

BSA Summer School for Undergraduates
Testimonials from Students from the 2009 Course

The BSA course was the best introduction to Ancient Greece that I think I could have had: there was no better way to see the main sites and sanctuaries than be taken around them by experts in the field. I feel that I learnt a great deal about the Bronze Age, a period that I previously knew very little about, as well as consolidating information about the major sites in Greece. I cannot emphasize how important I think it is that students are able to see the sites that they are taught about, as it enriches their education, and allows them to gauge the size and feel of a building whilst having a firm reference point in their mind when talking about it at a later stage.

The course was not only useful to my general education but also invaluable in that I was able to see some sites and sculptures that I will be discussing in my dissertation, and without this experience I do not think that I would have had as deep an understanding of them. It also inspired me to write an essay on the conservation and restoration of ancient buildings, because until you see them in the flesh you do not realize how much work goes into maintaining them.

I would thoroughly recommend the course to anyone who was contemplating attending, as I feel that the experience that I had and the information that I learnt was invaluable.

Anne Dodwell, Bristol

The summer school surpassed all my expectations about how much I could learn from experiencing the material culture of Greece first hand. The teaching was engaging and entertaining, covering a wide range of periods and interests. My knowledge of the classical world from its very beginnings to its later demise has been enhanced and encouraged by the course and I would readily re-apply for the course again! What I have learned at this year's summer school will undoubtedly be a great help to me throughout the rest of my studies and the course has encouraged me to consider studying at a higher level those areas of Classics, namely art and archaeology, which are of the greatest interest to me.

Lucy Aldous, Cambridge

The British School at Athens' Summer School on the Topography and Archaeology of Ancient Greece has allowed me to see at firsthand the sites and artefacts that I have studied during my Classics degree and provided a vivid overview of Greek history from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. Beginning in Athens we were able to explore the Athenian Acropolis, Agora, theatre of Dionysos, the trireme sheds of Piraeus harbour as well as the ancient cemetery of the Kerameikos. These experiences were made even more valuable since we were guided by those who are the experts in their fields, allowing insight into current scholarly debate and practice. From Athens we made trips to the surrounding Attic locations, such as Marathon, Eleutherai, Rhamnous and Eleusis, seeing a wide range of sites from forts, burial mounds, ancient *demes* and sanctuaries.

For the remaining ten days of the three week trip we travelled around the Peloponnese visiting over 20 classical sites, including Bronze Age settlements, such as Tiryns and Mycenae, and Classical sanctuaries such as Olympia and Delphi. The vastness of the theatre at Epidauros was particularly awe-inspiring as was the temple of Apollo in the mountains of Bassai where we were shown around by the architect restoring the site.

Over the course of the trip we visited 21 museums which consolidated the information we had been told on the sites and allowed us to give closer inspection to the uncovered artefacts. The National and Acropolis Museums were particularly interesting and housed most of the sculpture and vases that I have studied from A-level onwards, which were so enjoyable to see. I am very grateful to have had the rare chance to see such a multitude of sites and to have participated in such a valuable and inspiring trip.

Katie Price, Durham

Seeing the Acropolis has to be one of the highlights of the trip due its prestige and fame as an ancient monument, however the trip has also opened my eyes to sites I had previously never heard of such as the Sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron and the apparent importance of it to women. The reconstruction work being undertaken at Bassai on the Temple of Apollo Epikouros was very interesting and highlights the sheer skill and time it must have taken to create these types of building in the late 5th

century. The commitment shown by the people undertaking the reconstruction work is certainly inspiring.

I also gained a background to Greek Myth, particularly at Eleusis which will aid me again in second semester with a module of this title. The Eleusinian Mysteries are very intriguing and as one of the most important locations for religious ritual in the pagan world Eleusis was a fascinating visit; its importance emphasised by its continuing use into the Roman period by Hadrian and Marcus Aurelius.

Natalie Baldwin, Newcastle