

# B — S — R

## BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME

### Undergraduate Ancient Rome Summer School

Friday 1 – Wednesday 13 September 2023

#### Course information

This intensive twelve-day programme of visits to the sites, monuments and museums of ancient Rome and its vicinity is accompanied by experts in the field and integrated with a series of evening lectures. It provides a stimulating introduction to the topography of the city, its architecture and art, the latest discoveries and new developments in archaeological approaches.

Although no specialised knowledge is assumed, the course is ideal for undergraduates in Classics, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and related subjects. Students who will have finished their degree by September 2023 are not eligible. If it is over-subscribed, precedence will normally be given to students about to enter their final year of undergraduate study.

Please note that the arrival date is Friday 1 September and the departure date is Wednesday 13 September 2023

See [www.bsr.ac.uk](http://www.bsr.ac.uk) for more information about the course and the BSR.

#### Cost and accommodation

The cost of the course is €1400 for a single room or €1275 for a shared room be paid by international bank transfer and covers:

- Accommodation at the BSR
- All meals (except Saturday dinners and Sunday lunches)
- Local transport, excursions and entrance fees

Rooms will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

This fee does not include the cost of travel to Rome, for which participants must make their own arrangements, in addition to providing their own travel insurance. A refund less a €100

administration fee will be given to students who notify us of withdrawal 30 days before the beginning of the course. No refund will be made for withdrawals after this date.

We strongly recommend that students explore the possibility of having cancellation cover as part of their travel insurance policy.

## How to apply

Applications should be emailed to: [segretaria@bsrome.it](mailto:segretaria@bsrome.it)

The selection of participants will be made by the Course Director in consultation with the BSR on the basis of merit.

Your application must include:

1. a cover letter detailing your interest in Rome, explaining why you wish to participate in the Summer School and what you hope to gain from it
2. an academic curriculum vitae with your contact details (telephone and email) and details of University courses/modules undertaken with results
3. one letter of academic reference (referees should email references directly to [segretaria@bsrome.it](mailto:segretaria@bsrome.it) References must be received by the closing date and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this)
4. an essay on any subject relating to the Classical world. It must be an original work, not exceeding 10,000 words, and including footnotes or endnotes and a full bibliography. The Gladstone Memorial Trust offers a prize worth £300 towards the cost of a place on the Summer School to the student who writes the best essay. Essays will be judged by members of the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters of the British School at Rome.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 April 2023**

Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted for the course by early June.

Bursaries are available in cases of particular financial need. Applicants should submit a statement of their financial circumstances together with their course application (one page of A4 maximum, detailing annual income and expenditure and the reason for applying). The referee's letter should confirm the need and that all appropriate applications for assistance have been made to the home university.

*The British School at Rome gratefully acknowledges the support of the Cambridge Classics Faculty, the Craven Committee of the Faculty of Classics, Oxford University, the Gladstone Memorial Trust and the Society for Promotion of Roman Studies.*

## Course Report 2022

The 2022 BSR Ancient Rome Summer School ran from 1-13 September and was directed by Ed Bispham (Brasenose College Oxford) and Robert Coates-Stephens (Cary Fellow, BSR). Stefania Peterlini oversaw administrative matters, including site permits, and the hostel arrangements were in the hands of Christine Martin. Although the BSR has succeeded in running the course throughout the pandemic, this year was the first since 2019 that marked a full return to normality, with an end to quarantine, covid testing, vaccine passports and reduced room capacity. Thirteen students attended, from the universities of Cambridge, Exeter, Glasgow, Oxford, St. Andrews, and University College London. Most were classicists, some with experience of archaeological field work, and there was a sprinkling of students following joint honours in modern and ancient history, as well as an art historian. The Gladstone prize was awarded to Qibei Chen, of St. Andrews. As in past years, the course received generous financial assistance from the Roman Society, the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge, the Craven Committee and the Gladstone Memorial Trust.

As in previous years, a thematic approach was adopted. This method has proved most successful for introducing students – especially those who, as this year, are generally more familiar with the texts than the material evidence – to the complexities and richness of the city of Rome. The approach focuses on the social, economic, political and religious activities which constituted life and death in the ancient city: ‘themed’ days included the Tiber and Provisioning Rome, Politics and the Forum Romanum, War and the Triumph, Leisure and Entertainment, Roads and Cemeteries, and the Transformations of Late Antiquity (please see the attached programme). The format proved as stimulating as ever for this year’s students, as we learned from their feedback forms: “I feel my awareness of the city as a compact and interacting vessel of Roman history was broadened by the structure of the course”. “The themed days were structured in such a way that we were guided through the history and archaeology of Rome with the big picture in mind”. In short, “The combination of the literary, historical, and archaeological aspects painted a visceral picture of the ancient world and allowed us to truly become immersed in everything that Rome had to offer”.

Site visits form the basis of the teaching, and Stefania’s charm and efficiency in obtaining permits enabled us to offer a remarkably full programme. Already last year a number of special entrance sites managed by Zetema had reopened (Tomb of the Scipios, Auditorium of Maecenas, Monte Testaccio), and the situation continues to improve, with the House of

Augustus and Loggia Mattei on the Palatine, the Forum Antiquarium, and the Parco di Ostia's Roman Ships Museum now accessible again. The houses beneath SS Giovanni e Paolo returned to view, and the course also coincided with the special exhibition of second-century frescos from the domus beneath the Baths of Caracalla. Colleagues within the archaeological administrations were extremely cooperative, and we were able to visit the Domus Aurea at our leisure, and received a magisterial tour of the excavations at S. Omobono from Monica Ceci (*Roma Capitale*). Such a rich programme met with considerable approval: "The variety of sites visited was fantastic and I feel that they provided us with an excellent overview of the city and its past". As many as nine of the city's museums were visited as a group, with the recommendation to take in Palazzo Massimo and/or the Vatican on days off: "I like how we ended the day by visiting museums because I got to see the exhibitions at my own pace". Notwithstanding the allure of special permits, some generally accessible attractions, such as the unspoilt hill town of Tivoli, proved hard to beat: "Visiting Tivoli and Hadrian's Villa was an amazing final day and such a special end to the course". "On a week day it was pleasantly uncrowded and probably my favourite day of the trip".

The ten lectures given by the course directors served to introduce the following day's itinerary and provide background on such topics as Roman construction and decor, affording an opportunity to explore the BSR's collection of coloured marble samples assembled by John Ward-Perkins and Amanda Claridge. Having experienced up to two years of on-line lectures during the pandemic, students found this component of the course especially welcome: "The lectures were very engaging, probably some of the best lectures I've been to! I've enjoyed learning more about general architectural features and techniques for identifying buildings which I was quite unfamiliar with. Have gained a new appreciation for concrete!". "I found it extremely beneficial to have the lectures on the topic the night prior to in order to get the most out of the following day". And: "The lectures helped to cement everything I learnt". The group was particularly responsive, and enjoyed debate: "the ability to ask questions as we went along was invaluable". "There were often academic discussions surrounding a building or monument we were looking at, which was very exciting".

An important foundation for the course's success is the efficiency and friendliness of the BSR staff, as the students themselves were eager to stress: "The BSR has such a community feel about it, and we were all welcomed with open arms". Meals at the School were much appreciated (packed lunches less so): "Breakfasts were to die for (I will miss the morning pastries) and the staff around the School were always helpful and super friendly". The physical intensity of the itineraries was remarked on, but apart from the heat and some soggy sandwich

fillings, *niente di grave*. In short, “Staying at the School was fantastic – high quality accommodation and food, lovely staff, and felt very welcomed (and treated as adults!)”. What made this year’s course such a pleasure for the course directors too was the enthusiasm and good nature of the participants, who integrated so well with each other and also with the BSR community. The Summer School aims above all to consolidate what has been studied so far and to offer inspiration and ideas for future study. The students’ comments suggest that this year we succeeded: “The course helped me with placing the things I’ve learned in my course in perspective and understanding the city of Rome as a real, living place”. “I truly feel as though I have learnt more about the city of Rome in these two weeks than I have in my entire degree”. “Incredibly grateful for this entire experience! Has been really transformative and valuable for me, as well as hugely enjoyable”. The BSR, in short, proved the ideal setting in which to rekindle scholarly motivation in the company of like-minded colleagues: “I feel that I have not only met friends that I will keep for life, but that my experience at the BSR has significantly changed the direction of my life and has reminded me, a weary fourth year, why I love the ancient world so much”.

Robert Coates-Stephens

### Sample course itinerary

#### Day 1

Students arrive – orientation meetings (course outline, administration etc)

#### Day 2: THE TIBER

Leave 8.30

Forum Boarium: Temples of Hercules & Portunus / Area Sacra of S. Omobono / ‘Arch of Janus’ / Arch of the Argentarii / S. Maria in Cosmedin & crypt (Ara Maxima of Hercules?) / ‘Porticus Aemilia’ / Monte Testaccio / Tiber

18.30 Lecture: “The Fora” (Ed Bispham)

#### Day 3: FORUM ROMANUM

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Comitium, Rostra, Atrium Vestae, Regia, Temples of Concord, Vespasian, Saturn, Castor, Divus Julius, Basilicas Aemilia and Julia / Capitoline Museums & Tabularium

18.30 Lecture: “Principes” (Ed Bispham)

#### Day 4: PRINCEPS, DOMVS AND RES PVBLICA

Leave 8.30

Forum of Augustus / Palatine: Domus Flavia, Antiquarium / Houses of Livia and Augustus / Museum of the Imperial Fora & Markets of Trajan / Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius / Ara Pacis / Mausoleum of Augustus

18.30 Lecture: "The Triumph" (Ed Bispham)

Day 5: THE TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLIC

Leave 8.30

Pantheon / Area Sacra of Largo Argentina / Theatre of Pompey / Porticus of Octavia / Three Temples of Forum Holitorium / Temples of Apollo Sosianus & Bellona / Theatre of Marcellus / Circus Maximus & new excavations / Meta Sudans / Arch of Constantine / Forum Romanum, Via Sacra: Arches of Titus, Augustus and Septimius Severus / Mamertine Prison

18.30 Lecture: "Materials in Construction and Decoration" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 6: FREE DAY

18.30 Lecture: "Death, Burial and Afterlife" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 7: CITIES OF THE DEAD AND LIVING

Leave 8.20

Via Appia Antica: Tomb of Caecilia Metella, Circus of Maxentius and Mausoleum of Romulus / Aurelian Walls & Porta Appia / Tomb of the Scipios / Porta Maggiore & Tomb of Eurysaces / Nymphaeum of Alexander Severus (overview) / Arch of Gallienus (Porta Esquilina) / Clivus Suburanus

18.30 Lecture: "Panis et Circenses" (Ed Bispham)

Day 8: PANIS ET CIRCENSES

Leave 7.30

Colosseum / Baths of Caracalla

FREE AFTERNOON (you may wish to visit a museum or catacomb)

18.30 Lecture: "Horti Romani" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 9: HORTI ROMANI

Leave 8.30

Domus Aurea / Auditorium of Maecenas / Servian Walls at Termini / Montemartini Museum, Via Ostiense

18.30 Lecture: "Introduction to Roman Ostia" (Ed Bispham/Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 10: FEEDING ROME: OSTIA

Coach leaves 8.40

Ostia Antica

Isola Sacra necropolis

18.30 Lecture: "Rome in Late Antiquity" (Robert Coates-Stephens)

Day 11: TRANSFORMATION

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Temple of Venus and Rome, Basilica of Maxentius, 'Temple of Romulus' and SS. Cosma & Damiano / S. Clemente / Arch of Dolabella / Temple of Claudius / domus under SS. Giovanni & Paolo / Crypta Balbi Museum / S. Maria in Trastevere

Day 12: HINTERLAND

Coach leaves 8.40

Villa of Hadrian

Tivoli

No lecture

Day 13: COURSE ENDS