



BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS

ΒΡΕΤΑΝΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

The 'Byzantine Archaeology, History and History of Art of Greece' is an intensive course on Byzantine Greece, taking place between **22 July – 2 August 2024**. The course is based at the British School at Athens, enrolling a maximum of 14 postgraduate students. We welcome applications from world-wide postgraduate students in archaeology, liberal arts, classics and history.

Teaching will be delivered in the form of lectures and seminars both in the classroom and as part of on-site visits in museums and archaeological sites. The language of instruction is English. To successfully complete the course, students will deliver a 5-minute presentation on site and a 15-minute research presentation on the BSA premises.

The application includes a curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, and a cover letter. The application deadline is **31 March 2024**. Applicants will have to provide the names and contact e-mail of two referees in their application form (under 'References'), who will be contacted automatically when the application is submitted. In their cover letter, candidates should describe their academic background and listing specific reasons for wishing to be included in the program. Selection criteria will include (but not be limited to) a demonstrated interest in Byzantine studies and need for the course for the candidates' present and future research projects, coursework, conferences, or publications.

Course teachers

Dr Rossana Valente (PhD, University of Edinburgh) course director.

She is digital curator of the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine collection of Corinth Excavations (ASCSA) and adjunct lecturer in archaeology at the University of RomeTre. Her research interests lie in households, technological, social and cultural practices and identities in Byzantine society. Since 2012, she has been conducting research on Byzantine Corinth, where she also acted as field director of the excavations of Late Roman, Byzantine and Frankish domestic and artisanal complexes (ASCSA). She has been doing research on Byzantine Sparta as BSA post-doctoral fellow, and on the Byzantine church complex at *Hephaisteia*, Lemnos (post-doctoral fellow, Italian Archaeological School at Athens). Finally, she is investigating the material culture evidence of the rural landscapes of Naxos in the context of the Apalirou Environs Project (Newcastle-Edinburgh Universities).



Dr Flavia Vanni (PhD, University of Birmingham), lecturer. She is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at Newcastle University. Her research focuses on Byzantine sculpture and the manipulation of natural light by rural communities of Greece, workshop organisation and the relationship between centre and periphery in regard to artistic innovation. She is working on a monograph on the use of stucco in middle and late Byzantine buildings based on her PhD research. She has taught modules on Byzantine art, Byzantine history, and Medieval art at the University of Birmingham and the University of Salerno. Another area of interest is the accessibility of art to the blind and visually impaired visitors through tactile material and synesthetic visits.

Dr Theodora Konstantellou (PhD, University and Kapodistrian University of Athens). Lecturer. She is a Byzantine Art Historian, currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Athens. Her areas of research include Byzantine iconography and patronage, the social status, artistic training, and modes of organization of the Byzantine artists, epigraphy, and the cult of saints. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Titos Papamastorakis Outstanding PhD Thesis Award (2019), Nikolaos Drandakis Best Article Prize (2020-2022), and Petros D. Goneos Memorial Award (2022-2023) for her postdoctoral research. Between the years 2020-2023, she has been appointed as an instructor in the Tour Guide College in Athens (2020-2023). She is currently working on the publication of her PhD thesis, which constitute the first comprehensive study of a painting workshop in the countryside of the island of Naxos (13th -14th c.).

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student will gain:

1. A knowledge and understanding of some of the main topics of Byzantine archaeology and history of art of Greece.
2. An understanding of the key issues concerning the relationship of archaeological, art historical evidence with textual sources.
3. An awareness of current historical and archaeological debates concerning Medieval Greece in relationship to the Eastern Mediterranean world.
4. An understanding of some of the contemporary scientific debate and challenges facing the study of Byzantine archaeology and history of art.
5. A recognition of the contribution of material and textual evidence for an understanding of past societies.



**Postgraduate Training Course in
Byzantine Archaeology, History and History of Art of Greece
22 July – 2 August 2024**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Sunday, 21st July

20.00 Arrival at the BSA
Meet and greet, informal welcome dinner in the BSA garden

Monday, 22th July

9.00 Lecture. *Byzantine Greece: The archaeological and historical framework*
10.30 BSA library and research facilities tour
11.00 Coffee break
11.30 Lecture. *The architecture and sculpture of Byzantine Greece*
13.00 Lunch break (provided)
14.00 Lecture. *Religious imagery and its meanings in Byzantine churches*

Tuesday, 23th July

9.30 Lecture. *Artistic patronage in Byzantine Greece: piety, politics and self-fashioning*
11.00 Coffee break
11.30 Lecture. *Byzantine-Islamic interactions through the monumental evidence of Greece.*
13.00 Lunch break (provided)
14.00 Lecture. *Funerary practices in the Byzantine world*

Wednesday, 24th July

8.00 Departure from BSA
10.15 Hosios Loukas
A local holy man and the creation of a pilgrimage site
The construction history of the monastery and its patrons
The architecture of the churches the so-called Helladic school of architecture.
The mosaic and fresco decoration in the katholikon church, the crypt and its meanings.
Marbles, stucco, and limestone: Hosios Loukas and Middle Byzantine sculpture.
Living in a monastery; buildings for the daily routine and the financial activities of the monks
13.30 Lunch break (not provided)
14.30 Orchomenos
The archaeological landscape of Orchomenos from the Classical to the Byzantine period
The Skripou church: Byzantine Inscriptions and their Display
The sculptural workshop of Skripou and the 'emergence' from the so-called



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16.30 *Dark Ages.*
Departure for the BSA

Thursday, 25th July

9.30 Guest lecture by Prof. R. Sweetman (BSA director)
Place and Placemaking in the Late Antique Landscape

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Lecture. *Byzantine cities: urban planning and vernacular architecture*

13.00 Lunch break (provided)

14.00 Lecture. *Digging the Byzantine Research Fund at the BSA: methodology and surprising materials*

Friday, 26th July

8.00 Departure from BSA

9.00 Daphni Monastery
The history and buildings of the monastic complex
The mosaic decoration in the katholikon: the visual narrative and its function.
Looking for materials through absence (the opus sectile, proskynetaria, and en-champlevé sculpture)
In search of a patron: the evaluation of evidence

10.30 Departure for Corinth

11.30 Visit to the archaeological site of Corinth
The Byzantine capital of the theme of Hellas
Walking through a Medieval neighbour: the so-called Frankish Complex

13.00 Lunch break (not provided)

15.00 Corinth museum and its post-classical collections
Visualising Byzantine Corinth: the material culture (lecture on ceramics, glass and everyday Byzantine objects from Corinth excavations, ASCSA).

17.30 Departure for Nafplio

18.30 Visit to the fortress of Nafplio

20.30 Group dinner
Night in Nafplio

Saturday, 27th July

8.30 Visit to the Monastery of Areia and to church of Dormition of the Theotokos, Ayia Triada (Merbaka)

10.30 Visit of Byzantine Museum at Argos

12.30 Lunch break (Not provided)

14.00 Departure for Sparta

16.00 Visit to the Olive Oil Museum
Byzantine culinary practices

17.00 Visit of the Acropolis of Sparta

Sunday, 28th July

8.30 Visit to Mystras

52 Souedias Street, 106 76, Athens - Greece | Σουηδίας 52, 106 76, Αθήνα

T: +(30) 211 1022 800 | F: +(30) 211 1022 803 | E: admin@bsa.ac.uk | W: www.bsa.ac.uk



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*From heaven to earth: fortification system, palace and houses
Churches, patrons and spiritual life in a late-Byzantine city*

13.00 Lunch break (not provided)
16.00 Back to the BSA

Monday, 29st July

10.00 Visit to the Benaki Museum
Guest lecture by Ms Mara Verykokou, curator of the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine collection

13.00 Lunch break (not provided)

14.00 *Byzantine coinage*. Lecture and coin handling session held by Dr. Yannis Stoyas (KIKPE Numismatic Collection)

18.00 Guest Lecture by Dr. Michalis Sotiropoulos, the 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies, BSA): *Making Byzantium Greek: historians and archaeologists in the early Greek State (ca 1830 – 1900)* (to be confirmed)

Tuesday, 30th July

9.30 Byzantine and Christian Museum
Everyday life in Byzantine Athens
Reception of the classical past in Late Antiquity and Byzantium
Worship and Art
Changes and continuities in the liturgical furnishing of Byzantine churches

13.30 Lunch break (not provided)

14.00 *The icons and frescoes in the Byzantine and Christian Museum*

Wednesday 31st July

8.00 Departure from the BSA
Tour of Byzantine Athens
The post-antique phases of the agora of Athens, the Church of the Holy Apostles, the *Hephaisteion*, the fortifications.
Tour of the Byzantine churches in Athens: Sotera Lykodemou, Panagia Gorgoepekoos/Hagios Eleutherios/ Little Metropolis, Hagioi Theodoroi, Panagia Kapnikarea, Hagia Aikaterine, Hagios Ioannes o Theologos, Hagios Ioannes Mangoutes, and Hagios Nikolaos Rangavas in Plaka, Agia Marina and Hagioi Asomatoi near "Theseion".

13.30 Lunch break (not provided)

15.30 The Cannelopoulos museum: the Byzantine collection

Thursday 1st August

Research day in the library

Friday 2th August

20.00 Presentation day
Farewell dinner

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