Now I am back in sunny Coventry and can reflect on my time in Venice, I can honestly say what a joy and privilege the experience was.

Venice has a charm that refuses to wane, and I loved every minute of living in and exploring the city. I particularly loved doing my shopping at the Rialto market, meeting up with friends at Campo Santa Margherita (the only place that stays open past midnight!), and studying in the beautiful Querini Stampalia library. Even walking around aimlessly lost was more fun than frustrating – Venice always has a surprise waiting for you around the corner. A particular highlight was travel week, the Venice term’s equivalent of reading week. Italy is really well connected by train and so it was easy to do some last minute booking, submit our essays and escape for a week of adventure.

Finally, it was actually really exciting to learn. We had lectures and seminars in Warwick’s beautiful Palazzo Pesaro Papafava (bit of a step up from the old Humanities building, that’s for sure) and weekly site visits around Venice and to Mantua. You can often feel a bit detached from things when the only contact you have is with books and articles, but I think it was being truly immersed in the history we were studying that turned my interest into a real passion. I’ve applied to go back for an MA next year – so it must have done something right!