

**The history and philosophy of the Olympic Games**  
**Understanding ideas and sharing ideals**  
**30 March – 5 April 2026**

**ITINERARY**

**Sunday 29 March. Arrival**

- 17.00 Walk up Lycabettus  
*The topography of sport in Athens*
- 19.00 Meet and greet at the BSA (personal introductions and topics of interest)  
 Group dinner (provided)

**Monday 30 February. Introduction & orientation**

- 09.00 Course introduction and tour of the BSA
- 09.45 Lecture & group discussion:  
*Ancient Olympics and their Modern Revival: what do modern Olympics owe to Ancient Greece?*
- 11.00 **Coffee break** (provided)
- 11.30 Group workshop  
 The Presence of Ancient Greece in Modern Olympic Games  
 Handling session in the BSA Museum and discussion of assignments
- 13.00 **Lunch break** (provided)
- 14.00 Tour the Zappeion and the Panathenaic Stadium
- 18.00 Guest lecture: TBC

**Tuesday 31 March. Ceremonies: building community through sport**

- 10.00 The Acropolis of Athens  
*The Panathenaic procession*
- 13.00 **Lunch break** (not provided)
- 14.00 The Acropolis Museum  
*The Great Panathenaia*  
*Myth and ritual*

Research afternoon at the library

**Wednesday 1 April. Contests and the archaeology of ancient sport**

- 08.30 Depart for Nemea
- 10.00 Visit the sanctuary and museum  
 The Myth of Opheltes (sport & funerary contests)  
 Baths & athletic infrastructure
- 12.00 Visit the stadium of Nemea: *The Nemean Games*  
*Nemea stadium: The ancient and the modern Nemean Games*
- 13.00 Depart for Olympia – lunch on the road (provided)
- 16.00 Visit International Olympic Academy (IOA) and the Coubertin Grove
- Overnight in Olympia*

**Thursday 2 April. Victory: The Olympic Festival**

- 09.00 The Archaeological Museum of Olympia  
*Olympic art and the aesthetics of ancient sport*  
*The path of virtue: gods, heroes and athletes:*
- 10.30 Archaeological Site of Ancient Olympia  
*The Olympic Games*  
*Doping, cheating, and Olympic fair play*
- 13.30 **Lunch** (provided)
- 15.00 Group activity: TBC

**Group dinner (provided)**

***Overnight in Olympia***

**Friday 3 April. Understanding ideas & communicating ideals**

09.00	The museum for the history of the Olympic Games in Antiquity <i>Commemoration of athletic victory and prizes</i>
12.00	Depart Olympia for Athens – Lunch on the road (not provided)
18.00	Finish

**Saturday 4 April. Student presentations and conclusion of the course**

09.00	Research half day at the library
13.00	<b>Lunch</b> (provided)
15.00	Student Presentations
17.00	Concluding discussion and reflexion <i>Why Olympia matters for modern sport</i>
19.30	<b>Group dinner</b> (provided)

**Sunday 5 April. Departure**

**\*All breakfasts are included within the course programme**