POSTGRADUATE TRAINING COURSE
PREHISTORIC, GREEK AND ROMAN POTTERY

Pottery is central to the study of archaeology in the Mediterranean. As the most numerous finds from survey and excavation, ceramics not only provide our main chronological frameworks but also direct insights into a range of issues from ancient economies to questions of identity and agency. A working knowledge of ceramics is essential for anyone considering field-work in Greece, and the ability to critically assess publications and debates about pottery is vital to an understanding of practically any issue in Mediterranean archaeology.

This intensive course gives participants a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience with one of the major pottery sequences in Greece, guided by leading specialists in the field. Based at the British School’s Research Centre at Knossos, it makes use of the rich holdings of the Stratigraphic Museum which include material from across the Mediterranean in all periods from the Neolithic to Late Roman. Essential skills, like drawing and macroscopic fabric analysis, are taught in supporting workshops. Towards the end, each participant has the opportunity to undertake a case study project.

The course also comprises field classes to abandoned pottery workshops of the late 19th century, potting villages, visits to important Bronze Age, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman archaeological sites, along with the Heraklion Archaeological Museum. Local potters, specializing in traditional techniques, provide practical experience of all stages of pottery production.

The course fee of €850 includes tuition, teaching materials, room and board (shared accommodation in double rooms with breakfast and some lunch) at the British School’s Research Centre at Knossos, fieldtrip travel expenses, 24-hour access to the Library, and BSA membership. The course is primarily intended for postgraduate students, but applications from late stage undergraduates with a strong intention to continue their studies will also be considered. Life-long learners are also welcome to apply.

This course will be taught by Dr Kostis S. Christakis (course co-ordinator), Prof. Todd Whitelaw, Dr Colin MacDonald, Dr Conor Trainor, Mr Antonio Bianco, Dr Maria Choleva, Dr Carlotta Gardner and Dr Céline Murphy.

Next course dates: 10th - 22nd June 2021.
Application deadline: 31st March 2021.
A provisional course itinerary, further information, and an application form can be found on the BSA web site (www.bsa.ac.uk).