

NSF---REU Ethnoarchaeology Fieldschool in the Fiji Islands, South Pacific

Applications from undergraduates for the 2015 anthropological field school in Fiji are now being accepted (**due date February 5, 2015**). Students will have the opportunity to learn about ethnoarchaeology in **June---July of 2015 (dates TBA)**. Additionally, all students will make a meaningful contribution to the understanding the lifeways of Fijian peoples, and experience another culture. I will accept between 5---8 undergraduate students from all majors and of any level (freshman---senior) who will receive funding to cover plane fare, living expenses, and each will be provided a generous stipend for completing this 8---week experience. The process is competitive and in 2010 I had over 100 applicants for only 8 REU Fellowship positions. I am interested in recruiting students from all backgrounds; it is not necessary to have had prior anthropological experience to apply. Specific instructions regarding the application process are provided below. Completed applications should be sent to Dr. Sharyn Jones **via hard copy** (*since so many applications are received, I request that you mail me a hard copy as I cannot print out 100s of applications each year*).

For information on the NSF REU Fiji program in the past, visit: <http://reu---fiji.com>

FAQS for Students: What is an REU? The National Science Foundation has developed an REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) grant competition that provides funding to universities that create opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to participate in "hands---on" scientific research. This REU involves anthropological research in archaeology and cultural anthropology in Fiji. Dr. Jones is the program leader for this grant that will provide funds for students to participate in a field school.

Do I have to be an Anthropology Student to Participate in the Field School?

No. The NSF---REU is administered through [Northern Kentucky University \(NKU\)](#), but undergraduate students enrolled in any U.S. college or university are eligible to apply. Previous coursework in anthropology is not a requirement for acceptance to the program, but experience in anthropology courses and/or expression of a clear interest in studying anthropology, the past, and diverse cultures is a necessity.

How will students be selected?

I will select students based on a combination of factors. Students will need to provide academic transcripts, but GPA is not the most important factor—I am looking for hardworking, **adaptable**, and creative individuals who are eager to gain a hands---on experience in science and to learn about a foreign culture. It is essential for students to put aside their American---ness in order to engage in effective participant observation and learn about Fijian culture and the ethnographic process while in the field.

Can I Receive Course Credit?

Yes. Students who would like to receive course credit for their participation in the field school have the option of enrolling in up to 6 credits of coursework through the [Anthropology Program at NKU](#).

How Long is the Field School?

Generally this program runs for eight weeks. The fieldschool will begin with a one---week orientation to the research program and Fijian culture history (at [NKU](#)), followed by five weeks of research in

Fiji, and finally, two weeks of laboratory work, analysis, interpretation, and public presentations of the projects in the Greater Cincinnati---Northern Kentucky area. All student participants will begin the program at NKU, travel to Fiji as a group and then return to NKU to complete the course and their individual research projects. Past projects have run from June---July, and include 8 weeks in total. *For the summer of 2014 the program will run June---July.*

What Are the Living Conditions Like in Fiji?

The living and working conditions in Fiji will be like "camp" conditions. We will be sleeping next to each other in extremely close quarters with virtually NO privacy. Accommodations will include huts, tents, or concrete buildings and will NOT have access to electricity, running water, formal showers, telephones, or the internet. It is important that students who apply for the program fully understand that they must be in mental and physical condition for 4 weeks of camping---like conditions and working in the hot climate of Fiji. Once the team arrives at our research destination there will be no opportunities to leave the island early, except in emergency medical situations.

What Will Students Do Each Day in Fiji?

Students will be trained in standard anthropological and archaeological field methods while in the field. Everyone will work together to conduct research in the village or camp we stay in. Students will be instructed in archaeological and/or ethnographic techniques and the skills required to study in this intimate community setting. Participant observation will include engaging in everyday village and household activities, including cooking, cleaning, collecting fire---wood, feeding livestock, fishing, and other mundane domestic tasks. Ethnoarchaeological techniques will also be learned. Archaeological techniques are the primary focus during some years of this program, while ethnographic work is the focus of other years. Some material and data will be analyzed in the anthropology/archaeology laboratory at NKU. Students will be taught to record scientific data, keep field journals, make blogs and web---based media, and analyze data.

What Will Students Do After the Fieldwork in Fiji?

Every student will take part in post---field laboratory and other work at NKU after the fieldwork in Fiji. Students will also participate in public outreach activities and do research projects based on their field experiences. This part of the course will last two weeks and in the past it has taken place during the end of July. Students are expected to make public and academic presentations of their field research.

NSF---REU Fiji Archaeological Fieldschool Application

Student Recruitment and Selection Completed applications should be sent by regular mail (in hard copy) or dropped off in person to Dr. Sharyn Jones at the address below. Please email Dr. Jones at: joness33@nku.edu if you have any questions about the field school or application process. **Below is a list of the materials you will need to provide by the due date (February 5, 2015):**

1. Please fill out the attached cover letter with the requested information, answering all the questions.
2. A 2---page single spaced **Personal Narrative**. This narrative or biography should give a picture of each applicant as an individual. It should describe: 1. The experiences you feel are important to your personal history, such as family background and/or other relevant influences on your personal development. 2. The educational and cultural opportunities (or lack of them) to which you have been exposed. 3. The ways in which these experiences have affected you. 4. Also include your special interests and abilities, career plans, life goals and how this REU experience will help you meet these goals. 5. Please describe whether or not you have had any prior opportunities for research experience or exposure to anthropology. 6. Your interests in living in a foreign culture and how you see yourself adapting to that experience. 7. It is important that you explain clearly your understanding that we will be living in tight quarters, engaging in difficult work with extreme working conditions. You need to be mentally and physically ready. Since we will be working in the hot tropics you should also communicate to us that you will be physically able to participate in the field school. I want all applicants to be aware that the accommodations for this program will be camping---based; there will be no flush toilets, all participants will sleep in small concrete buildings or thatch huts on the ground and there will be no electricity, running water, formal showers, telephones, or internet access. Once the team arrives at our research destination there will be no opportunities to leave the island early, except in emergency medical situations.
3. Academic transcripts (I will accept unofficial transcripts for application purposes, but official transcripts may be requested from all accepted applicants).
4. One or two letters of recommendation. At least one letter should be from a teacher or professor who knows you well. The letters should address the applicant's aptitude for this particular research project, and strengths that the applicant could potentially bring to the project. These letters can be emailed to Dr. Jones directly from your letter writers.
5. I will interview all students before acceptance for this program.
6. Students who are accepted to the program will have an option to enroll in a series of Anthropology course for 1---6 hours of credit in the Anthropology Program at [Northern Kentucky University](http://www.nku.edu). In the past courses associated with this field school have included: Archaeology of the Pacific Islands, Ethnographic Fieldschool, and Advanced Field Archaeology.

Please direct any questions you may have to joness33@nku.edu Final Applications [due date: February 5, 2015] should be mailed to or dropped off via *hard copy*:

Dr. Sharyn Jones

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