Course information

This intensive 12-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 specialized knowledge is assumed, the course is intended for undergraduates in Classics, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and related subjects. If it is over-subscribed, precedence will normally be given to students about to enter their final year of study. See www.bsr.ac.uk for more information about the course and the BSR.

Cost and accommodation

The cost of the course is €975 to be paid by international bank transfer by 31 May 2019 and includes:

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

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 by 15 July 2019. No refund will be made for withdrawals after this date.

We strongly recommend that students have cancellation cover as part of their travel insurance policy.

How to apply

Applications should be emailed to: 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 full contact details (telephone and email) and details of University courses/modules undertaken with results
3. one letter of academic reference (referees may email references directly to 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 the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters of the British School at Rome.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 6 May 2019.

Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted for the course by late May.

Bursaries are available for 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 the appropriate applications for assistance have been made with the 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 2018

Dr Edward Bispham
Second Tutor

The two-week undergraduate Summer School on Roman topography ran again this year (5-17 September), directed by Robert Coates-Stephens (Cary Fellow, BSR) and assisted by Ed Bispham (University of Oxford). In 2018, twenty-four students from thirteen UK universities participated. The BSR’s extensive resources and long-standing expertise with the ancient and modern city (typified especially by our close relationship with Rome’s archaeological administration and scholarly community) continue to enable it to offer unparalleled access to museums, monuments and excavations. This is reflected by the frequent stress in the students’ own course assessments on the “opportunity” and “experience”, and the “inspiration” (whether for current or future studies) derived from the course, which was “immensely beneficial”, “significantly helpful” and “benefitted my degree program massively”.

The Summer School gives undergraduates, often more familiar with the texts than with material remains, an intensive introduction to the city of Rome and its surroundings. A thematic approach is adopted, focusing on the social, economic, political and religious activities which constituted life and death in the ancient city (specifically, days were devoted to the Tiber; politics and the Roman Forum; the republican Triumph; food supply – Ostia; necropoleis; emperors and palaces; suburban gardens; bread and circuses; late antique transformations; the hinterland of Rome). Each day’s itinerary was preceded by an evening lecture, and the visits integrate the monuments with museum collections and tours of the latest excavations. In particular the group was fortunate to be shown round S. Omobono by Dott.ssa Monica Ceci; the Trajanic Tiber embankment (also a first for the course tutors!) by Dott. Renato Sebastiani; and a special visit to the Domus Aurea with Dott. Alessandro D’Alessio. The virtues of the method were singled out for particular praise by the participants, with one commenting: “I thought it was an excellent decision in
grouping the sites by theme rather than by chronological period”; “I found it extremely useful that the course adopted a thematic approach ... preceded by an evening lecture”; “this as a structure works tremendously”; “the thematically organised days ... helped me bring together a more cohesive understanding of the city”.

The feedback forms also demonstrate a high level of appreciation for the School, its staff and the facilities provided.

In 2018, the Summer School received financial support from the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, the Craven Committee of the Faculty of Classics, Oxford University, the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge and the Gladstone Memorial Trust.

Edward Bispham

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 / 10.00 Area Sacra di S. Omobono /‘Arch of Janus’ / Arch of the Argentarii / S. Maria in Cosmedin & crypt (Ara Maxima of Hercules) / 12.30 Monte Testaccio / ‘Porticus Aemilia’ / Tiber

18.30 Lecture: ‘The Fora’ (Ed Bispham)

**Day 3: FORUM ROMANUM & IMPERIAL FORA**
Leave 8.30
9.30 Forum Romanum: Introduction, from central area, Curia, Atrium Vestae / 12.30/13.00 Museum of the Imperial Fora & Markets of Trajan

18.30 Lecture: ‘The Triumph’ (Ed Bispham)

**Day 4: THE TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLIC**
Leave 8.30
Pantheon / Area Sacra of Largo Argentina / Theatre of Pompey / Porticus of Octavia / Temples of Apollo Sosianus & Bellona / Theatre of Marcellus / 12.00 Three Temples of Forum Holitorium / Circus Maximus / Meta Sudans / Arch of Constantine / Forum Romanum: Via Sacra: Arches of Titus, Augustus and Septimius Severus / 15.00 Mamertine prison

No lecture

**Day 5: CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS**
Leave 8.30

18.30 Lecture: ‘Principes’ (Ed Bispham)

**Day 6: PRINCEPS, DOMVS AND RES PVBLICA**
Leave 8.30
9.30 Palatine: Houses of Augustus & Livia, Domus Flavia, Vigna Barberini, Domus Severiana / 12.30 Forum of Augustus / Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius / Montecitorio Obelisk / 14.00 Mausoleum of Augustus / Ara Pacis

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

**Day 7: CITIES OF THE DEAD AND LIVING**
Leave 8.20
Via Appia Antica: 9.30 Tomb of Caecilia Metella / 10.30 Circus of Maxentius and Mausoleum of Romulus / Aurelianic Walls & Porta Appia / 12.30 Tomb of the Scipios / Porta Maggiore & Tomb of Euryaces / Nymphaeum of Alexander Severus / Arch of Gallienus (Porta Esquilina) / Clivus Suburanus

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

**Day 8: FEEDING ROME: OSTIA**
Coach leaves 8.40
Ostia Antica / 15.00 Isola Sacra

No lecture

**Day 9: FREE DAY**

18.30 Lecture: ‘Horti Romani’ (Robert Coates-Stephens)
Day 10: HORTI ROMANI
Leave 8.30
Servian Walls at Termini / 10.00 Auditorium of Maecenas / 11.30/12.00 Montemartini Museum, Via Ostiense

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

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

Day 11: HINTERLAND
Coach leaves 8.40
Villa of Hadrian, Tivoli

No lecture

Day 12: DOMUS AUREA
Leave 8.30

18.30 Lecture: ‘Panis et Circenses’ (Ed Bispham)

Day 13: PANIS ET CIRCENSES
Leave 8.30
9.30 Baths Caracalla Mithraeum OR Mithraeum of Palazzo Barberini / 11.00 Baths of Caracalla / 13.00 Colosseum, including visit to the substructures & 2nd floor balcony

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

Day 14: TRANSFORMATION
Leave 8.30

Day 15: COURSE ENDS