpret different use areas within the large structures. The on-site laboratory is equipped with a handheld x-ray fluorescent spectrometer (pXRF) that will be used to extract geochemical data from recently excavated samples recovered during the current and past excavation seasons. Lodging and travel costs to Orkney are covered by the SCR program.

The SCR participant will be conducting research alongside archaeologists and archaeological scientists in a dedicated-space located at the site excavation house. The researcher will prepare samples, conduct pXRF analysis following established protocols, process the data, and interpret results. The research will incorporate the previous years' data to look for geochemical patterns within the floor sediment samples.

The researcher will be embedded within Willamette's archaeology field school at the Ness of Brodgar. They will live with the field school students at Brown's Hostel in Stromness, ride in the same van to and from site, attend the field school's weekly lectures and participate in the various field trips. The SCR participant is also expected to adhere to the same rules and regulations of the field school students and contribute to the proper upkeep of the hostel. Note that the inclusive dates for this project are from July 9 -August 19.

Application Assignment

1. Write a one-to-two page, typed reflection that described how your education up to this point has prepared you to undertake an extensive geochemical study of archaeological sediments from the Ness of Brodgar.