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# Students dig the summer in Spain

STUDENTS from Queen's University set out this month to take part in an archaeological dig in Spain.

Leaving behind the unpredictable summer for the Mediterranean sun, three Northern Irish students will join a team of Spanish archaeologists and international archaeology students to spend a month excavating the site of an ancient settlement.

Throughout the month, Rachel Moffitt from Omagh, Mark McCorry from Dromara and Garth Stewart from Belfast will take part in the dig of a 5th Century BC settlement of Pintia in Valladolid in central Spain, to unearth a Celtic-Iron Age necropolis/burial ground.

Their tasks will include the excavation and mapping of the site, extracting and cataloguing artefacts, photography and preparation for an exhibition. In addition to

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the excavation and lab work, there will be a number of seminars and workshops related to the fieldwork.

The trip has been organised by ArchaeoSpain, an educational archaeological organisation.

ArchaeoSpain teams consist of between six and 10 participants from around the world who join local crews of ten to 20 or more people. Over the past few years, previous teams have uncovered around 100 burials, most of them belonging to warriors and featuring a bounty of war-related artefacts.

Research in this area of the site is helping investigators understand better the social organisation of these pre-Roman peoples.