

# Postgraduate Course Roman Epigraphy

Wednesday 1 July - Saturday 11 July 2026

## Course information

The next biennial taught course in Roman Epigraphy will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026. Based at the British School at Rome, this taught course offers a ten-day introduction to the scholarship, editorial practice, and publication of epigraphic materials from a variety of different approaches. The course's aim, intended for postgraduate scholars of ancient history, archaeology, museum studies and the classics, is to provide training and practical experience in epigraphy as a source. The course will examine the numerous contexts in which epigraphy is presented (*in situ*, museums, archives and in published formats (e.g., reference works and online databases) and explore the process of editing and publishing epigraphic materials. The use of digital resources, catalogues, and the process of publishing texts in these formats will be addressed in lectures and interaction with the *CIL* (volume 6) archives at La Sapienza with Silvia Orlandi. Evening lectures by international scholars in the field allow participants to examine epigraphic topics and ongoing research projects.

The course, which divides epigraphic materials into themes of a technical and cultural, consists of daily lectures, museum visits, epigraphic *ambulatio* through the city of Rome as well as research sessions at the British School's library and a trip to Ostia. Museum and site visits will include gallery lectures by curators and special permits to collections that are not open to the public.

Workshops at a series of different sites will develop skills in creating practical study materials such as drawings, rubbings, squeezes, and photographs of inscriptions. A component of this will be on epigraphic journal, which will be used to record one's work at each stage of the research process. Participants will also have an opportunity to further their own research in an independent project (a specific area of his/her epigraphic research) which will be developed during the course and presented in a short paper on the final day.

## The BSR

The British School at Rome is Britain's leading humanities research institution overseas and is an ideal base for postgraduate study of Roman Epigraphy.

## Cost and accommodation

The *estimated* course cost is €1400

This includes:

- membership to the British School at Rome
- 24/7 access to the library
- all in-course travel and site fees
- accommodation in a shared room at the BSR. A limited number of single rooms at €1700 is also available on a first come-first serve basis.
- Breakfast (every morning) and dinner (Monday through Friday)
- classroom for the course
- entrance and special permits to sites in and around Rome.
- supplies for rubbings
- support from the course director

**Please note that the cost of the course does not include the student's travel to or from Rome, insurance or Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch, or any other costs arising from your personal research project.**

*Students are strongly encouraged to seek funding from their own institutions.*

## **How to Apply**

Applicants will be accepted on the basis of merit and suitability for the course. The selection of participating students will be made by the course director in consultation with the BSR. Please note that this course is physically demanding with hours of walking in (at times) intemperate heat, students are expected to prepare accordingly.

A prospective student's application must include:

- A cover letter with details of his/her current course and a consideration of how the BSR Postgraduate Epigraphy Course will contribute to the current/future studies, outlining the reasons for application
- A curriculum vitae
- A 350-word summary of a proposed topic for an independent research project during the course
- One letter of reference from his/her current institution
- A second reference may be provided by a current institution, a former employer or a former supervisor (for first year MA students or Ph.D students at a 'new' institution). Referees may email references directly to [Abigail.graham@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Abigail.graham@sas.ac.uk)

Please email any further queries to the course coordinator Dr. Abigail Graham  
[Abigail.graham@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Abigail.graham@sas.ac.uk)

## **Deadline for applications: 31 January 2026**

(It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that references are received by the deadline.)  
Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted by the end of February.

## **Course Report for BSR Postgraduate Course in Epigraphy 2024**

The 2024 BSR Postgraduate Course in Epigraphy (June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>), a 10-day immersive course based at the British School at Rome, has yet again, run with success. This 7<sup>th</sup> course hosted a dozen participants from eight countries and four continents. PhD students and recent graduates with a broad range of historical, archaeological, economic, linguistic, artistic and didactic interests: inscribed poetry, Flavian leadership and literature, Roman brick stamps and plaster, women, archives and publication of inscriptions, the role of a visual framework in writing, lettering and dating in early Republican dedications, fascist reflections of ancient monuments, fire in religion, and the evidence of alumna in epitaphs. The BSR is a wonderful host with excellent facilities and resources, and the high quality of staff makes the course a welcoming, well-organised and unique experience.

The curation and cost of Roman sites are subject to change, so budgeting for site entry cost remains a challenge. The BSR's connections and permit access (Stefania Peterlini) have been invaluable and as a result, we were able to visit many sites and museums at reduced rates, such as the Capitoline museums, Vatican museums, Ostia Antica, and the Forum Romanum, Caecilia Metella Museum as well as the Tomb of the Scipios, the Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas, and the Catacombs of San Sebastiano. We also visited new epigraphic collections, such as the *Forma Urbis* Museum and Parco Celio. These visits offered unique opportunities to engage with the text & contexts of inscriptions and to compare museum displays and reconstructions with original sites and texts. Some days we clocked 20+km, but participants remained wonderfully resilient and enthusiastic.

Activities included tours by curators as well as entry to the Galleria Lapidaria at the Vatican Museums and Ostia Antica. Profssa. Silvia Orlandi welcomed us at La Sapienza University, for a tour of the *CIL* Archives and offered participants a rare opportunity to collaborate in producing editions of unpublished materials. Profssas. Caterina Papi and Francesca Bigi gave a tour of the new museum and epigraphic collections for the *Forma Urbis* and Parco Celio. Valentina Follo hosted rubbing sessions at the American Academy, where we had a special reception with the AAR Archaeology summer course run by Prof. Evan Jewell (2014 BSR PCE) and Dr. Chris Erdmann, a current AAR Rome award (2021 BSR PCE). Chris also came to the BSR to give an evening paper. These events illustrate how the course operates in the longer term, increasing networks of engagement and interaction for participants, institutions & researchers. At the BSR, we also engaged with BSR scholars (Alessandra Tafaro) and attended the opening night of

Antonio Palmieri's photograph exhibition on "10 years at the BSR." Finally, our "Wine, Cheese and Squeeze" event with resident artists offered hands-on engagement with inscriptions in the BSR courtyard.

Course feedback (cf. testimonials below) illustrates how participants benefitted, developing practical skills, collaborating in ongoing research projects and forging lasting relationships with a group of international postgraduates and scholars. Their final presentations were an excellent reminder of how important a hands-on approach to inscriptions can be, as well as the value of a group dynamic. One recurring comment was that the course could be a day longer; something we will try to accommodate in the future. The BSR offers the only English-based postgraduate course of this kind in Rome. After 12 years it has become an invaluable resource and a catalyst in research & collaboration with a considerable cross-field impact: a trend we hope to continue (the next course is planned for 2026!).

**Abigail Graham    Course Founder and Coordinator (2012- present)**

### **Testimonials**

- *This course was a beautiful experience, exciting and enriching, from visits to museums to ancient sites.*
- *The course is absolutely amazing. Abigail so thoughtfully took everyone's research interests into account in the syllabus and visits to major sites and museums.*
- *The timetable was ambitious but exciting and well-paced... the content was fantastic and I appreciated Abigail's forethought in establishing relationships with curators and academics, encouraging return visits.*
- *The course really opened some interesting angles for my research. I was able to build my presentation into my ongoing research, where I will be able to apply the approaches taught in the course.*
- *Presentations were also an excellent opportunity for us to learn about each other's research and bond together.*
- *The BSR, its library and staff were fantastic.*

### **BSR Taught Course in Epigraphy 2024 Programme\***

\*Programmes often follow a similar format but site visits and engagements with curators are subject to availability: courses try to cater to the research interests of the participants. We cannot guarantee visits to specific sites but if there are sites you would like to visit for research, please note these in the application.

#### **Day 1 Thursday June 27th (Arrival)**

**2.30 pm Epigraphic Ambulatio and Gelato Flaminio**

**4.30 Library Tour**

**6.45pm Evening Paper: *Lost in Translation?* The Journey from Text to Monument AG**

#### **Day 2 (Fri. June 28<sup>th</sup>): Crash course in Epigraphy& Methodology: Museo Epigrafico (Terme di Diocleziano)**

**10 am Museum: Intro w. Carlotta Carusso.**

**1.30 PM: Drawings in Museo Cortile with Carlotta \***

**4pm Meet Silva Orlandi for Gelato and CIL Archives.**

**7.30 Dinner.\* Unless otherwise stated all dinners @ BSR @ 7.30.**

#### **Day 3 (Sat. June 29th): Inscriptions in Different Contexts: Forum Romanum and the Capitoline Museum.**

**9.30: PERMIT FOR ENTRY TO FORUM ROMANUM**

**11.00 PERMIT: FOR THE CAPITOLINE MUSEUM from 11.00/ 11.30 am**

**Lunch on Rooftop terrace**

**3pmPM Recycling Monuments, Reusing inscriptions, rewriting history? \*Battle of Gelati (Giolitti, Grom, Della Palma)**

**4pm PERMIT For ARA PACIS \*Optional**

**6pm Digital Epigraphy: Fantastic texts & where to find them: AG**

**7.30 pm Dinner @Hostaria Constanza**

**Day 4 Sunday June 30<sup>st</sup> RESEARCH DAY:**

**11am Capitoline Montemartini \*optional**

**Casa Romana Celio booking \*optional**

**6.45 Evening talk by Grace Funsten**

**Day 5 (Monday July 1st) Vatican**

**PERMIT 10.30 AM: VATICAN**

**3 PM: Gelato at the Bridge, meet for trip to AAR.**

**4 PM: \*VISIT TO THE AAR for Rubbings w/ Valentina Follo.**

**5 PM Drinks Reception at the AAR with AAR Summer Course and Evan Jewell (BSR PCE 2014)**

**Day 6 (Tuesday July 2nd) Funerary Monuments in Context Part 2. *The Via Appia Antica*.**

**10am PERMIT: Caecilia Museum**

**11.30 Tour of San Sebastiano Catacombs 11.30**

**1pm Lunch @ Paolo's Antica Roma**

**3.30 PM PERMIT Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas**

**4.30 Tomb of the Scipios, PERMIT**

**Day 7 (Wed. July 3<sup>rd</sup>) Epigraphy Quotidien: The Epigraphic Habit in Ostia**

**Locations: *Ostia Antica and Parco Celio* \*\*LEAVE BSR 8AM.**

**9 AM PERMIT FOR OSTIA: Museum & café closed.**

**2 pm PERMIT for Parco Celio & Forma Urbis with curators C. Papi & F. Bigi**

**6pm Evening paper by Alessandra Tafaro**

**Day 8: (July 4<sup>th</sup>) Research Day: Start Presentations in the Evening.**

**4.30-5.30pm 2 presentations (20 min each)**

**5.45-7.30pm: Wine, Cheese & Squeeze: Practical Workshop in the Courtyard at the BSR.**

**Day 9. Presentations**

**Day 10 (Sat July 6<sup>th</sup>) Farewells**

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Abigail Graham

Course Founder and Coordinator (2012- present)

**Photos:** Museo Nazionale Romano, Terme di Diocleziano: drawing boundary markers.





Casts in Context: The Tomb of the Scipios & an adjacent columbarium



Site Visit to Ostia the theatre and the Galleria Lapidaria



Squeezes the British School and Apician Lunch at Hostaria Antica Romana (Via Appia)



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