

Who was on the Black Sea MAP expedition?

Joe
Chappell -
Sixth-form STEM
scholar



Why did you apply to be involved in Black Sea MAP?

My teacher had suggested that I and some others should apply based on our interests. I had always had an interest in STEM and archaeology but didn't really know anything about maritime archaeology and how that related to either. I decided to apply and find out while taking the chance to learn some new skills.

What did your role involve as a Black Sea MAP STEM Scholar?

I worked on board the Stril Explorer on the Black Sea helping with the core sampling and cataloguing. While there I learned about the project's ROV operation and during the training week I learned a host of new things like how to interpret the different data types and analyse a core sample. I completed a Gold Crest Award based on my own research.



Which skills did you use or improve?

I used and learnt a variety of skills during my time with Black Sea MAP including critical thinking, data interpretation, project writing, time management, project management, initiative, quick thinking, core analysis, data analysis, as well as many more skills.

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What was a highlight for you during Black Sea MAP?

My personal highlight from the project was being able to work with and alongside experts in the field during a large-scale project and feeling like I actually contributed. We weren't treated like tourists interfering in their work but were able to help, which is what made it so enjoyable.

Which subjects did you study at school?

Biology, History and English Literature and Language.

What are you doing now/hope to do next?

Currently I am studying BA (Hons) Archaeology at the University of Winchester with hopes of pursuing archaeology as a career.

Were there any specific influences or motivations that led you to that job idea?

The Black Sea MAP was a huge influence on my decision to pursue archaeology as it showed me what it could be like and how much I enjoyed it.

What advice would you give a younger student?

If you don't know what you want to do in the future, try to find something that involves or combines all your interests. If you have something you love and are passionate about, pursue it. The easiest answer isn't always the best so take some risks because they just might pay off, I took a risk in taking archaeology at university having never formally studied it and it was the greatest decision I ever made.