

## STUDENT CONTROL

It had long been the case that the wealthy who ran local government were responsible for various civic duties, and in particular collecting local taxes (p. 122) – and making up the shortfall if the tax was not paid! From the third century AD onwards, however, these duties became increasingly costly, and even more so under Diocletian. But certain categories of people were exempt from such duties, including students. As a result, further education suddenly became remarkably popular. So in 370 procedures were put in place in Rome to check up on credentials:

All those who come to the city in the desire to learn shall first of all present to the Chief Tax Officer letters from the provincial judges who gave them permission to come. These letters shall contain the student's town, birth certificate and reports of achievement. Second, the students shall declare on arrival which branch of study they propose to follow. Third, the Tax Office shall investigate in detail their places of residence to ensure that they are devoting their effort to the subject they said they would study. These officials shall also warn the students that they shall all behave in gatherings as befits those who think it right to avoid a bad reputation and bad company, which we consider to be close to crime, nor should they make frequent visits to shows or seek out unseasonable parties. Indeed, we confer on you the power that, if anyone does not behave in the city as the dignity of a liberal education requires, he shall be publicly flogged and immediately placed on a boat, expelled from the city and sent home.

Now there's a policy for someone.