



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Bursary Holder Case Studies – Roman Ceramics



- (1) Name? Alex Beeby
- (2) Placement? Roman Ceramics – Trainee Roman Pottery Specialist at Archaeological Project Services in Lincolnshire.
- (3) Education/ previous roles? BA Archaeology (EU) (Hons) (1999-2003); MA Roman Archaeology (2005). After finishing University in 2005, I spent 3 years working in both fieldwork and office based post-excavation roles within commercial archaeology.
- (4) Hobbies? Walking, cycling, travelling in Britain and abroad (especially by train!) and reading.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? The abandoned Romano-Nabataean city of Petra in Jordan. This is a truly breathtaking place with dozens of tombs/rooms carved into the pink rock of the hills. There is a fascinating fusion of Nabataean, Greco-Roman and Near-Eastern architecture preserved here. Away from the centre there are entire hills made of pottery waste, the like of which we could only dream of finding in Britain!
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I first saw the advert in the IfA Jobs bulletin. I had wanted to specialise in Roman ceramics for several years and had been looking for a way to improve my skills. I couldn't quite believe it when this placement came up, and so close to home! I knew this was an opportunity I couldn't miss.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? Ecstatic, I couldn't believe it.
- (8) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? My biggest achievement this year has been to create a Roman pottery fabric series for this area as a reference guide for the kinds of material found here. My biggest challenge has been trying to get to grips with the mind boggling complexity of Roman Samian Ware pottery.
- (9) Future plans/future ambitions? I have been lucky enough to have been given a position as a junior pottery specialist with the organisation and hope to continue to improve my skills and broaden my knowledge within this area for the foreseeable future.
- (10) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Don't be afraid to apply and don't be afraid to show your enthusiasm for the subject. These bursaries are fantastic and unique opportunities which you won't find anywhere else.