

BSA REPORT

The BSA Summer School continues to be a popular course for undergraduates wanting to learn more about the landscape and remains of Greece with the number of applicants increasing every year. In 2017, 27 students were chosen from 14 universities across the UK pursuing a range of degrees in Hellenic subjects. The three-week course began in Athens with lectures on Greek religion and sanctuaries, the types of sources employed in interpretations of the past, and archaeological science sessions in the Fitch Laboratory. After site and museum tours in Athens and Attica, we boarded the bus for a nine-day journey around the Peloponnese performing Aristophanes in the theatre in Epidaurus, visiting the new Corinth and Messenia Museums, exploring the great Mycenaean palaces of Mycenae, Tiryns and Pylos, discussing the principles of Byzantine art in Mystras and finishing at the Panhellenic Sanctuary at Olympia with re-enactments of the Heraia and the Olympic games. The victors in the games were crowned with olive wreaths.

The course was taught by Dr. Chryssanthi Papadopoulou (BSA), Dr. Estelle Strazdins (Oxford), and Dr. Matthew Skuse (BSA), with guest talks by Vasso Manidaki (the restoration of the Parthenon), Robert Pitt (Epigraphic Museum), Nikolas Papadimitriou (Cycladic Museum) and Konstantinos Papadopoulos (the restoration of the temple of Apollo Epikourios). The course manager, Nick Brown, looked after the health and well-being of the group, and taught in the Delphi and Olympia Museums.

Our students acquired experiential knowledge of the most important sites in central and southern mainland Greece, familiarised themselves with the BSA library, conversed with academics outside the university departmental setting, and exchanged ideas and teaching experiences with peers from numerous UK universities.

We are most grateful for the continuing support of several institutions and societies which provide much needed financial assistance to keep the course fees low as well as offering 14 bursaries to help those students who would otherwise not have been able to accept their places: The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, The Craven Committee Oxford, The Classics Faculty at Cambridge, The Classical Association and The Gilbert Murray Trust.



Olympia: In the temple of Hera in Olympia



Methone: At the Venetian castle in Methone



Epidaurus: Students performing Aristophanes in the theatre in Epidaurus