

Marina Papanikolopoulou- Honor Frost Foundation Scholarship 2019 (£10000)



Marina Papanikolopoulou has completed her studies in archaeology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2017 she enrolled in the MA programme Field Archaeology on Land and Under the Sea at the University of Cyprus.

Since 2009 she has participated in excavations and laboratory researches in Greece, Cyprus, France and Turkey. Her main research interests center around coastal archaeology and geoarchaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea as well as public archaeology and cultural heritage management in Cyprus and Greece.

Impressions of the Postgraduate Programme

Attending the Masters' degree programme in Field Archaeology on Land and Under the Sea has offered me an invaluable base for developing my academic thinking skills by introducing me to the major research themes of maritime archaeology. My courses in coastal, island and landscape archaeology, in particular, gave me the analytical tools to approach my research subject for my dissertation with clarity and depth.

In my thesis, I examine the coastal topography of Cyprus in the Late Cypriot II, a period of highly praised maritime activity of the island, through published archaeological remains and studies on coastal geomorphological changes. Based on a GIS mapping, I study the distribution, local setting and type of coastal sites in order to understand the patterns of coastal occupation and use. A working hypothesis of this thesis is that the study of the Cypriot coast has been reduced into a few "harbour" sites, that manifest centralization and extra-insular relations, while the available data may provide a more nuanced understanding, more local and less conspicuous.

In tandem with cognitive sufficiency, the MA provided me with a high level academic environment, both in people and facilities, and the interactive teaching methods advanced enormously my argumentation and presentation skills. Last, living in Cyprus was a life-changing opportunity to reflect on Eastern Mediterranean history, island life, and archaeology as former of identities.