

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Research Area

The research area is located in Züünkhangai, Uvs province (northwestern Mongolia), on the border with Russia (49°18'N 95°26'E). Sixty percent of its area is “khangai” (hilly with a pleasant climate, fertile soil, forests, rivers and lakes); the other 40 percent encompasses the Gobi region. While pastures account for the majority of the land, Uvs has a long history of vegetable-growing dating back to Galdan Boshigt Khan (1644–1697). Ethnically, the Uvs province is dominated by the Dörvöd (aka Dörbets), from which the province received its original name. However, we are working in southeastern Uvs, which is inhabited primarily by (Iljgen) Khalkh. The large majority of animals one encounters in the region are herded animals, although it is sometimes possible to see deer and antelope. Marmots are common throughout the region as well. Daily temperature fluctuations during the summer months can be very significant, ranging from as low as 30°F/-1°C at night to over 68°F/20°C during the day.

By far the most significant subsistence system is nomadic pastoralism, characterized by the herding of various species of animals (in this region mainly sheep, goats, cattle, and horses) and the regular migration of entire family units in search of new pastures or shelter for their animals. Families typically move between two and four times per year. The traditional lodging of the nomads is the 'ger' (more commonly known by foreigners as a 'yurt'), a circular structure that consists of a light frame of wooden slats covered by felt and canvas. Gers are typically found in groups of two to six, with the families in each ger linked to one another by kin and friendship ties. At the time of migration, a family's entire possessions are moved, with little left behind to indicate its earlier occupation of a particular locale. The ger is disassembled and carried by cart pulled by oxen. Because there is no private land ownership, families are free to relocate anywhere they wish as long as they maintain a certain distance from already established camps belonging to other families. The diet of nomads consists almost exclusively of milk and meat products obtained from their animals, although the past two decades has witnessed an increasing number of people complementing their diet with vegetables (when they are able to purchase them). Nomads in Mongolia eat large quantities of mutton, although other animals are sometimes eaten at certain times of the year. Other animal products that are consumed regularly include horse milk ('airag'), hard yogurt and butter. Nomadic people in Mongolia are generally very hospitable and strangers are often invited into a family's ger to eat and drink the meat and dairy products obtained from its animals.

The research area is in many ways ideal for anthropological fieldwork. Mongolia is politically and ethnically stable and foreigners typically feel very safe traveling there. The months of May, June and July are generally sunny, the climate is dry and there exist none of the diseases or discomforts usually associated with tropical climates (e.g. malaria). The area's relative isolation has ensured the preservation not only of the stunning grassland setting but also of traditional customs. Participants on the project have many opportunities to meet local nomadic peoples and visit them in their gers.



Uvs Province (Mongolia)

Research Objectives

Understanding the sociopolitical trajectory:

Until recently, the Züünkhangaï region of northwestern Mongolia was a neglected region of study. This is in great part due to the supposed peripheral nature of this region – especially in terms of its role in the later historical developments of the region. However, the presence of large burial and ritual mounds and the very significant amount of labor needed to construct the khirigsuurs (Mongolian kurgans) found in the research area point to the likely presence of some type of leadership associated with these sites. These sites bring to mind a number of important questions and issues that the project regards as highly interesting and relevant. For example, how can we best define the nature and expression of power at the time of the khirigsuurs? We know from the excavation of other large burial mounds in Mongolia that in some cases, few artifacts accompanied the deceased, reversing the usual association made between the scale of mortuary structures and the amount of prestige goods. Possibly, then, the power of leaders may have been expressed more simply through the impressive scale of his or her tomb and associated structures than by the grave goods displayed and buried at the time of the funeral. We may also be dealing with a system where differential (possibly even hierarchical) social relations were based on the control of nonmaterial resources (such as ritual-based polities) rather than hierarchical social relations based on economic variables. Although not entirely consistent, this is a pattern that is witnessed in other nomadic societies as well. Another possibility is that religious specialists were buried under these large mounds and that the associated rituals were meant to confirm the efficacy of the religious system and position of the specialist rather than honor the achievements or status of a single individual. These monuments could also have been used by relatively egalitarian societies that engaged in seasonal group-oriented ceremonies in order to reaffirm social ties. Regardless, it is clear that communal rituals played an important role in local and supra-local integration. Accordingly, we also wonder about the circumstances that may have permitted or encouraged the development of their complex sociopolitical organization. Here again, a number of possible scenarios exist including one that sees a climatic amelioration leading to increased productivity. In such a scenario, khirigsuurs became centers of territories whose increasingly productive lands needed to be protected and in which leadership was dependent on the ability to manage the defense of the territory. Based on current data from other regions, it also seems possible that climate amelioration (not drought) may have enabled the rapid spread of horse ritual over vast areas of Mongolia. The testing of these models remains an important objective of the project, although much more data must be collected before answers to these and other related questions can be proposed.

Accordingly, for the purposes of our research questions, Züünkhangaï is actually a particularly good region to investigate these questions because it is located in a region that has been identified as possibly playing an important role in the early transfers of domesticated animals (incl. horses). The region also shares much in terms of its monumental landscape with regions farther west and with central Mongolia, but contrary to these other regions has the advantage of having a complete sequence of occupation from the Late Paleolithic to the present day. The research area is also both home to one of the few truly large khirigsuurs (the central mound alone is 10 meters high and some 50 meters in diameter!) and located within the northern extent of the Xiongnu polity – the first nomadic empire in the Eurasian Steppes. This region thus possibly played a crucial role in the early development of societal complexity.

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Ritual structures:

Small stone mounds (aka 'horse head mounds') that contain the heads and extremities of horses surround Late Bronze Age Khirigsuur ritual/mortuary monuments. As one travels east from far western Mongolia, Züünkhantai is the first area where horse head mounds are known to be associated with khirigsuurs. This is in comparison to Bayan Ulgii to the west in the Mongolian Altai where horse head mounds are non-existent or to the Khanuy Valley area of central Mongolia where some large khirigsuurs have over a thousand horse head mounds associated with them. The latter suggests large-scale supra-local social integration through communal rituals. In Züünkhantai, we have both small, medium, and at least one very large khirigsuur in a region, once again, that has often been considered peripheral to later political developments. Are these communal ritual sites, and the complex social interactions they suggest, a lead-up to the formation of the Xiongnu polity? Is there evidence for ritual intensification through time? If so, does ritual intensification parallel community growth and supra-local integration? Datable material from the horse head mounds will help answer the temporal aspect of these questions. Undertaking strontium (Sr87/Sr86), oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$), and carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) isotope analyses on the horses buried at the Züünkhantai ritual sites will help inform us about the extent of regional interaction, i.e. if some of these horses were brought from areas farther afield or if they were all local. To do this, we will excavate horse head mounds to retrieve material for carbon-14 dating as well as mandibular molars from ritually deposited horses for isotopic analyses. Determining where horses from ritual contexts in Züünkhantai originated will help shed light on supra-local interaction.

Habitation sites:

Knowledge of habitation sites is important for many reasons, including the determination of subsistence practices, population estimates, mobility patterns, and territorial behavior. During the last decade, the Project discovered and test-excavated numerous habitation sites in central and western Mongolia that are associated with the abovementioned monumental structures and which provided unprecedented information regarding Late Bronze Age and Iron Age/Xiongnu settlement patterns, subsistence practices, as well as information regarding the demographic and spatial scale of these mobile pastoralist societies. One of the main objectives of our project is thus to excavate habitation sites in our research area in order to better understand the domestic landscape and how it relates to the ritual and mortuary one.

Additional work:

The activities planned for the 2018 field season aim to collect data that can be used to address all of the above issues, but will also include the excavation of some human burials that we believe date to the period associated with the earliest transition to an animal husbandry economy in the region. We will also continue are ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological research and gather geoarchaeological proxy data for climate and environmental reconstructions.

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OVERVIEW OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

All participants should be in good physical condition and be able to adapt to basic living conditions. We will stay in dorm rooms in a school in a local town, use pit toilets, and filter and carry our own water. Survey work requires participants to walk up to 4-6 miles per day, sometimes in moderately difficult terrain such as hill slopes, rocky terrain, and wooded areas. Excavation work at the sites involves carrying equipment to and from the vehicles, working on one's hands and knees, and moving stones and soil in and out of excavation trenches using hands, trowels and shovels. Travel in the vehicles is usually bumpy and uncomfortable (but fun!), and the Mongolian concept of personal space is not as generous as the American. In Mongolia, transportation is, for the most part, just that – transportation. Having said the above, we also emphasize that none of the tasks expected of the participants are particularly strenuous or demand more than limited physical strength.

Mongolia's dry northern climate provides definite advantages in that there are none of the many infectious diseases (such as malaria) that plague tropical countries. The insects are more a nuisance than a danger. In fact, Mongolia is a generally healthy place to travel in. Aside from the usual set of vaccinations recommended for travelers (e.g. tetanus, hepatitis, diphtheria, etc...), participants may wish to be inoculated against rabies. In the unlikely event that someone is bitten or licked by a rabid animal, there is plenty of time to obtain medical care and eliminate the risk of contracting the disease. Wearing hiking boots and long pants helps protect against scratches and other injuries. The most important things that participants must guard against are heat stroke, sunburn and dehydration. Protecting oneself from the sun in a treeless environment can be hard and dehydration/heat stroke is a real concern. This is why participants must drink water regularly (at least one gallon per day), wear sunscreen and appropriate clothes, including a hat. Participants are also encouraged to take breaks whenever they feel it is necessary. Anyone with a phobia to animals or open spaces is of course discouraged to join the project. Sanitary conditions in the 'gers' (Mongolian round houses made of wood and felt, and also known as 'yurts') usually leave much to be desired and those who are averse to sharing drinking cups and eating with their hands (all encountered when socializing with the nomads) should also reconsider their participation, as should anyone who would find it overly disturbing to witness sheep being killed or see uncooked parts of the carcass hanging in the kitchen. Finally, participants need to understand that cultural norms and privacy are somewhat compromised on a trip like this.

Mongolia is known as *The land of blue sky*. In the region where we are working, summers are generally pleasant and dry. However, the weather can suddenly turn quite cold when the wind is blowing from the north. Summer nights are often cold, with temperatures sometimes dropping a bit below freezing. One minute you are wearing a T-shirt and shorts, the next you need a warm sweater, windbreaker and wool cap, then it is back to T-shirts. The wind can sometimes be harsh and although violent storms do occur, rainfall usually tends to be gentle and brief.

Humidity	56%	To	66%
Temperature Range:	30°F/-1°C at night	To	over 68°F/20°C during the day
Altitude	1,750 m	To	2,000 m

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FIELD ACCOMODATIONS:

Participants need to be aware that though we will be living in a local school, very few modern amenities are available in the remote region where the research is being conducted. There may often be no electricity or running water nearby. Although locals drink the water unfiltered, we strongly suggest that all project participants filter their water using their personal filter (see below).

FOOD:

Hired cooks will be responsible for buying and preparing all of the food consumed and cleaning up following meals. The remoteness of the research area, combined with the limitations imposed by the climate, place significant restrictions on the food available locally. A sheep is purchased from the local nomads every day or two, with mutton representing a very substantial part of the project participants' diet. The range of dishes available to participants is relatively limited, with meals consisting of varied combinations of boiled (often fatty) mutton, vegetables (potatoes, onions, beets, and carrots), rice and fried bread. The meals vary little from one another and many of the non-Mongolian participants consider Mongolian food to be monotonous. For this reason, non-Mongolians often choose to season their dishes. Although the project will purchase some spices and condiments (e.g. chili, tomato sauce), participants may also want to bring their own supply of favorite seasonings, which they can add directly to their meal (e.g. curry powder). You are also advised to bring along a selection of lightweight and nutritious foods that you enjoy. These might include, for example, dried fruits or granola bars. Nutella (a chocolate/hazelnut spread) and peanut butter, both of which can be purchased in Ulaanbaatar, are particularly popular among some participants. There is little fiber content in the diet. Tea is available at all meals. Because tea is always salted, some participants may wish to bring their own tea bags. Please also bring your own supply of coffee since we've found that 'public' coffee "disappears" quickly. Participants will also have many opportunities to consume local beverages and foods in nearby gers. It is also advisable for participants to bring daily multi-vitamins.

It is important to point out that special diets cannot be accommodated. All meals are cooked in the same containers and, although vegetarians (of which there have been a few over the past 14 years) are able to leave out the meat when they eat, it is not possible to avoid ingesting meat fat or vegetables that will have some mutton taste. The number of cooking utensils/equipment is limited and participants will have few, if any, opportunities to cook their own meals (although you may wish to bring the army type ready made meals that only need to be boiled). The project also cannot accommodate low fat or low sodium diets.

MEDICAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE:

The following medical conditions (or limitations) would make participation difficult or uncomfortable for participants. Also listed are health hazards that may be encountered in the research area.

- Problems with back, legs, knees or ankles. There is a lot of walking, bending, kneeling, crouching and sitting on the ground.
- Severe arthritis, cardiac problems or high blood pressure.
- Sensitivity to direct sunlight.
- Diabetics should carefully consider their individual medical needs when deciding whether to participate in this project. The project does not have the capacity to carry or store insulin.
- Restricted diet: low sodium, low fat, strict vegetarians, vegans.

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When ill, the potentially serious loss of fluids resulting from vomiting or diarrhea can be alleviated by suppositories, which the participants should consider bringing. Aside from personal medications and other basic supplies (antibacterial wipes/lotion, anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, pain reliever, bandages, foot powder), participants should not forget to bring sunscreen lotion (SPF 30 or higher) and any needed medication if prone to allergies (the project does not carry epinephrine).

Medical care is generally poor in Mongolia and the camp is located far from any decent medical facilities. The project will have a first aid kit. Minor problems will be handled at camp. Anyone suffering from a major medical condition that is not life threatening will be made as stable as possible and then accompanied by an appropriate person to a medical facility in UB (about 20 hours away by vehicle).

No inoculations are required for entry into Mongolia. The following are recommendations only: tetanus, typhoid, and hepatitis A. A rabies inoculation is optional. Malaria is not present at the research site. Health conditions around the world are constantly changing, so keep informed and consult your local travel health clinic or the Center for Disease Control website. Medical decisions are the responsibility of each participant.

Note that Mongolia does not accept US (or other foreign) insurance payments and that you would probably have to pay up front, get a good receipt and settle with your insurance company after you return to your own country. Also note that most insurance companies do not cover medical evacuation. For these reasons, make sure you clarify these issues with your insurance company before leaving. In fact, what project participants typically do (and you are strongly advised to do the same) is get special travel insurance, some of which may cover medical evacuations.

COMMUNICATIONS WHILE IN THE FIELD:

There are no public phones in the local town. However, there was very occasionally Internet access in a local shop in 2015, but not in 2017. For this reason, this is NOT something you should count on as the service may not always work.

WHAT TO BRING:

Do not bring more luggage than you can carry and handle on your own. There is a maximum of two pieces of luggage per person. These would ideally include one backpack and one carry-on piece of luggage that is both soft and sturdy, since the bags may be stuffed into restricted spaces in the vehicle along with other luggage and equipment. Luggage may (no, WILL) become dirty. A number of you will be asked to pack some project equipment (i.e. bags, labels, trowels, etc). When flying, we recommend that you pack a carry-on bag with an extra set of field clothing and personal essentials in the event that your luggage is lost and/or takes several days to catch up with you.

General Considerations/Overview

When deciding what to bring on this 'expedition', please remember that you will not have the opportunity to buy supplies once you are in the field (except perhaps for basic things like soap and snacks at the local settlement). Something else to remember is that the weather is unpredictable (powerful winds and storms sometimes race through the valley), the midday sun is very strong, and temperature fluctuations on any single day are significant (from the low 30's F/-1°C to over 68°F/20°C). **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS!** For these reasons, we ask that you bring a hat and sunscreen for the daytime, warm clothes for the evening and nighttime, and that you carefully select and purchase your own sleeping bag. The project will supply toilet paper (but bring a roll or two of the softer kind), cutlery (utensils and plastic dishes, cups, etc.), and materials to be used in the field (working gloves, compasses, GPS, tape measures, paper, pens and pencils), except for a trowel and a small notebook (which we're asking you to purchase. More about that below).

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It is important to note that electricity may not always be available. Please make sure that you have enough batteries to run the electronic equipment you bring.

You cannot buy Togrog (the Mongolian currency) outside Mongolia. Bring US dollars or Euros (the bills should be unmarked and as recent as possible. Mongolians often reject or give a lower exchange rate for old bills!) and travelers' cheques (in US dollars or Euros), both of which can be changed into Togrog in Ulaanbaatar. ATM cards and credit cards (for some reason MasterCard doesn't always work, but VISA works fine) can also be used in many places in Ulaanbaatar, including banks to obtain cash advances (don't only count on this for money as they might not always work). In almost every place outside Ulaanbaatar (including in the local town we'll be living in), you must use Togrog. There are no ATMs or banks where we will be. It is suggested that you bring with you US\$150-200 in Togrog when you leave Ulaanbaatar for the field. This should be more than sufficient to cover the costs of any extra supplies or treats that you might wish to purchase while in the field, as well as food and treats when traveling to and from the research area. At the local 'stores', it's usually possible to buy candy/chocolate, biscuits and a few other things, although the stores sometimes run out of these completely.

- ❖ Ideas of small gifts to local people include things such as pins, candies, photos, and crayons for kids. Since we'll be living in a school (while students are out of class), things like notebooks and other school supplies would be greatly appreciated.

What to Bring

Required

Bedding

- Sleeping Bag (You should consider a sleeping bag rated to at least 20°F/-7°C). Better warmer than not enough (some have complemented this with a liner). Do not underestimate this. Some nights can (no, WILL) be pretty chilly (even inside the school)!
- Sleeping mat (highly suggested). The beds are pretty hard.

Clothing/Footwear

- Light weight, quick drying, long-sleeved shirts and pants/trousers (although cotton is warm and comfortable, some of you may wish to bring nylon or nylon blend clothing since it is durable and dries faster than cotton).
- Sweater
- Windbreaker (preferably with a fleece liner and a hood) that also acts as raingear (heavy raingear is not necessary)
- Thermal underwear (long johns are a good idea for those cold nights!)
- Woolen gloves (and/or cut off [short finger] gloves for chilly working days)

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- Comfortable hiking boots with good ankle support (lightweight boots are sufficient for the type of walking you will be doing). Make sure to break them in before fieldwork!
- Bathing suit (and optionally bath slippers or sandals for bathing)
- Cap or broad-brimmed hat for protection against the sun
- Knitted (e.g. woolen) hat for protection against the cold

Field Supplies

- Small daypack/rucksack
- Drybag or plastic sealable baggies (good for protecting equipment such as camera or other belongings from dust, humidity, and water)
- Insect repellent
- Water Containers: You should drink at least one gallon (128 ounces) of water per day. We suggest you bring a few Nalgene water bottles, which you can fill directly (after filtering of course) from the water in the large plastic containers the project will supply. Some participants may wish to bring and carry with them a 'camelback' or 'fannypack' water container.
- Personal water filtration system. Although there are different brands out there, the *Katadyn Hiker Pro* is a good one that some of us have used in the past. We suggest you bring a replacement filter, since they do clog up after some time. You may wish to buy and share your filter with someone else on the project as these are not cheap – but ESSENTIAL! No need for filters that filter down to virus size.
- Pocket knife or other pocket multi-tool (such as a Leatherman). Important: Place this kind of tool/equipment in your checked luggage, not your carry-on (otherwise, it will be confiscated).
- An archaeological trowel (the Marshalltown brand or equivalent is required – we highly suggest the 45-5 model; other brands break too easily) and a small personal notebook. In the USA, you can easily purchase your trowel at: www.marshalltown.com (under 'Archaeology')

Personal Supplies

- Personal toiletries (please bring biodegradable soaps that can be used for both washing clothes and oneself)
- Antibacterial wipes or lotion (good for “washing” while in the field). 'Baby wipes' have proven useful.
- Personal first aid kit (anti-diarrhea pills, broad-spectrum antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, pain reliever, bandages, moleskin, suppositories, foot powder, etc.)
- Sunscreen lotion with SPF 30 or higher (it is essential that you protect yourself against the harsh sun during the day)
- Personal flashlight/torch

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- Batteries (a sufficient number to keep your camera, camcorder and other equipment running for the entire field season)
- Solar charger (for recharging your ipod, MP3 player, camera, etc.)
- Duct tape (always handy!)
- A small alarm clock (you are responsible for getting yourselves up in the morning and be ready for the workday).

Recommended but not essential

- Higher quality toilet paper (than what the project will supply)
- Drinking cup (although I can't promise it won't end up in the shuffle and be used by others)
- Knee pads (for excavation)
- A few pairs of working gloves (the project supplies those but they tend to be too small for people with very large hands)
- Face mask/bandana that covers the mouth (to protect against the sometimes abundant dust carried by the wind or associated with the process of excavation).
- Mongolian phrase book.
- Hat with chin tie (to keep the hat from blowing away in the wind).
- Thin super absorbent 'chamois type' towel that dries quickly.
- Sunglasses
- Lip balm
- Camera, Camcorder, film, Memory cards
- CD, iPod, MP3 player
- Binoculars
- Spices, snack food, multivitamins

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Deadlines:

Application deadline	February 28, 2018
\$500 contribution deposit	Due once accepted on the project (this guarantees your place)
Final contribution: \$1600	Due by April 15, 2018

Cancellation:

If you are accepted and you withdraw more than 45 days before the beginning of the field season, 50% of your deposit will be refunded. If you withdraw after 45 days before the beginning of the project, no refund will be made. If the project is cancelled, your complete contribution will be refunded.

Passports:

If you do not have a passport, begin applying immediately – it can be a lengthy process. If you have a passport, make sure it is valid for at least six months beyond the end date of the program; if it is not, you should begin the renewal process immediately. US citizens do not need a Visa for visiting Mongolia for less than 90 days, but you do need to register with the local “*Office of Immigration, Naturalization and Foreign Citizens*” if you stay over 30 days. The Project organizers can assist you with this. For other nationalities, please visit the following website (some other countries need not have a visa for stays under 30 or 90 days) – <http://mongolianembassy.us/visafreecountries/#.WBSuyMloHf0>. However, if you are traveling through another country before entering Mongolia (e.g. China), then you will need a visa from that country (unless you are just transiting through there). Make sure you allow enough time for visa processing. We can provide information regarding these procedures (Information regarding Passport and Visa preparation for Americans can be found at the following address: <http://www.passportvisasexpress.com>). We can also provide some information and help for non-US participants.

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**WESTERN MONGOLIA ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT
- APPLICATION 2018 -**

Date of Application _____

I. Session Dates – May 26 to June 23, 2018.

II. Applicant Information

Male Female

Your name *Last* *First* *Middle*

Permanent Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell

Email (*We communicate essentially by email; please indicate if you prefer to be contacted via the phone.*)

Citizenship

Date of Birth (*month/day/year*) Place of Birth (*city, state, country*)

Passport Number Place of Issue Expiration Date
(Please include a copy of the two front pages of your passport)

Name of Home College or University (if applicable)

Major(s) Minor(s)

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Who should be notified in case of emergency?

Name	Address	
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work	Cell
Fax	Email	

Relationship to you

III. Reference (please provide one academic or professional reference)

Name

Affiliation

Address

City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work	Cell
Fax	Email	

Relationship to you

How did you hear about this Project?

IV. Statement of Interest

This statement should include a brief description of **your interest in this project**, and what **experience** you have had that might be helpful on this project. Please list all educational or professional background that is pertinent. Note, however, that participants need not have any special training or experience. Also, please briefly tell us about **any previous foreign travel**, which countries you have visited, when and how long.

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V. Medical conditions

Medical treatment will not be equal to the norm in the US. Please be sure to list all special medical conditions you may have. You must bring any prescription or over the counter medications that you require.

LIST ANY MEDICAL CONDITION THAT YOU HAVE OR HAVE HAD IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Blood Type _____ Special Diet or Foods _____

If your dietary requirements are different than noted in the information provided on the Project Overview associated with this application, you should plan on bringing any required (or desired) foods.

Check any of the following that are applicable:

Diabetes _____ Epilepsy _____ Allergies _____

(Other) _____

Other health concerns, such as bad back, trick knee, etc. (give details) _____

Loss of Consciousness (explain and give date(s)) _____

Any other pertinent information:

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VI. Conditions

I have read the Project Overview, and have read all and/or agree to read all other materials sent to and received by me about the program for which I am applying, and feel informed.

As a team member (hereafter Participant) of the Western Mongolia Archaeology Project, I will adhere to the regulations and maintain a standard of good conduct. The director of the expedition (hereafter Director) reserves the right to require a Participant to withdraw at any time if conduct or behavior jeopardizes the welfare of any participant or the fulfillment of the objectives of the project. Additional travel costs due to early dismissal will be the entire responsibility of the Participant. It is understood that the Participant will assume all responsibilities, financially or otherwise, for any illness or injury which might occur during the expedition. Emergency transport, medical or hospitalization costs resulting from illness or accident during the expedition are the responsibility of the Participant receiving such care. In cases where the Director, in consultation with the Participant and local medical authorities, considers it necessary, a Participant will be sent home or hospitalized. The Director will make every effort to ensure that an ill or injured volunteer receives proper medical attention. The Participant is aware that while taking part in this project, certain exposure to risks may occur. Exposure may include but not be limited to: accident and/or sickness without readily available medical facilities, the forces of nature, travel on the ground and in the air, and others. In consideration of the right for the Participant to engage in this project, he or she assumes all of the risks involved and agrees to indemnify and hold the Director of the project and his Associations harmless for any and all liability that may arise in connection with travel to and from the archeological site, to any of the excursions, and while engaged in any archaeological or other activities.

I have read and fully understand and accept the conditions for participating in this archaeological expedition. I declare that all information provided in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature_____

Print name_____ Date_____

Please return your completed application to:

Dr. Jean-Luc Houle
Assistant Professor
Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #61029
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1029