



DIGITALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

OF THE UNESCO AL-CHIBAYISH
MARSHES WORLD HERITAGE

fall-winter 25

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THE TASK OF **DIGITALIZING TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE**

OVERVIEW

The DAAD-funded project “Digitisation of Cultural Heritage” under the umbrella with German UNESCO commission focuses on preserving and revitalising cultural heritage in crisis-affected MENA regions.

Time, erosion, and political conflict threaten many sites, making digital conservation and reconstruction essential. Beyond safeguarding history, the project aims to strengthen tourism and knowledge transfer by exploring how digital technologies, such as 3D reconstruction, virtual experiences, and mobile applications can make inaccessible sites virtually tangible and attract younger audiences.

Researchers and students from Germany collaborate with local partners on real-world projects, fostering innovation and sustainable regional development.

YOUR TASK

In teamwork you will digitalize tangible and intangible cultural heritage of UNESCO Al-Chibayish Marshes and build a portal for public use and for the external partners benefit (see list right hand)

PROJECT PLATFORM: www.pih.education

UNESCO SDG GOALS: <https://www.unesco.org/en/sdgs>



IN COLLABORATION WITH

German UNESCO Commission

Nature ORG, Iraq

Al-Jbayish Environmental Tourism
Organization, Iraq

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OUR PROJECT SUPPORTS NR. 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17



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SYLABUS, SCHEDULE

This course will be organized by Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences www.th-brandenburg.de

Students will achieve 6 ECTs certificate of participation by successful submission of final presentation.

COURSE TOPICS

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Photogrammetry Workflows

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App- and Web Development

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3D Modelling

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Content Creation, scientific research

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Audio / Video / Photography

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Storytelling

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our initiative employs cutting-edge 3D scanning, photogrammetry, multispectral drone mapping, and community-based documentation to preserve the marshes' tangible and intangible heritage with urgency. Unlike traditional conservation, digital archiving ensures that even if physical landscapes or cultural practices disappear, their legacy remains accessible for restoration, research, and education. Building on a successful pilot study where we digitized a sample area, optimized workflows, and determined technical challenges, this project will expand efforts to preserve a strategically selected portion of the marshlands and will focus on high-priority zones, capturing:

1. Precise 3D models of waterways, reed-built architecture, and archaeological sites vulnerable to degradation.
2. Endangered biodiversity, including endemic species and sacred water buffalo herds, is central to the marsh's identity.
3. Vanishing intangible practices, from traditional boat-building to oral poetry and water management systems developed over 5,000 years.

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SCHEDULE WINTER TERM 25/26

1.

Preparation

- 1) Project Briefing
7th November 11:00 am
- 2) Working yourself into the technology with your local lecturers

We prepared an online Moodle-Course for you.

Please make sure to enroll before the start of the project but latest by 31st Oct. 2025. All submissions, materials etc. will be coordinated from there, please already enroll into our system:
<https://extmoodle.th-brandenburg.de/course/view.php?id=211>

2.

Project Week **IRAQ** 19th-24th November

Realisation
Scanning Al-Chibayish Marshes
Material collection, filming
Field Studies

1st Interim Presentation
23rd November in Thi-Qar

3.

Project Week **GERMANY** 17th-22nd December

Field studies in Brandenburg Havel
Scanning of heritage items
Working at THB campus
Conceptual Work

2nd Interim Presentation
21st December in Brandenburg
Final Submission
6. Feb. 2026 / online

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SCHEDULE PROJEKT WEEK IRAQ

Tue 18th Nov

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Departure Flights for German Team

Pegasus Airlines via
Istanbul

Wed. 19th Nov

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Arrival German Delegation after midnight in Baghdad

Lunch with MoHESR (tbc)
Baghdad City Tour

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16:30
Transfer to Nasiriyya

Thu. 20th Nov

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Welcome Reception

10:00 Thi-Qar
University

11:00 **Workshops**

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15:00 visiting **Ur**

Joint Dinner Nasiriyya

Fri. 21st Nov

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Tour 01 to Marshlands

Visiting External
Partners, Boat Tour
Museum, Nature ORG
Office

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YOUR TASK IN IRAQ

On our 2nd Workshop in
Iraq you will work in the
Marshlands and be able to
do research on the spot,
make movies, digitalize
and talk to people on the
spot.

Final Presentation

6th February

online

> Each Team presents its
outcome

> Presentation of final
Result / Application

Sat. 22nd Nov

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Tour 02 Marshlands

Digitalization of
tangible and intangible
cultural Heritage

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Sun. 23rd Nov

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INTERIM PRESENTATION

Lunch

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15:00
Departure
Nasiriyya > Babylon

Mon. 24th Nov

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Visit of University of Babylon

with Team of
Prof. Dr. Ula Merie

Afternoon:

Visiting Historical Site
of Babylon

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**TRANSFER TO
AIRPORT**

Tue 25th Nov

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Arrival in Germany for German Team

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SCHEDULE PROJEKT WEEK GERMANY

Wed 17th Dec

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Travel day

Individual Arrial in
Germany, BER-Airport

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Hotel:

**Pension Gerono,
City Hotel** in
Brandenburg City

Thu 18th Dec

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Welcome @THB

10:00-12:00
Introduction, Round Tour

Lunch

13:00-14:00

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Student Workshop

with Oliver Karaschewski

Profs Conference

with Julia Schnitzer

Fr 19th Dec

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Workshop @THB

Workshop
10:00 - 12:30

Student Workshop

with Oliver Karaschewski

Profs Conference

with Julia Schnitzer

Brandenburg

YOUR TASK IN GERMANY

On our first Workshop in Brandenburg you will work on your concepts and build teams to cover the multiple tasks that come with digitalizing tanginble and intangible cultural heritage of the Marshlands.

In parallel you will learn about digitalization workflows and get an introduction into the professional work with the FARO Scanner technology.

At the end of the workshop you will present your outcomes to the audience of the professors in a small public presentation.

- > Presentation of Concept
- > Presentation of Outcome FARO Workshop Brandenburg

Sat 20th Dec

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Berlin Tour

Meeting 12:00 noon
at Berlin Main Station

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Walking Tour with
Julia Schnitzer

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Afternoon: free time and
preparing presentation

Sun 21st Dec

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Student Presentation

Presentation of Results
and Concepts

with Dr. Basim
Mahmood and Dr.
Zohair Al Ameen

Mon 22nd Dec

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Individual Departure

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CHECKLIST for departure to Germany

You will be experiencing pre-Christmas time in Germany and the longest and coldest nights of the year. Please make sure that you bring clothing accordingly to the climate and make sure to pack the following items:

- ✓ Warm shoes that isolate you against a cold ground
- ✓ Hat, Gloves, Scarf. You will be outside too!
- ✓ Lined Jacket or Coat that is wind- and rain resistant
- ✓ Pyjama to stay warm also under your bedsheets
- ✓ Slippers for cool hotel floors

BUDGET PLANNING GERMANY

We recommend a daily budget of pocket money of **25 Euro / per day for food if you eat on a basic level (supermarket, Streetfood)**

Single Train Ride to Berlin / Airport or similar is 8 Euro

Contact persons

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Project Webpage

www.pih.education