

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Classics (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert
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 (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMACLSSC_C
HECoS Code	100300
Start date of programme	Prior to 2005
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2005
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	03/11/2023

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants with a wide range of previous experience and qualifications. Proficiency in Latin or Greek and a second class honours degree (2.2 or above), preferably in a Humanities subject, satisfies the standard requirement, but we do base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may request writing samples or further interview to gauge academic potential in instances where non-traditional education and experience may merit the waiving of formal entry requirements.

Course aims

Our MA Classics is ideal for graduates with prior knowledge or study of Greek and Latin who want to undertake advanced study of the classical world at postgraduate level. We offer you the chance to explore multiple aspects of ancient Greek and Roman archaeology, history and culture, from the archaic period through the classical era to late antiquity, including Greek and Latin literature and the archaeology and material culture of the ancient Mediterranean. You will learn in a culture of active research, with teaching and supervision from world-leading academics working at the cutting edge in their fields.

This interdisciplinary Master's degree in classics builds on two compulsory modules offering a broadly chronological introduction to the classical world, from the archaic Mediterranean to the early Christian Roman Empire. You will explore politics and culture, religion, sex and sexuality, the writing of history, and the reception of classical culture in the modern world, particularly the meanings that have been attached to the classical past, which is a particular research strength in the School of Historical Studies.

You will also continue your study of Greek or Latin, enhancing your language comprehension to an advanced level, while a wide range of option modules allow you to explore and expand your interests more fully. You will receive training in research methods and techniques, which will give you the confidence and skills to research and write a dissertation on a subject of particular interest to you, with guidance and supervision from one of our academic experts.

Compulsory modules:

- Mastering Ancient Greece
- Mastering Ancient Rome

either

- Greek Set Book

or

- Latin Set Book

List of indicative option modules (note: not all options are available in any year):

- The Archaeology of a Greek Sanctuary (Level 7)
- The Greeks and the sea
- The politics of culture in Neronian Rome
- City of Rome Postgraduate Course (BSR)*

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	SSHC564S7	Mastering Ancient Greece	30	Compulsory	1
7	SSHC357S7	Mastering Ancient Rome	30	Compulsory	2
7		Either Greek or Latin Set Book module	30	Compulsory	1-3
7		Option	30	Option	1-3
7	SSHC126D7	Dissertation	60	Core	3
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSHC564S7	Mastering Ancient Greece	30	Compulsory	1
7	SSHC357Z7	Mastering Ancient Rome	30	Compulsory	2
7		Either Greek or Latin Set Book module	30	Compulsory	1-3
Year 2					
7	SSHC564S7	Option	30	Option	1-3
7	SSHC126D7	Research Dissertation	60	Core	3
Indicative options (note: not all options are available in any year – terms to be confirmed)					
7	SSHC546S7	The Archaeology of a Greek Sanctuary	30	Option	3
7	SSHC065S7	The Greeks and the sea	30	Option	1
7	SSHC309S7	The politics of culture in Neronian Rome	30	Option	3
7	SC03002S7	City of Rome Postgraduate Course (BSR)* - see below	30	Option	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

***City of Rome Postgraduate Course (BSR)**

This option module on the City of Rome offers an in-depth experience of key ancient Roman monuments and sites (some not normally accessible to the general public). Site visits are complemented by lectures given by distinguished international experts on key facets of the topography of the city.

The module is intensively taught in April and May of the academic year in Rome. The application process is competitive. Any student who is selected for a place on the module will need to be resident at the British School at Rome for around 8 weeks at their own expense and will also need to fund and arrange their own travel to Rome. The BSR expects successful applicants for this module to have prior knowledge of Roman history and Roman building techniques. As some seminars, lectures and texts will be in Italian, students are expected to have a reasonable level of fluency in the Italian language.

Teaching will be delivered via site visits and seminars by British School at Rome staff. While formative assessment will be undertaken by BSR staff, summative assessment and moderation will be the responsibility of Birkbeck (liaising with the BSR). To cover the costs of teaching and administration of the module, Birkbeck cedes 25% of the FTE home fee to BSR and pays an institutional membership fee of £120 per student.

List of Greek/Latin set book module codes			
7	HICL071S7	Greek set book (A)	30
7	HICL161S7	Latin set book (A)	30
7	SSHC150S7	Greek set book (B)	30
7	SSHC149S7	Latin set book (B)	30

How you will learn

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

Teaching on this course includes occasional lectures but is predominantly structured as seminars, or discussion-focused group sessions. In the introductory modules 'Mastering ancient Greece' and 'Mastering ancient Rome' our internationally-recognised staff will explore with you key cultural and political issues, using case studies that illustrate the connections between methodological frameworks and various kinds of literary and material evidence. Seminars in this and subsequent modules will train you in the construction of collaborative knowledge alongside the diverse community of your fellow students. You will also deepen your subject knowledge and sharpen your critical skills through extensive reading and other forms of independent learning. Modules across the programme include the analysis of primary and secondary text sources, as well as images and material culture.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

History modules normally incorporate diverse forms of assessment, including shorter written exercises such as source analyses or translations, and end-of-module research essays. Assignments grow in complexity across the term, offering the reassurance of guided progression towards the research essay, and tailored writing support is available within the department and at college level for students who might benefit from additional advice. 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
- Understand complex texts in Latin and/or ancient Greek
- 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 programme 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
- Gain skills suited to design and create disseminations of your research in multiple forms, from article to podcast to public lecture

Careers and further study

The MA Classics prepares you for any role which benefits from skills in research, communication and engagement. Graduates of our programme work across professions and disciplines, from education to business to the arts, from museums and galleries to the heritage sector, from journalism to government, from social work to non-governmental and charitable organisations. Graduates interested in further study have gone on to complete research degree (MPhil/PhD) programmes.

Birkbeck's MA Classics graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

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 whom 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](#).

Copyright, Birkbeck, University of London 2022 ©