

BSA REPORT for SPHS WEBSITE

The British School at Athens is delighted to report that its annual summer course for undergraduate students took place in 2021, albeit with modifications made in light of the covid-19 pandemic.

The 2021 course was run in two 'terms', each with half of the number of students attending. This ensured that all students could be housed in single rooms with sufficient space available for an emergency isolation room, and that there was no pressure on shared bathroom space in the premises. The course was fully catered on site, with staff and students living together in a 'bubble' and avoiding contacts outside of the course.

Teaching took place in small groups of three or four students, in accordance with regulations at Greek archaeological sites and museums regarding crowding and the leading of tours. In practice, this meant that three lectures were being conducted simultaneously in three different parts of Athens by three different tutors. The educational benefit to the students was overwhelmingly positive, with students being treated with 'seminar' style teaching than the usual 'lecture' style on-site experience. This gave plenty of opportunity to ask questions and for all students to gain in confidence in interpreting archaeological material.

The ten-day programme began with synoptic lectures on the skills they would develop in looking at archaeological site, and students were given a handling session of Finlay Collection material in the Archives and Museum of the BSA. Site-based seminars in Athens were taught at the Acropolis, Agora, Kerameikos, Library of Hadrian, and Little Metropolis Church, among other sites; and visits were made to the National Archaeological Museum, Cycladic Museum, and Byzantine and Christian Museum. In addition, field trips were made to Marathan, Brauron, Sounion, Mycenae, Eleusis and Delphi. While this is only a fraction of the 'off-site' programme usually offered by the BSA undergraduate course, the students clearly learnt a great deal and were able to present sophisticated and nuanced arguments about the course themes in a series of presentations given on the final day of the course.

The course was directed and taught by Michael Loy, with additional teaching from Bela Dimova (A.G. Leventis Fellow, BSA), Chris Hale (Assistant Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University), Anna Judson (Marie Curie Fellow, BSA), Laura Magno (Wiener Lab Fellow, ASCSA) and Rossana Valente (Postdoctoral Fellow, BSA). The course manager Anastasia Vassiliou (Data Manager, BSA) worked tirelessly to oversee the welfare and safety of the group, also contributing to a large stint of teaching in the Cycladic Museum, and at Eleusis and Delphi.

The student feedback questionnaires were unanimously positive, and the students applauded the accessible way in which course content was delivered and the ability of the course tutors to get the students thinking on their feet.

Figure captions:

T1-presentations: Term one students show off how much they have learnt during the student presentations.

T2-Cycladic: Students enjoy a lecture in the Cycladic Museum from Anastasia Vassiliou.

T2-Sounion2: Term two students take a short breather at the end of a lecture on the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion.