South Africa, Swartkrans Summer 2016
IAP Program Handbook

The South Africa, Swartkrans program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

Contact Information.................................................................................................................. 1
Program Dates............................................................................................................................. 2
Preparation Before Leaving......................................................................................................... 2
Travel and Arrival Information................................................................................................... 5
The Academic Program............................................................................................................... 5
Living Abroad............................................................................................................................ 5
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Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

US Consulate General-Johannesburg  
1 Sandton Drive (opposite Sandton City Mall)  
Johannesburg 2916  
Tel: 011-27-11-290-3000 (from US)/011-290-3000 (from within South Africa)  
Fax: (27-12) 431-5504/012-431-5504 (from within South Africa)  
After Hours Emergency: 011-27-79-111-1684 (from US)/079-111-1684 (from within South Africa)

Program Dates
Arrival Day/First day of program: June 15, 2016  
Departure day: July 15, 2016  
* See “Travel and Arrival Information” for details on arrival/departure time.
Preparation Before Leaving
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Immigration Documents
Passport
A passport is needed to travel to South Africa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least six months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
U.S. citizens do not need visas for tourist visits of up to ninety days, but they must have onward or return air tickets and proof of sufficient funds to maintain themselves while in South Africa. Students should request a tourist visa when they arrive at the airport. Do not request a Student Visa, as that is for students who are enrolling in a South African university. You must ask for a tourist visa. Students can list the local address as: Sunnyside Park Hotel, 2 York Road, Johannesburg.

Handling Money Abroad
The program will provide all meals, local transportation, and lodging. There will, however, be regular opportunity for students to buy personal supplies, food, medicines and souvenirs, so please plan accordingly with regard to personal spending money. The cost sheet for your program provides an outline of the basic costs you can expect while in South Africa.

Money can be exchanged at the airport, traveler’s cheque counters, or banks. South African currency is the Rand (R). Withdrawing Rand from ATMs is the most convenient method of securing cash. Traveler’s cheques often have fees both to receive in the US and to cash abroad. Please notify all credit and debit card institutions that you will be using your card in South Africa.

Current Dollar-Rand exchange rate (Feb 2016) is US $1 = R15.79. http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/

Packing
Fieldwork is strenuous and conducted exposed to the elements. June and July are winter months in South Africa, but winter there is nothing like winter in Wisconsin. The nights at the Swartkrans camp are typically chilly (sometimes dipping to freezing), but by midday temperatures often make the mid to high 60’s F. Days are dry and pleasant, but there is the potential for sunburn, so plan accordingly (a hat and sunscreen are advisable). Also, plan to dress in layers for the Swartkrans portion of the field school. For the few days in Limpopo you will experience much hotter weather, so shorts and T-shirts might be advisable.

The biggest piece of advice is to pack as lightly as possible, but still bring those items listed below that you deem essential. If students forget something, there is generally an opportunity to purchase the item while in South Africa. The program will make grocery shopping trips, where any additional items can be purchased (student should be sure to have sufficient spending money for this eventuality).

Students do not need excavation tools, and the program strongly advises students against bringing them (they just take up room and could lead to hassles from airport security). Water purifiers are not necessary. Do not bring dishes and silverware; the program will supply them.

Students do not need camping supplies. You will be sleeping in beds, except perhaps for one night at Makapansgat. There will be some sleeping pads and extra pillows available for that night, but you may want to bring your own. The beds in base camp and at Limpopo are supplied with sheets, blankets and pillows, and tents have small heaters, but if you tend to run cold at night and/or are picky about pillows, you might want to bring a sleeping bag and pillow as well.
Recommended packing list for the program:
Course packet (pdfs of readings)
Laptop
Watch with alarm (optional)
Money
Writing utensils (Sharpie waterproof pen, ballpoint pen, pencil, eraser)
Clipboard
Notebook
Personal journal (optional)
Calculator
Rubber bands (optional)
Paper clips (optional)
Band-aids, Neosporin, aspirin
Medications (in original packaging and labeled)
Toiletries
Sunscreen
Insect repellent (optional)
Water bottle (important!)
Camera
Sleeping bag, pad, pillow (optional)
Hat
Towel (optional, towels supplied at base camp and in Limpopo, but not laundered daily)
Needle and thread (optional)
Extra glasses, glasses repair kit
Sunglasses (optional)
Comfortable outdoor shoes/boots
Clothing (mix of cool and hot weather)
Canvas work gloves (important!)
Cold weather hat and gloves
Flashlight, extra bulbs and batteries (important!)

Electronics
The camps are electrified. Most South African power systems are 220/230 V AC at 5 cycles per second. Plugs have three round pins, but are not the same as the UK system. Students can buy adaptors in the US at hardware stores or travel agencies.
Travel and Arrival Information

Students should fly into and depart from the O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport. Official airport pick-up and drop-off dates are, respectively, June 15 and July 15. If students are arriving on the field school’s start date, June 15, the Program Leader, another staff member, or a professional transportation service will be there to pick you up and transport you to camp. Likewise, students will be dropped-off for departure on July 15. Beyond those dates, students are responsible for their own transportation and lodging. IMPORTANT: please send IAP and Professor Pickering your travel details as soon as they are available so that we can arrange efficient pick-ups and drop-offs.

The Academic Program

Program Description

This four-week program offers students the opportunity to participate in a paleoanthropology field school at the famous fossil human locality of Swartkrans, South Africa. Swartkrans, a cave site approximately 20 miles from Johannesburg—the largest and most populous city in South Africa—is recognized as one of the world’s most important archaeological and fossil localities for the study of human evolution. The site’s geological deposits span millions of years and sample several important events in human evolution. The oldest finds at the site date between 2.0 and 1.0 million years old—a time period during which our immediate ancestor, *Homo erectus*, shared the landscape with the extinct ape-man species *Australopithecus (Paranthropus)* robustus. In addition to fossils of these species, Swartkrans also preserves an abundant archaeological record of their behavior in the form of stone and bone tools, as well as butchered animal bones. Most spectacularly, the site contains evidence of the earliest known use of fire by human ancestors, dated to about 1.0 million years old. More recent deposits at the site, dated about 110,000 years old, yield fossil and archaeological evidence of the earliest members of our own species, *Homo sapiens*.

Field school participants will learn about these fascinating ancestors through a hands-on course that includes instruction in archaeological survey, site mapping, excavation, recording, artifact and fossil analysis (human and animal), and laboratory techniques. Fieldwork will be supplemented with occasional lectures, workshops and fossil locality tours with internationally recognized paleoanthropologists working at nearby sites.

The program is led by Dr. Travis Pickering, Professor of Anthropology at UW-Madison. Over his 18 years of working in South Africa, Professor Pickering has cultivated strong relationships with researchers in the area ensuring that students on this program will see original fossils and artifacts and receive site tours from the primary researchers in the field. Thus, the Swartkrans field school experience is a very comprehensive one that expands beyond the bounds of simply excavating for three weeks at one site.

Course Information

Upon arrival, participants will head directly to the Swartkrans camp to get oriented to the program. At camp, students will attend lectures and seminars on relevant topics including faunal analysis, taphonomy, hominin fossils, and stone tools conducted by leading researchers in the field. Participants will also participate in excavation research under the guidance of the Program Leader and project staff. Extensive training will be provided in paleoanthropological excavation and laboratory analyses of fossils and stone tools. During the program, the group will take fieldtrips to the local sites of Kromdraai, Drimolen, Sterkfontein and possibly Makapansgat. In addition, we will visit museums and have three-day ecology tour and Iron Age archaeology excursion to the Mapungubwe site in Limpopo Province.

Upon successful completion of the program, students earn 6 Anthropology 454 - Study Abroad: Topics in Biological Anthropology credits.

Grading

Grades in Anthropology 454 will be based on fieldwork, field notes, and seminar participation. The specific grading rubric will be in your syllabus for the program.
Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

Living Abroad
South Africa’s population is estimated to be about 44 million. The climate of South Africa is mostly dry and sunny, lying just to the south of the Tropic of Capricorn. The major influence on the climate is the topography and the surrounding oceans. There are 11 official languages, but most people speak Isi-Zulu and/or English, as well as their mother tongue. The most widely spoken African languages are Isi-Zulu and Isi-Xhosa. Afrikaans was developed from the High Dutch of the 17th century. Afrikaners (as the descendents of the Dutch are named) abandoned the complicated grammar of the Dutch language and adopted vocabulary from French, English, indigenous African and even Asian languages.

South Africa offers a wide diversity of plant, animal and bird species. Climates range anywhere from Mediterranean (called Fynbos by South Africans) Climate to desert, grasslands, deciduous forest and alpine distributed throughout the country. The landscapes in South Africa are just as diverse as the people that live there.

Johannesburg
Johannesburg can be a dangerous city, but you can minimize its dangers with some simple precautions that will allow you can get out and enjoy the city. The basic dos and don’ts are:

- Never walk around the streets after dark and try to stay in a group during the day.
- Do not visit the following parts of the city: Hillbrow, Yeoville, Jeppestown, downtown Johannesburg, Berea. Only visit Newtown in a group and stay on the main roads.
- Do not carry exposed valuables, like cameras and money belts. Keep tourist maps and books concealed when possible.
- Do not use combi-taxis or micro-buses.
- Use a metered taxi. Rose’s Taxi service is reputable (Phone: 011-403 0000/9625 and 083-255 0933/0934)

Things to see in Johannesburg include:

Apartheid Museum
Open: Tuesday – Saturday, 09:00 – 17:00
http://www.apartheidmuseum.org/

Soweto and Johannesburg City Tours (through The Ritz Backpackers)
Open: By appointment, tours run daily at 8:30AM and 1:30PM
http://www.backpackers-ritz.co.za/afritours/day.php

Johannesburg Zoo
Open: Every day, 8:30 – 17:30
http://www.jhbzoo.org.za/

Rosebank Market (good place for souvenirs)
Open: Sunday, 9:00 – 17:00
http://www.rosebankmall.co.za/

Constitution Hall
Open: Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 17:00
Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays 10:00-15:00
http://www.constitutionhill.org.za/site/
Museum Africa
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 9:00 – 17:00
http://www.johannesburg.info/museum-africa/

Housing
During the program, you will be housed in a permanent structure campsite at the Swartkrans fieldschool, which is located within the gated confines of an animal reserve. The tented camp includes indoor plumbing, heaters, and hot water. Meals will be provided daily. The camp contains a central lodge for lectures and communal meals. The Program Leader will have a telephone for emergency purposes at all times. Krugersdorp, a town about ten miles from the camp, has stores for groceries, personal items, and a clinic.

Student Life
Illegal drug use in South Africa is a serious offense punishable by prison time, and will not be tolerated on the field school program. It is grounds for dismissal.

Safety
Personal vigilance is key to remaining safe in South Africa. South Africa is experiencing rapid political, social and economic change, and does have an undesirable incidence of crime, particularly petty theft. You will hear about safety in your pre-departure orientation.

General Rules and Suggestions about Safety in South Africa:
- Tourists are common targets of pickpockets. Be aware of your backpacks and cameras, especially on crowded buses.
- Keep valuables in a locked place. Do not carry large sums of money, wear expensive jewelry, or obviously display valuable items (cameras, I-pods, laptops, etc.) when you walk on the street.
- Do not carry your passport with you on a daily basis. A photocopy of the front page should be adequate.
- Avoid leaving belongings in a parked car.
- Use common sense just as you would in any other big city. Do not walk alone at night, go with other students, and take the taxi service recommended by the program. Avoid trains, buses and minibus taxis at night, and never use them at night alone.
- Go into a shop or ask security personnel for directions. Do not stop strangers in the street.

Health
Inoculations
The Center for Disease Control recommends several inoculations for travelers to South Africa. For more complete and detailed information, go to the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/travel/safrica.htm. Also, check with your health care provider about recommended vaccinations. See your doctor at least 4–6 weeks before your program to allow time for the required series. There is no malaria in Johannesburg or at Swartkrans. There is a slight malaria risk in the Limpopo, where the course might take a three-day excursion, so students will want to consult with a health specialist to decide whether taking anti-malarial medications is appropriate for you.

You should check with a travel health specialist as soon as possible to inquire about recommended vaccinations and prescriptions. It is very important that you consult with a healthcare provider well-versed in travel medicine or travel clinic to plan for your time abroad. University Health Services (UHS) has a travel clinic that provides health services for those planning foreign travel, including vaccines and immunizations. Information about the travel clinic and how to make an appointment can be found online: http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/services/medical/travel-clinic. The UHS travel clinic does book out in advance, and some immunizations must be done at particular times. Please make an appointment as soon as possible with the UHS travel clinic.
If you are not covered by UHS care, please consult with your insurance company to see what clinics or healthcare providers with travel medicine specialties are covered. There are a number of travel clinics in Madison including Dean: http://www.deancare.com/medical-services/travel-medicine and UW Health http://www.uwhealth.org/travel-vaccinations/locations-and-maps/10381
To learn more about travelers' health, please visit the CDC at http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel
You can view vaccine recommendations from the same page, scrolling down to the vaccinations link. On the top of the Vaccinations page, there is a link for specific country recommendations.

Your CISI medical insurance should cover any health emergencies in South Africa, but you should bring a full supply of any over-the-counter or prescription medications and supplements that you need. Your prescription medications and supplements should be in their original pharmacy containers, bearing the pharmacy label with your name (not anyone else's name). Bring a copy of your prescription in case you need to request more in South Africa.

The program will have fully stocked first-aid kits, but it is a good idea to bring a personal supply of aspirin, allergy medicine, band aids, antibiotic cream, etc. If you are allergic to bee stings, foods, or plants, we strongly recommend that you ask your doctor about an epi-pen in case of an allergic reaction. If you wear glasses or contacts, bring a spare pair.

Fieldwork is strenuous and conducted exposed to the elements. Please inform IAP of any serious health conditions. This information will be kept strictly confidential, but is important in the event of an emergency.

Weather
June and July are winter months in South Africa, but winter there is nothing like winter in Wisconsin. The nights at the Swartkrans camp are typically chilly, but by midday temperatures often make the mid to high 60°s F. Days are dry and pleasant, but there is the potential for sunburn, so plan accordingly (a hat and sunscreen are advisable). Also plan to dress in layers for the Swartkrans portion of the field school. For the few days in Limpopo you will experience much hotter weather, so shorts and T-shirts are possible.

Communication
When making calls, mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make a call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (1) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number, or dial + area code and the number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online: www.howtocallabroad.com. Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

There are several phone company kiosks at the airport from which students can purchase international and domestic phone cards (WorldCall cards, for instance, come in a number of different denominations [e.g., R50, R100, etc.] and work on most payphones; they can be used to call either internationally or domestically). Students can also rent a mobile phone that works in South Africa. You will have intermittent access to a payphone, but internet access is very irregular. The program staffs’ cell phones are for communication between them and for emergencies and will not be available for students to make overseas calls.

Websites of Interest
Swartkrans Research Project http://swartkrans.org/
UNESCO World Heritage Site http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915
U.S. State Department: http://www.travel.state.gov
Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov
Worldwide Pre-Departure Information http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html
Lonely Planet http://www.lonelyplanet.com
JourneyWoman http://www.journeywoman.com