

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Classics (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Classics Cert HE Classics
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year	No
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Classics and Ancient History
UCAS code	QQP7
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBACLSC_C (full-time, 3 years) UBACLSCS_C (part-time, 4 years)
HECoS Code	100300
Start date of programme	Pre 1980
Date of programme approval	Pre 1980
Date of last programme amendment approval	February 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Programme Director	Benjamin Gray
Date of last revision to document	14/05/2024

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 112 points (e.g. A-levels BBC - one in either Greek or Latin)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

BA Classics immerses you in the Ancient Greek and Roman worlds and offers you a wealth of fascinating areas of study, including history, literature, archaeology and philosophy.

This classics degree enables you to develop a high level of competence in Ancient Greek and/or Latin. You can make the language and literature the main focus of your degree or use these skills to enrich your study of a wide range of complementary option modules across not only classics, but also history, archaeology, politics and philosophy. You will develop your skills in one or both languages at a range of levels and you will also have the chance to read ancient texts in depth in the original.

In studying for this classics degree, you will examine the nature of our understanding of the classical past and its literature. We encourage you to engage with textual material and to question accepted traditions about the past, so that you develop the ability to construct and present a convincing argument.

As a full-time classics student, you must have at least an introductory-level knowledge of either Greek or Latin, which can be acquired, for example, at a summer school immediately before starting the programme. Without this level of preparation, absolute beginners are encouraged to take the four-year part-time version of this course.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory	T1-3
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4/5/6		Language (Greek or Latin, at level appropriate for ability)	30	Compulsory	T1-3
4/5/6 4		Language (Greek or Latin) or level 4 non-language option	30	Option	T1-3 T1, 2 or 3
Year 2					
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory	T1-3
5/6		Language (Greek or Latin)	30	Compulsory	T1-3
5		Language (Greek or Latin) or non-language option	30	Option	T1-3 T1, 2, 3
5		Option	30	Option	T1-3
Year 3					
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the Past/Dissertation	60	Compulsory	T1-3
6		Language (Greek or Latin)	30	Compulsory	T1-3
6		Option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the Past	30	Compulsory	T1-3
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4/5/6		Language (Greek or Latin at level appropriate for ability)	30	Compulsory	T1-3
Year 2					
4/5/6		Language (Greek or Latin)	30	Compulsory	T1-3
5		Language (Greek or Latin) or non-language option	30	Option	T1-3
5		Option	30	Option	T1-3
Year 3					
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory	T1-3
5		Language (Greek or Latin) or non language option	30	Option	T1-3 T1, 2 or 3
6		Option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 4					
6	SSHC08D6	Writing the Past/Dissertation	60	Compulsory	T1-3
6		Language (Greek or Latin)	30	Compulsory	T1-3

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student
 Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)
 Option: Student can choose to take this module

Indicative list of options

Options for Level 4 :

SSHC406S4 Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room
SSHC525S4: Thames through Time
SSHC409S4: The Medieval World: From Constantine to the Khans
SSHC298S4 Introduction to Latin (Level 4)
SSHC299S4 Introduction to Ancient Greek (Level 4)

Options for Level 5:

SSPL168H5 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
SSHC487S5 Archaeology of Everyday Life
SSHC514S5 The Archaeology of a Greek Sanctuary
SSHC470S5 Greek and Roman Political Thought in Context
SSHC410S5 Journeys to the Underworld in Classical Literature and Culture
SSHC567S5 The World of Rome in London Museums
ARVC239S5 Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
SSHC068S5 Introduction to Ancient Greek (Level 5)
SSHC067S5 Introduction to Latin (Level 5)
HICL077S5 Intermediate Latin
HICL074S5 Intermediate Ancient Greek

Options for Level 6:

HICL184S6 The Athenian Empire
SSHC565S6 Exiles, Refugees and the Ancient World
SSHC566S6 Ruins. The Creation of the Past
HICL203S6 The Empire of Letters: Correspondence in the Roman World
ARVC208S6 Artistic Encounters in the Medieval Mediterranean
ARVC181S6 Art in Baroque Rome
FFHI318S6 Foundations of History
HICL003S6 Advanced Latin Language
HICL001S6 Advanced Greek Language
HICL165S6 Latin Set Book A
HICL205S6 Latin Set Book B
HICL185S5 Greek Set Book A
HICL202S6 Greek Set Book B

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

From the outset, you will work with us to design a degree path which is tuned to your interests and goals, combining skills training with exploration of key themes in History. Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures and seminars. Lectures from our nationally top-ranking staff will introduce you to the critical ideas, debates and figures of the past, while seminars will train you in the construction of collaborative knowledge alongside the diverse community of your fellow students. Modules at all levels include the analysis of primary and secondary text sources, as well as images, material culture, music and film.

Our position in a leading Department of Historical Studies gives you the opportunity, unusual in UK Classical degrees, to study in depth the place of the ancient Mediterranean in world history, as well as its importance for contemporary political and social debates. At each level along your journey to degree, our curriculum combines hub modules geared to hone your skills with specialist options exploring the diverse worlds of the past. Hub skills will build from critical analysis, to collaborative discussion and debate, to deep research and writing of the dissertation. Every year, as you build your studies and progress towards your degree, you will take one of these modules, helping you to develop your own perspective on the past.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. Your degree award will be built from diverse forms of assessment—including source analyses, language exams, quizzes, oral presentations, take home exams, portfolio assignments, and research essays—across hub and option modules. These assessments are designed to build your skills cumulatively across the program. To complete the degree, you will design, research, and write a dissertation.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Critically analyse narratives about the past and its role in the present across a range of contexts
- Understand and interrogate primary sources (from the past) and secondary sources (about the past) in discussion and writing
- Read sources from the Classical past in their original languages, and discuss content as well as context
- Read and use historical scholarship at a high academic level
- Discuss texts, objects and diverse media with a group of your peers
- Present your own research and arguments orally
- Design your own research questions and program of research
- Navigate archives, collections, oral history sources, and libraries
- Carry out research and writing at multiple scales: response essay, research essay, dissertation
- Engage with communities of historians, from academic workshops and conferences to public historians to your local community
- Design and create disseminations of your research in multiple forms, from article to podcast to public lecture

Careers and further study

A degree in Classics prepares you for any role which benefits from skills in research, communication and engagement. Graduates of our program work across professions and disciplines, from education to business to the arts, from museums and galleries to the heritage sector, social work and government.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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