



# BLOOMSBURY

SUMMER SCHOOL & ACADEMY 2026

ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST  
HIEROGLYPHS, COPTIC, CUNEIFORM,  
ARCHAEOLOGY, AND ANCIENT HISTORY

# BSS&A 2026 PROGRAMME **THE YEAR AT A GLANCE**

 = Online  = In person  = Livestreamed  = Video recorded

  **Saturdays 21 & 28 March, Saturdays**

**11 & 18 April & Sunday 19 April**

**READING HIEROGLYPHS: THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY** *Mr Kit Devine*

  **Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 April**

(+ exclusive optional -only Ashmolean Museum object study session on Friday 15 May)

**REVOLUTIONS IN NEOLITHIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE FERTILE CRESCENT AND BEYOND**

*Dr Christoph Bachhuber*

**EGYPT**   **Monday 27 April to Monday**

**4 May**

**READING HIEROGLYPHS: THE DUTIES OF THE VIZIER** *Dr Bill Manley*

  **Sunday 17 May**

**A TASTE OF HIEROGLYPHS** *Mr Kit Devine*

   **Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July**

**CRIME, SORCERY, AND SCANDAL: A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VIEW OF ANCIENT EGYPT** *Dr Christina Geisen*

  **Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July**

**HIEROGLYPHS: THE NEXT STEP**

*Mr Kit Devine*

  **Monday 6 to Friday 10 July**

**READING HIEROGLYPHS: DREAMS, EPIPHANIES, AND ORACLES AT THE COURT OF PHARAOH**

*Dr Luigi Prada*

   **Monday 6 to Friday 10 July**

**SAIS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF A LOST – BUT FAMOUS – ROYAL CITY** *Prof. Penny Wilson*

   **Monday 13 to Friday 17 July**

**BABYLON: THE MOTHER OF ALL CITIES**

*Dr Irving Finkel and Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*

## LETTER FROM BSS&A

**We'd like to tell you a bit about Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy:**

- We offer courses and study days on ancient history, archaeology, languages, and literature, mainly of ancient Egypt and the Near East, taught by experts working in universities, museums, and field archaeology;
- We deliver our summer programme of 5-day courses at one of the world's leading universities, University College London (UCL), in the heart of Bloomsbury in central London;
- Our programme also includes study days and short courses run in person and / or online, with many available on video recording afterwards;
- We also organise courses in Europe and Egypt — and, new this year, in Turkey! — including visits to museums and archaeological sites;
- Although rooted in academia, we offer a relaxed and informal learning environment;
- Our lecturers are distinguished academics and specialists with world-leading expertise, but they are also friendly and approachable;
- 5-day courses have 19 teaching sessions of mostly lectures, but may include museum visits and other activities, 2-day courses have eight, and 1-day courses have four sessions;
- Online and live-streamed courses are often video recorded, so if you cannot join us online or in London, you can still enjoy learning via the recordings and downloadable handouts;
- Alongside well-taught courses in exciting subjects, we offer accompanying social events, all combining to create a rich experience you would struggle to find elsewhere;
- You are more than likely to go away after your time with us, not only inspired by new material and ideas, but having made new friends.

privileged access to this internationally important collection of artefacts. The opportunity to handle ancient objects is not one to be missed; it is an exceptional experience. Our Bloomsbury location also allows us to include teaching sessions in the **British Museum**, just down the road.

We are also pleased to offer once again the BSS&A experience in Europe. Dr Luigi Prada is leading a short on-site course to the **Louvre in Paris** (October).

We are proud to have organised at least one **BSS&A in Egypt** every year since 2009 (except 2020 – 2022). These courses in Egypt combine lectures and study sessions with site visits — a perfect learning experience. In 2026, **27 April – 4 May**, we will offer a reading hieroglyphs course in Luxor taught by Dr Bill Manley. A second course in Luxor, on **7 – 14 September**, led by Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, will revolve around the erotic world of ancient Egypt.

We also offer **BSS&A Study Days** and this year we are thrilled to invite two curators from the British Museum, Dr Christina Geisen and Dr Kelly Accetta Crowe, who are teaming up for a study day exploring the power of ancient Egyptian objects through their material facets, to be held on **14 November**. A special add-on will be an exclusive object study session at the British Museum for a limited number of participants.

We continue to run our appeal in support of the **Christopher Coleman Awards**, a fund set up in memory of our founder, to offer free places to those considering studying the ancient world at university (see p. 21). Living costs continue to rise and we appreciate that some of you may struggle to afford our fees; so we continue our regular bursary offer as well (also see p. 21).

**Whether virtually or in person, we very much look forward to welcoming you to BSS&A in 2026.**

My very best wishes,

**DR KATHRYN E. PIQUETTE**  
**DIRECTOR**

## FOUNDED AS BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL (BSS) IN 1990, BSS&A ENDEAVOURS TO PRESENT THE FINEST PROGRAMME OF COURSES IN EGYPTOLOGY AND ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, LANGUAGES, AND LITERATURE, AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

### WHY THE CHANGE OF NAME?

For many years BSS has extended beyond the summer season (with courses and study days at other times of year), and far beyond Bloomsbury (with courses in Egypt and elsewhere). Hence some people, especially newcomers, were finding our 'Summer School' title less than intuitive. So we have decided to resurrect the 'Bloomsbury Academy' side of our venture — an offshoot originally established by our founder, Christopher Coleman, to cover the study days he instigated in the 1990s. Thus, we are now proudly Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy — and, as ever, our doors are open to welcome students and enthusiasts of all ages, worldwide.

### THIS YEAR'S 'MENU'

In 2026, we are offering more than 15 intensive courses and a study day on hieroglyphs, Akkadian (Babylonian dialect), and other aspects of ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern archaeology, history, and culture. In addition to our normal 5-day summer courses, in the spring our Egyptian hieroglyphs taster day is back by popular demand. We offer online courses over weekends to accommodate participant work schedules. All our courses and our study day are intended for interested people of all ages, whether lifelong learners or students wishing to broaden their studies.

Courses are described in chronological order on the following pages. The main London summer season courses are headed 'Bloomsbury Summer School'; the UK courses held either side of the summer period are headed 'Bloomsbury Academy'; and the courses held outside the UK are headed 'BSS&A Overseas'.

**NB:** Some information below applies to in-person teaching only.

### BSS&A COURSES

Our courses offer you:

- Expert tuition provided by university lecturers, museum staff, and archaeologists;
- Online / live-streaming teaching for almost all courses, as well as access to the video recordings;
- Commencing on 6 July, in-person teaching including:
  - Classes in the **Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology** and the **British Museum** (where relevant);
  - Refreshments throughout the day;
  - Social events designed to enrich the BSS&A experience, including a buffet welcome lunch, receptions in the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and end-of-course drinks party.
- Many of our previous courses and study days are available to purchase on video, with downloadable supporting materials (see our website for details).

### RECOMMENDED READING

Listed for each course at [www.bssac.uk](http://www.bssac.uk); details will also be sent with your booking confirmation.

### LOCATION

We are ideally located in the heart of Bloomsbury, with easy access to many of London's museums, galleries, shops, cinemas, and West End theatres. See centrepiece map for local details.

### FINDING US

BSS&A is easily reached by public transport. We are within walking distance of three mainline train stations (Euston, St Pancras, and King's Cross), and of several underground stations. Please note that there are no car parking facilities at UCL, nor is there free parking nearby.

### CATERING

When teaching takes place in person, refreshments are available all day, every day of your course, and a buffet lunch is provided on the Monday. You can make use of the inexpensive catering facilities on the UCL campus, serving everything from breakfast through to sandwiches and hot meals in the early evening. Alternatively, you may wish to take your lunch alfresco in Gordon Square, or enjoy a range of local pubs, cafés, and restaurants.

### FEES

**EARLY BIRD (EB)** discounts are available on many courses for bookings made and paid for in full up until 28 February. Thereafter, our standard (**Std**) fees apply.

UK-based **course per person**:

- 1-day course online: EB £30 / Std £35
- 2-day course online: EB £110 / Std £120
- 5-day course in person: EB £370 / Std £390
- 5-day course online: EB £290 / Std £300

**Study day** per person:

- In person: EB £40 / Std £45
- Online: EB £30 / Std £35

**NB:** The *EARLY BIRD* rate applies only to full payments received before the end of February.

**NB:** If you cannot attend on the day, note that many courses and study days will be available on video recording afterwards. A non-returnable deposit of £100 is included in the cost of each

5-day course; the 1-day and 2-day course fees are non-returnable (but see the cancellation policy below).

### BOOKINGS

To book one or more of our courses, simply complete the booking form (found inside this brochure or on our website) and send it to us with the full fee. Fees are payable by bank transfer (details below), cheque (in sterling), or via other methods on our website: [www.bssac.uk](http://www.bssac.uk).

### Please note our bank details:

Account name: Bloomsbury Summer School  
Bank: National Westminster Bank plc  
Bank address: Tottenham Court Road Branch,  
45 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 2EA, UK

### UK payments:

Sort Code: 56-00-31; Account No.: 33996008

### International payments:

BIC: NWBK GB 2L  
IBAN: GB52 NWBK 560031 33996008

For those who would struggle to pay our course fees we may be able to offer a modest discount; see p. 21 for advice on bursary places. Students considering studying archaeology or ancient history at university are encouraged to apply for the Christopher Coleman Awards (see also p. 21).

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

In the event of customer cancellation\* of a booking, or withdrawal without notice, a scale of charges will apply, so you might like to take out suitable insurance cover. Refunds will be given in accordance with the following scale, LESS the £100 deposit (no refund for 1- or 2-day courses\*):

- Notice of 6 weeks or more: 100%
  - Between 6 weeks and 4 weeks: 50%
  - Less than 4 weeks and no-shows: no refund
- \* Cancellation by BSS&A: 100%



## 5 DAYS: SATS 21 & 28 MAR, 11 & 18 APR, SUN 19 APR 2026

### READING HIEROGLYPHS: THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (MPhil University of Oxford)

**This 5-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.**

As usual we have planned a new course for those of you who love to experience the culture of pharaonic Egypt up close by reading ancient texts. This time we will be exploring responses to the inevitability of death as expressed in a selection of sources. In particular, we will look at *The Dialogue of a Man with his Ba*, an extraordinarily dark work of Middle Egyptian literature which takes the form of a dispute between a man and this aspect of his soul, as

well as excerpts from harpists' songs, and spells from the Book of the Dead (the selection can be fine-tuned based on class interest).

**NB:** *This is an advanced reading class for students with good experience of hieroglyphic Middle Egyptian. Normally we expect you to have taken both BSS&A courses HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS (first stage) and HIEROGLYPHS: THE NEXT STEP (second stage) beforehand. As a rule of thumb, before you begin this course you should be comfortable reading all the texts in How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs (see Recommended reading). Nevertheless, do not worry about the intensity of this course; throughout the week there will be plenty of time for your own work and for questions and answers with your tutor.*



## 2 DAYS: SAT 18 & SUN 19 APR 2026

### REVOLUTIONS IN NEOLITHIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE FERTILE CRESCENT AND BEYOND

Course Director: **Dr Christoph Bachhuber** (University of Oxford)

**This 2-day weekend course will be held online\*; also available on video recording afterwards.**

When Gordon Childe introduced the concept of a 'Neolithic Revolution' almost a century ago, he was describing that period in global history when humans abandoned hunter-gatherer lifeways to take up a settled, farming-based way of life. In this 2-day online course we revisit the concept of a revolution in the light of spectacular discoveries

in Neolithic archaeology since Childe's time. Join Christoph in exploring the archaeological sites, excavations, and assemblages from the original (first) Neolithic landscapes of Western Asia — including Jericho (in Palestine), Tell Sabi-Abyad (in Syria), Göbekli Tepe (in south-eastern Turkey), and Çatalhöyük (in central Turkey). Learn about pioneering archaeological methodologies and thought experiments that have revolutionised our understanding of this time period and the discipline of archaeology more broadly.

\*A limited number of participants will have the option to join an exclusive in-person session on 15 May with the Course Director and collection curator at the **Ashmolean Museum in Oxford**. See our website for details.



## 8 DAYS IN EGYPT: MON 27 APR TO MON 4 MAY 2026

### READING HIEROGLYPHS: THE DUTIES OF THE VIZIER

Course Director: **Dr Bill Manley** (Egiptología Complutense)

**This 8-day course will be held in person only.**

A NEW course taught in Luxor by renowned Egyptian-language teacher and BSS&A favourite, Dr Bill Manley. Enjoy daily classes for reading hieroglyphs plus visits to ancient sites, including the tomb of king Thutmoses III, which is ordinarily closed to visitors. Combining a relaxing stay and classes in the historic Marsam Hotel, on the iconic West Bank, with visits to the finest sites around Luxor, here is a very special opportunity to discover ancient Egypt. Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy has a long-standing and

enviable reputation for acclaimed ancient language courses at UCL in London, and we are thrilled that Bill Manley is going to teach a brand-new course for BSS&A in Egypt — focusing on the monumental text known as the Duties of the Vizier, in the magnificent New Kingdom tomb of Rekhmira. Our trip includes a private opening of the tomb of Rekhmira's king, Thutmoses III, plus a special ticket to the peerless tomb of king Sety I. Even our meals together provide a unique opportunity to chat about all things ancient Egyptian with fellow enthusiasts.

**NB:** You can study The Duties of the Vizier at Intermediate or Advanced level, but this course is not suitable for beginners in hieroglyphs.

See flyer or website for details.



## 1 DAY: SUN 17 MAY 2026

### A TASTE OF HIEROGLYPHS

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (MPhil University of Oxford)

**This 1-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.**

For those of you intrigued by learning how to read hieroglyphs and perhaps wondering whether to take the plunge, this 1-day course will show you

the basics behind reading ancient Egyptian and also give you a taste of the way we do things at Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy.

**NB:** This course assumes you have no prior experience in the subject but, through a series of presentations and reading sessions, by the end of the day we will show you how to read some pharaonic monuments on display in world-famous museums.



**5 DAYS: MON 29 JUN TO FRI 3 JUL 2026**

### **CRIME, SORCERY, AND SCANDAL: A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VIEW OF ANCIENT EGYPT**

Course Director: **Dr Christina Geisen**  
(British Museum)

**This 5-day course will be held in person,  
livestreamed, and will also be available on  
video recording afterwards.**

Discover a new side of ancient Egypt! Instead of focusing on famous achievements, this course explores the scandals, crimes, and everyday struggles that shaped Egyptian society from the Old Kingdom to the Graeco-Roman Period (c.2686 BCE – 395 CE). Explore dramatic events

such as the harem conspiracy under Ramesses III and the tomb robberies of the late New Kingdom, along with misdeeds in the towns of Deir el-Medina and Elephantine. Magical practices used in a harmful way – sometimes at the heart of these events – will be highlighted as well. Even the gods were imperfect; and myths like the murder of Osiris and the Destruction of Mankind reveal a world of divine drama. We will also examine related tales in ancient literature and discuss modern-day looting.

**The course includes a special object study session in the British Museum** (in-person participants only) and a creative workshop where participants design a concept for a museum display on the topic.

*... or choose this, taking place during the same week:*



**5 DAYS: MON 29 JUN TO FRI 3 JUL 2026**

### **HIEROGLYPHS: THE NEXT STEP**

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (MPhil University of Oxford)

**This 5-day course will be held in person only  
(for the online iteration, see p. 16).**

We are delighted once again to offer our second-stage course in Egyptian hieroglyphs. Kit Devine returns to show you *The Next Step*, which builds on the knowledge and skills you acquired on the course *Beginning Hieroglyphs*.\* In a series of practical sessions, you will be introduced to increasingly elaborate

monuments, including those made for kings as well as officials. In this way, you will develop a more sophisticated appreciation of hieroglyphic writing and the language, including: ways of talking about the king and the gods; talking about the past, present, and future; and making negative statements. Through the week you will enrich your understanding of different kinds of monuments and expand your knowledge of Middle Egyptian.

*\* You need not have taken the BSS&A course Beginning Hieroglyphs, but will need to have already covered the equivalent material. Contact us if you have any questions.*



**5 DAYS: MON 6 TO FRI 10 JUL 2026**

### **READING HIEROGLYPHS: DREAMS, EPIPHANIES, AND ORACLES AT THE COURT OF PHARAOH**

Course Director: **Dr Lugi Prada** (Uppsala University)

**This 5-day course will be held in person only.**

In popular perception, ancient Egypt is often depicted through an alluring lens of mystery and magic. Whilst these themes are often overplayed in the modern imagination, they can actually be reflected in some of the ancient sources that have come down to us. For this course, your tutor has selected a group of texts that focus on

the interaction between Pharaoh (or his highest officials) and the world of the gods by means of what we would call 'supernatural' channels, such as the liminal world of dreams, startling divine epiphanies, and enigmatic oracles.

Our readings will include inscriptions from the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE and from both Egypt and Nubia, such as the Famine Stela, the Bentresh Stela, the Dream Stela of Thutmose IV, and that of Tanutamani, amongst others (the selection can be fine-tuned based on class interest).

**NB:** *This is an advanced reading class for students with good experience of hieroglyphic Middle Egyptian.*

*... or choose this, taking place during the same week:*



**5 DAYS: MON 6 TO FRI 10 JUL 2026**

### **SAIS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF A LOST – BUT FAMOUS – ROYAL CITY**

Course Director: **Prof. Penny Wilson** (Durham University)

**This 5-day course will be held in person,  
livestreamed, and will also be available on  
video recording afterwards.**

Sais (modern Sa el Hagar) was the capital city of Egypt in the Late Period (664 – 525 BCE), but the site has changed much over time and it is difficult to reconstruct its layout and form in the past. Sais

was famed for its great temple to the goddess Neith and as a centre of ancient wisdom in classical sources – but what is the evidence for the historical and mythical reputation of the city?

The course will collect and analyse information about the city of Sais from regional survey and geological investigations, archaeological work, archival material, and objects from museum collections. The focus will be to recreate snapshots of ancient Sais and the lives of its people from its beginnings around 4000 BCE to the modern day. The framework will enable a comparison with other 'lost' ancient Egyptian cities so they, too, can be rediscovered.

# BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL

## 5 DAYS: MON 13 TO FRI 17 JUL 2026

### BABYLON: THE MOTHER OF ALL CITIES

Course Co-Directors: **Dr Irving Finkel** (British Museum) and **Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones** (Cardiff University)

**This 5-day course will be held in person, livestreamed, and will also be available on video recording afterwards.**

Sometimes a single word conceals an entire conceptual universe. 'Babylon' is such a word. It has a double life, denoting the great ancient Mesopotamian city with a long and complex history and a fictive allusion with numerous connotations, from the Hebrew bible's Tower of Babel through to 'Babylon Berlin', the name given to the hotbed of decadence that

was 1920s Weimar Germany. Situated along the Euphrates in modern-day Iraq, the city of Babylon set the agenda for what it meant to be an urban civilisation. King Hammurabi provided its law code, while scribes copied out the legendary exploits of Gilgamesh, the story of the Great Flood, and the creation of the world. In his towering ziggurat, the god Marduk was worshipped by the mighty monarch Nebuchadnezzar and a powerful cohort of priests and nobles. Babylon is both history and myth; real and imagined.

This absorbing and entertaining course, taught by two very popular and renowned experts of the Ancient Near East, explores the city's dual legacy: its rich ancient past and its astonishing mythic legacy. What emerges is a fresh and exciting exploration of the world's first and most illustrious metropolis — Babylon: the mother of all cities.

*... or choose this, taking place during the same week:*

# BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL

## 5 DAYS: MON 13 TO FRI 17 JUL 2026

### THE TRADE IN CULTURAL PROPERTY: PROBLEMS AND ANSWERS

Course Director: **Dr Marcel Marée** (British Museum)

**This 5-day course will be held in person only.**

This intensive summer course delves into the complex world of the global trade in cultural heritage. A range of speakers from archaeology, the art market, and law enforcement will critically examine the ethical and legal challenges surrounding the commercial circulation of antiquities and art. They will focus especially on

the central importance of provenance research — tracing an object's complete history of ownership and movement. A core objective is to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to conduct rigorous due diligence, distinguishing legitimate transactions from sharp practices like looting, trafficking, and provenance laundering. We will analyse major case studies, with a particular focus on the profound issues affecting the archaeological and cultural patrimony of countries in North Africa and the Near East. We will broaden the scope to include best practices and historical issues relevant to other global heritage sites. The course will empower students and professionals to become vigilant, ethically responsible practitioners in the cultural sector.

# BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL

## 5 DAYS: MON 20 TO FRI 24 JUL 2026

### BEGINNING BABYLONIAN

Course Director: **Dr Irving Finkel** (British Museum)

**This 5-day course will be held in person only.**

This course will cover the basic structure of the Babylonian language (a dialect of Akkadian) and provide participants with a good idea of its nature and how it works. We will read sample texts (cuneiform signs with their transliterations), including a commemorative brick, contract, letter, a legal text, spell, medical prescription, and an omen or two. Gilgamesh may also feature.

*... or choose this, taking place during the same week:*

# BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL

## 5 DAYS: MON 20 TO FRI 24 JUL 2026

### CLEOPATRA: FROM EGYPTIAN QUEEN TO GLOBAL ICON

Course Director: **Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones** (Cardiff University)

**This 5-day course will be held in person, livestreamed, and will also be available on video recording afterwards.**

For two thousand years, images of Cleopatra, the last ruler of pharaonic Egypt, have been distorted by the fantasies of Western imagination and cultures. Our view of Cleopatra is structured not by the existence of the real Egyptian queen but by the historical and cultural influences governing the

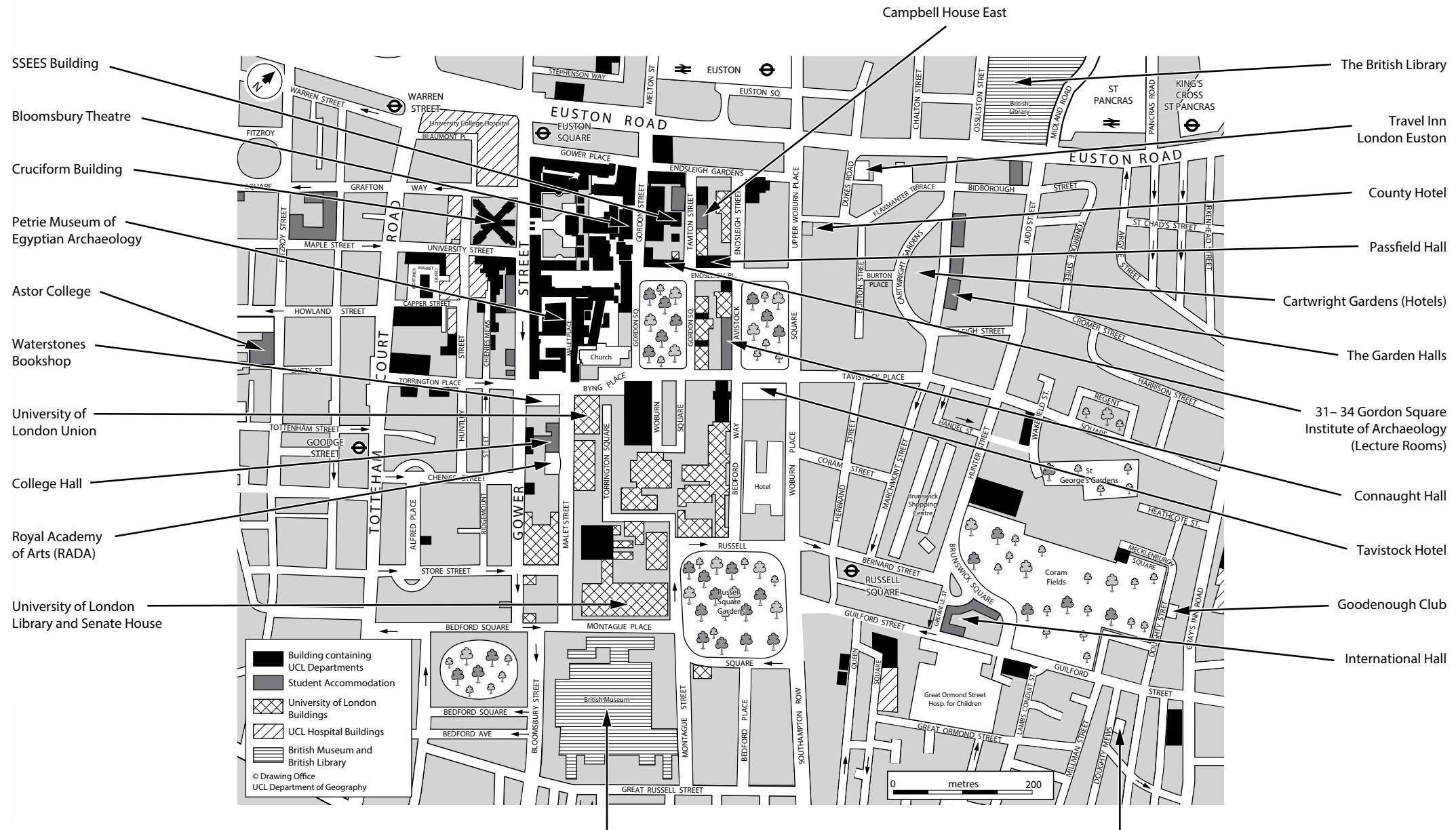
Grammar will naturally cover nouns, verbs, particles, adjectives, and adverbs, outlined in taught sections and followed textually with texts of the kind just mentioned — analysing each word as it comes up in a friendly and discussion-provoking fashion. We will investigate how our modern understanding of the language enables us today to translate with accuracy and subtlety. We are fortunate that Martin Worthington's *Teach Yourself Babylonian* is available as it will be more useful to participants than any other publication.

Your tutor will have no reluctance in accepting lively and humorous behaviour in class because the material is uncontrollably stimulating.

various renditions of her life. Taking particular images of Cleopatra from Egyptology, history, classics, theatre, literature, film, and art history, this lively and fascinating course explores the way that various formations of the queen have been created to serve particular political agendas and how concepts of ancient Egypt — and Egyptomania — have shifted throughout the centuries to reflect changes in society.

A **special highlight** for in-person participants will be an **exclusive visit to London's Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** to go behind the scenes to view archives relating to Globe productions of Shakespeare's legendary love story and classic tragedy, *Antony and Cleopatra*.

# DISCOVERING BLOOMSBURY



The British Museum

Egypt Exploration Society



## 8 DAYS IN EGYPT: MON 7 TO MON 14 SEP 2026

### SEX IN THE CITY: THE EROTIC WORLD OF ANCIENT THEBES

Course Director: **Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**  
(Cardiff University)

**This 8-day course will be held in person only.**

The ancient Egyptians viewed sex with refreshing openness, regarding it as the prevailing instrument of regeneration and as an undoubted source of physical pleasure. Their gods were sexual beings who engaged in acts of passion,

their love poetry was remarkably erotic, and their private art reveals a bawdy sense of humour that is both astonishing and thrillingly contemporary. We know a great deal about how the Egyptians prepared for death, but how did they celebrate life, love, and sex? What did they find sexy and why? This lively and fascinating course, centred in beautiful Luxor, will give you the opportunity to discover the erotic world of ancient Egypt up close in visits to well-known, and less familiar, sites in and around ancient Thebes.

See *flyer* and *website* for details.



## 10 DAYS IN TURKEY: TUE 22 SEP TO THU 1 OCT 2026

### EXPLORING THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS, STATES, AND EMPIRES IN TURKEY: FROM THE NEOLITHIC TO THE HITTITE PERIODS

Course Director: **Dr Christoph Bachhuber**  
(University of Oxford)

**This 10-day course will be held in person only.**

**We are excited to announce this NEW on-site course destination!** Like our BSS&A in Egypt courses, BSS&A in Turkey will be a very special learning experience — offering a programme of classes and visits to archaeological sites, including many that are off the beaten path. This will be our first BSS&A in Turkey course, with focus on the Hittite heartland as well as important Neolithic sites. Thus far, our overseas courses have taken place in Italy (Turin), France (Paris),

and — of course — Egypt (Cairo, Minya, Sohag, Luxor, and Aswan). Why not join us in autumn 2026 in Turkey?

Dr Christoph Bachhuber will explore with you the cities of the Hittites and the oldest and most famous Neolithic monuments and settlements in the world. Combining classes in hotels and museums in the historic city centres of Konya, Urfa, and Ankara, with walking lectures through UNESCO-listed sites including the Hittite capital of Hattusa, Neolithic Çatalhöyük and Göbekli Tepe, and other less well-known Hittite and Neolithic sites, BSS&A in Turkey offers you a very special opportunity to experience this beautiful country and explore its most ancient civilisations. BSS&A in Turkey complements the BSS&A courses Christoph has offered on the archaeology and civilisation of the Hittites and on Neolithic archaeology, but this course assumes no prior knowledge of the Hittites or of the Neolithic.

See *flyer* and *website* for details.



## 4 DAYS IN FRANCE: THU 22 TO SUN 25 OCT 2026

### ANCIENT EGYPT IN PARIS: EXPLORING THE EGYPTIAN COLLECTION AT THE LOUVRE

Course Director: **Dr Lugi Prada** (Uppsala Univ.)

**This 4-day course will be held in person only.**

The Egyptian Department at the Louvre Museum (Département des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Louvre) in Paris constitutes one of the world's largest and finest collections of Egyptian antiquities. Opened to the public almost two centuries ago, in 1827, under the direction of famed decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs Jean-François Champollion, its own history is intimately

intertwined with that of Egyptology itself.

Following the success of 'BSS in Europe' with its first Egyptological instalment at Turin's Museo Egizio, this course will offer a combination of lectures and visits to the Louvre, spread across two days. Participants will be introduced to the history of the collection in the wider context of the evolution of Egyptology, from its origins rooted in 19th-century European colonialism to its transformations during the 20th century and later. Selected masterpieces from across ancient Egyptian history — from Predynastic to Coptic times — will be discussed in preparation for each day's guided visits to the museum's galleries.

See *flyer* and *website* for details.



## STUDY DAY: SAT 14 NOV 2026

### MATERIALITY OF THINGS: THE HIDDEN POWER OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN OBJECTS

Speakers: **Dr Christina Geisen** (British Museum) and **Dr Kelly Accetta Crowe** (British Museum)

**This study day will be held in person and live-streamed, and will also be available on video recording afterwards.**

We are excited to offer a very special study day led by two curators from the British Museum. Archaeological and textual evidence from ancient Egypt — its monumental architecture, landscapes, and everyday and funerary objects — has been subject to various modes of interpretation since the earliest days of Egyptology. Join Christina and Kelly as they present fresh materiality-focused approaches to two case studies. First, they will examine papyri relating to the underworld and highlight

how scientific analysis is essential in illuminating scribal and workshop practices. Secondly, they will explore how the materiality of a Horus stela enhanced its protective power against dangers associated with the natural world. Close examination of material qualities such as colour, form, dimensions, plasticity, malleability, resistance, and production techniques reveals new understandings of function and meaning, and gives deeper insight into how ancient Egyptians understood and interacted with their environment.

*\* A limited number of participants will have the option to join an extra in-person session with the speakers. On the Friday afternoon preceding the Saturday study day, you will be invited to the BM's Department of Egypt and Sudan Study Room for an exclusive object study session. Places are restricted, so book now!*

See *flyer* and *website* for details.



1 DAY: SUN 22 NOV 2026

### A TASTE OF COPTIC

Course Director: **Dr Luigi Prada** (Uppsala University)

**This 1-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.**

We are delighted to offer a taster day on Coptic, best known as the language and script used by the early Christians of Egypt, as well as the final phase of the ancient pharaonic language. In this 1-day taster, you will be introduced to the basics of the Coptic alphabet and grammar. By

the end of the day, you will be able to read words and phrases from a wide range of ancient texts. Lectures will also introduce you to the historic and cultural contexts in which Coptic texts were written in antiquity, from religious books to daily life documents. Your tutor will help you unlock a little-known textual world comprising Coptic literature with biblical texts at its core, as well as a rich array of other Coptic writings.

**NB:** *The course assumes no prior knowledge of the subject. Specially-prepared teaching materials will be provided by the instructor.*



5 DAYS: WEEKENDS 21 – 22 & 28 – 29 NOV & 5 DEC 2026

### HIEROGLYPHS: THE NEXT STEP

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (MPhil University of Oxford)

**This 5-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards (for the in-person iteration, see p. 8).**

We are delighted once again to offer our second-stage course in Egyptian hieroglyphs. Kit Devine returns to show you *The Next Step*, which builds on the knowledge and skills you acquired on the course *Beginning Hieroglyphs*.\* In a series of practical sessions, you will be introduced to increasingly elaborate

monuments, including those made for kings as well as officials. In this way, you will develop a more sophisticated appreciation of hieroglyphic writing and the language, including: ways of talking about the king and the gods; talking about the past, present, and future; and making negative statements. Through the week you will enrich your understanding of different kinds of monuments and expand your knowledge of Middle Egyptian.

\* You need not have taken the BSS&A course *Beginning Hieroglyphs*, but will need to have already covered the equivalent material. Contact us if you have any questions.



### BSS&A DIRECTOR

**Kathryn E. Piquette** received her PhD in Egyptology from University College London (UCL), specialising in early Egyptian writing and art. She is an Honorary Research Associate at the UCL Department of Information Studies, where she teaches digital approaches to cultural heritage and works as an imaging specialist for the UCL Centre for Digital Humanities and UCL Advanced Imaging Consultants. Kathryn took over directorship of BSS&A (formerly BSS) in 2019, having directed and coordinated several BSS courses over the past two decades. A longstanding member of the Friends of the Petrie Museum, Kathryn has served as Student Representative and Membership Officer, and is now a member of the Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the Egypt Exploration Society. Her archaeological fieldwork includes excavation in Jordan (Petra) and Egypt (Wadi Natrun, Hierakonpolis, Giza), and work as advanced digital imaging specialist at Qubbet el-Hawa, Deir Anba Hadra, Philae Temple, the C2 Project: Royal Cache Wadi survey, and several other projects in Egypt. Among her publications is the Open Access monograph *An Archaeology of Art and Writing: Early Egyptian labels in context* (2018) with supporting online database, and the freely available co-edited volume *Writing as Material Practice: Substance, surface and medium* (2013). She is also working on volumes on the Narmer Palette, Palermo Stone, and the Shabako Stone.

### BSS&A COURSE DIRECTORS AND STUDY DAY SPEAKERS

**Dr Kelly Accetta Crowe** holds a PhD in Archaeology (Egyptology) from the University of Cambridge. Her areas of interest are stone built architecture, the interaction of landscape and the built environment, and the connection between image and power, mainly in the New Kingdom (c.1550 – 1069 BCE). In the field, Kelly has worked with the Middle Kingdom Theban Project, the Amarna Project, the New Kingdom Research Foundation (working on the recent discovery of Thutmose II's tomb), and the Deep History of the Asyut Region project (British Museum). Kelly currently works at the British Museum, where she was the project curator for the 2022 – 2023 'Hieroglyphs: Unlocking ancient Egypt' exhibition and is currently developing Egyptian touring exhibitions, including one on Egyptian magic.

**Dr Christoph Bachhuber** is an archaeologist who specialises in the earliest cities and states of Western Asia with a regional, fieldwork focus on ancient Anatolia / modern Turkey. As Co-Director, he recently completed the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project (KRASP) including research on the landscapes of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Neolithic Çatalhöyük and a new Hittite city that was discovered by KRASP. Christoph is Lecturer in Archaeology at St John's College, University of Oxford and is Teaching Associate in Archaeology in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Oxford).

*(continued overleaf)*

## BSS&A TEACHING TEAM (CONTINUED)

**Mr Kit Devine** recently finished his MPhil in Egyptology at the University of Oxford, where he studied Demotic and Graeco-Roman hieroglyphs and wrote a thesis on the Narmouthis ostraca. His current research is focused on multilingualism and multiculturalism during the Graeco-Roman period. He previously studied Egyptology and Classics at the University of Liverpool (BA), where he also studied Old, Middle, and Late Egyptian, Coptic, Greek, and Latin.

**Dr Irving Finkel** is the Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian script, languages and cultures in the Department of the Middle East in the British Museum. He learned cuneiform from Prof. W. G. Lambert at the University of Birmingham and wrote his PhD thesis on spells for the exorcism of demons. Subsequently, he was Research Associate at the University of Chicago, and Assistant to Miguel Civil. In 1979, he was appointed to his post at the British Museum, given keys to the cupboards where some 120,000 cuneiform tablets are stored, and has been looking after and researching the collection ever since. He is especially interested in Mesopotamian literature, ideas, medicine, and magic, and is committed to explaining cuneiform and the world of Mesopotamia accurately to as wide a public as possible.

**Dr Christina Geisen** received her PhD in Egyptology from the University of Toronto in 2012. Following a postdoctoral fellowship from Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), she held academic positions at Yale, Oxford, and Cambridge before joining the British Museum as Curator of Egyptian Written Culture. Her research focuses on funerary, ritual, and magical texts, as well as human-environment interactions in ancient Egypt. She applies approaches from materiality studies and cognitive linguistics and has developed a growing interest in digital humanities and the application of technological methods to Egyptological research.

**Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones** holds the Chair in Ancient History at Cardiff University. He has written widely for both academic and public audiences. His books include: *The Cleopatras: The forgotten queens of Egypt*; *Persians: The age of the great kings*; *The Culture of Animals in Antiquity*; *Ancient Persia and the Book of Esther*; *Designs on the Past: How Hollywood created the ancient world*; and *Babylon: The great city*. His work has featured in *BBC History Magazine*, *History Today*, and *BBC World History* and he has often appeared on the BBC, Channel 4, Netflix, and on other media outlets. He is the co-host of the Biblical Time Machine podcast. Future publications include a new study of the Hittites for Wildfire Books and a biography of Cleopatra VII for the American University in Cairo Press.

‘IN 1979, HE WAS  
APPOINTED TO HIS POST  
AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM,  
GIVEN KEYS TO THE CUPBOARDS  
WHERE SOME 120,000  
CUNEIFORM TABLETS  
ARE STORED ...’

## BSS&A TEACHING TEAM (CONTINUED)

**Dr Bill Manley** is a best-selling author, who has taught at Bloomsbury Summer School since the early 1990s. He was formerly Senior Curator for Ancient Egypt at National Museums Scotland and taught Egyptology and Coptic at the Universities of Glasgow, Liverpool, and London. He works with the C2 Project: Royal Cache Wadi survey. Bill is Honorary President of Egyptology Scotland, a contributor to the Coptic Magical Papyri Project, and Co-Director of Egiptología Complutense. Bill has spoken at several international book festivals, including *The Sunday Times* Literary Festival, and his latest book, *Sahidic Coptic: An introductory textbook*, will be published by UCL Press in January 2026.

**Marcel Marée** is Assistant Keeper at the Department of Egypt and Sudan in the British Museum, with expertise in pharaonic material culture, epigraphy, provenance research, and the art market. In 2018, he initiated the Circulating Artefacts project to monitor, document, and analyse cultural artefacts seen in the trade, and to detect irregularities. Marcel lends frequent expertise to heritage professionals and authorities around the world. He speaks at conferences and workshops about heritage crime, hosted by (among others) INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and many academic institutions. Marcel is a founding member of the OSCE's Heritage Crime Task Force.

‘SHE IS THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DELTA  
SURVEY PROJECT FOR THE  
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY  
WHICH SURVEYS AND RECORDS  
SITES ACROSS THE NORTH  
OF EGYPT’

# THE PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE ARCHAEOLOGY

**The Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology here at UCL plays an important role in the BSS&A programme, whether virtually or in person.** It houses more than 80,000 objects from the Nile Valley. Most of these are from the excavations of William Matthew Flinders Petrie, the 'Father of Egyptian Archaeology', during the late 19th and early 20th century. Petrie became the first Edwards Professor of Egyptology at UCL in 1893, and the college subsequently acquired his collection, which, with that of Amelia Edwards, forms the core of the museum as we know it today.

The collection can claim a number of 'firsts', among them the oldest known woven garment, monumental sculpture, calendar, and gynaecological papyrus. It also has the largest collection of Egyptian pots, Middle Kingdom papyri, weights, and Roman Period mummy portraits outside Egypt. The collection is uniquely important because much of it comes from documented excavations, providing unparalleled insight into the way ancient people lived and died in the Nile Valley. The Petrie Museum remains a valuable resource for today's scholars, students, and public alike.

The Petrie Museum was one of the first museums in the world to make its entire catalogue available for study via its online database. Its commitment to accessibility was publicly recognised by the highly prestigious Museums and Heritage Award for Excellence, which the museum won in 2005. The museum

celebrated its centenary in 2015 with a fine exhibition "Characters and Collections" and an accompanying book, downloadable for free here: [www.ucpress.co.uk/products/82987](http://www.ucpress.co.uk/products/82987).

The Friends of the Petrie Museum support the collection and museum archive in conservation, education, and research. New Friends are always warmly welcomed. Friends are invited to attend monthly (in person and online) lectures and object-handling seminars, as well as a host of special events including study days, book launches, book auctions, and other exciting events. Friends also have access to the excellent Edwards Egyptology Library in the UCL Institute of Archaeology. Even if you live miles from the Petrie Museum, it is well worth becoming a Friend as you can enjoy many of our lectures and study days online, as well as support one of the world's most important collections of Egyptian antiquities. Friends fund the much-needed conservation of objects in the collection.

Please contact Chair of the Friends of the Petrie Museum, Dr Joanne Rowland, for further information: [pmf@friendsofpetrie.org.uk](mailto:pmf@friendsofpetrie.org.uk).

**For courses taught in person, BSS&A students benefit from a unique opportunity to learn from Petrie's teaching collection in the manner he intended. These courses often include exclusive-access visits to the museum and / or object handling sessions – providing intimate contact with the material culture of ancient Egypt and the Sudan for enriching the learning experience.**

THE PETRIE MUSEUM  
WAS ONE OF THE FIRST  
MUSEUMS IN THE WORLD  
TO MAKE ITS ENTIRE  
CATALOGUE AVAILABLE  
FOR STUDY VIA ITS  
ONLINE DATABASE

## BSS&A COLEMAN AWARDS & BURSARIES

### THE CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN AWARDS

In honour of our late founder, Christopher Coleman MA (Cantab.) FRHistS, we established in 2024 the Christopher Coleman Awards. Each year BSS&A will be awarding at least two free places on 5-day courses. Applicants should be those considering university study on topics relating to the ancient world.

To apply contact Kathryn: [kathryn@bssac.uk](mailto:kathryn@bssac.uk). Application deadline is two months prior to the start date of the chosen course.

### THE BSS&A BURSARY SCHEME

BSS&A continues to run a modest bursary scheme, offering unfilled places on our courses to those who would find it challenging to pay our course fees. A small number of applicants will be offered places for c.30% off the full fee (discount applies to 5-day courses only).

For the BSS&A Bursary, you need only email a brief statement of your situation and wishes, putting your chosen courses in order of preference. You may apply for as many courses as you like. After you have sent in an application, try to keep your diary clear of important engagements for the relevant week(s). The process of awarding bursary places usually begins about one month prior to the start of a course.

There is no guarantee that a bursary place on a given course will arise at all; even when bursary places do become available, they sometimes do so rather late in the day, as a consequence of last-minute student cancellation.

Donations to support the Christopher Coleman Awards and the BSS&A Bursary are gratefully received:



IN HONOUR OF OUR  
LATE FOUNDER... EACH YEAR  
BSS&A WILL BE AWARDING  
AT LEAST TWO FREE PLACES ON  
5-DAY COURSES

# ACCOMMODATION, WEB / SOCIAL, ENQUIRIES

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available during the summer in reasonably priced university halls of residence close to BSS&A.

**NB:** If you wish to book accommodation, you need to make your own arrangements.

*Bookings at UCL Summer Residences open up on 6 January 2026. We have organised a special 10% discount on accommodation with UCL Summer Residences (a discount code will be provided with your BSS&A course booking confirmation).*

### UCL Halls:

Prices start at £78.00 per night for a single room, but without breakfast.

Price list:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/residences/prices>

Halls list:

<https://tinyurl.com/UCLSummerResidences>

You may also contact:

Tel: +44 (0)20 3108 4455

Email: [guest-bookings@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:guest-bookings@ucl.ac.uk)

There are also plenty of hotels close to BSS&A which can be easily found using [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com).

Please get in touch with Kathryn at BSS&A if you need further advice on accommodation.

## BSS&A WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Do keep an eye on our website: [www.bssac.uk](http://www.bssac.uk).

Here you will find BSS&A news items, photographs, the contents of this brochure, information about our study days, BSS&A Overseas, and booking forms. You will also find options to pay for our courses and study days.

You will also find a link to our Facebook page. Additionally we are on Bluesky and Instagram.



Bloomsbury-Summer-School  
@bloomsbury-ss #BSS2026  
@bloomsbury\_ss #BSS2026

## ENQUIRIES

We will be happy to provide any further information about Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy. Enquiries should be addressed to:

**Dr Kathryn E. Piquette**

**Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy**  
**c/o UCL Department of Information Studies**

**Foster Court**

**London WC1E 6BT**

**UK**

Tel: **+44 (0) 207 679 8370**

Email:

**[kathryn@bssac.uk](mailto:kathryn@bssac.uk)**

Web:

**[www.bssac.uk](http://www.bssac.uk)**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** We would like to thank the UCL Department of Information Studies, UCL Institute of Archaeology, UCL Library Services, UCL Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, the British Museum, the Egypt Exploration Society, and Sussex Egyptology Society, for their support.

# TESTIMONIALS

Each time I attend a BSS&A lecture I leave with new insights! BSS&A has opened so many ancient Egypt doors for me — it has changed my life! Thank you, BSS&A!

**Holly Silver**

During 2021, BSS freed me and allowed my mind to soar — across the Atlantic to London via Zoom, and from there to Egypt — through brilliant lectures by extraordinary teachers.

**Cindie Lovelace**

I've been to BSS / BSS&A every year since 1994 — the chance to immerse myself in Egyptology for a week or two, with great teachers and friendly fellow students, is something I absolutely treasure.

**Mick Oakey**

BSS&A is the highlight of my year — the unique combination of learning, sharing, focusing for a whole week on a chosen topic in a friendly and approachable environment, renewing old friendships, and the added privilege of lectures by people who are household names in Egyptology and Ancient Near East circles, is what keeps me coming back.

**Gill R.**

BSS / BSS&A has been a major part of my life for over 15 years, and I cannot sing its praises highly enough. The course teachers have always made the material accessible and fun whilst never compromising on academic quality and rigour. BSS&A has made ancient cultures and languages — Egypt, Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica — come alive for me in a way I could never have experienced on my own.

**Dr Richard Jennings**

I cannot recommend BSS highly enough! The lecturers make history come alive from the page in a fun, social, and interesting environment — what a great way to spend a week with great people and great history!

**Barry Maguire**

## BSS&A IN EGYPT 2025

My first time visiting Egypt and what an amazing experience. Campbell Price was inspirational and I learnt so much during our well organised and well-planned trip. I can't wait for my next adventure with BSS&A in Egypt.

**Sarah Weir**

# DEDICATION

Our 2026 programme is dedicated to the memory of:

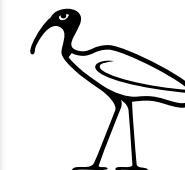
**DR ROBERT MORKOT**

(1957 – 2025)



**JOHN J. JOHNSTON**

(1965 – 2025)



BSS&A 2026

FOR MANY YEARS  
BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL  
HAS EXTENDED BEYOND THE  
SUMMER SEASON (WITH  
COURSES AND STUDY DAYS AT  
OTHER TIMES OF YEAR), AND FAR  
BEYOND BLOOMSBURY (WITH  
COURSES IN EGYPT  
AND ELSEWHERE). WE ARE  
NOW PROUDLY 'BLOOMSBURY  
SUMMER SCHOOL & ACADEMY' —  
AND, AS EVER, OUR DOORS ARE  
OPEN TO WELCOME STUDENTS  
AND ENTHUSIASTS OF ALL AGES,  
WORLDWIDE)



**FRONT COVER IMAGE:** A frieze of hieroglyphs (*ankh djed was neb* — 'given all life, stability, and power') in the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri. **PHOTO: © KATHRYN E. PIQUETTE**

EMAIL: [KATHRYN@BSSAC.UK](mailto:KATHRYN@BSSAC.UK)  
WEB: [WWW.BSSAC.UK](http://WWW.BSSAC.UK)