

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

|                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name, title and level of final qualification(s)                                                         | <b>BA Classics</b><br>(Level 6)                                    |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s)                                                             | Dip HE Classics<br>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)<br>Part-time (4 years)<br>October              |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body                                                              | N/A                                                                |
| <u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u><br><u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u><br><u>England</u> | Classics and Ancient History                                       |
| UCAS code                                                                                               | QQP7                                                               |
| Birkbeck Course Code                                                                                    | UUBACLSC_C (full-time, 3 years)<br>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                                                                           | <b>2026-27</b>                                                     |
| 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) |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Full-time – 3 years</b> |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 4                          | HICL200S4   | Approaching the Past                                        | 30     | Compulsory         | T1-3                    |
| 4                          | SSHC404S4   | The Ancient World                                           | 30     | Compulsory         | T2                      |
| 4/5/6                      |             | Language (Greek or Latin, at level appropriate for ability) | 30     | Compulsory         | T1-3                    |
| 4/5/6<br>4                 |             | Language (Greek or Latin) or level 4 non-language option    | 30     | Option             | T1-3<br>T1, 2 or 3      |
| <b>Year 2</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 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<br>T1, 2, 3        |
| 5                          |             | Option                                                      | 30     | Option             | T1-3                    |
| <b>Year 3</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 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              |
| <b>Part-time – 4 years</b> |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 4                          | HICL200S4   | Approaching the Past                                        | 30     | Compulsory         | T1-3                    |
| 4                          | SSHC404S4   | The Ancient World                                           | 30     | Compulsory         | T2                      |
| 4/5/6                      |             | Language (Greek or Latin at level appropriate for ability)  | 30     | Compulsory         | T1-3                    |
| <b>Year 2</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 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                    |
| <b>Year 3</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 5                          | SSHC407S5   | Exploring the Past                                          | 30     | Compulsory         | T1-3                    |
| 5                          |             | Language (Greek or Latin) or non language option            | 30     | Option             | T1-3<br>T1, 2 or 3      |
| 6                          |             | Option                                                      | 30     | Option             | T1, 2 or 3              |
| <b>Year 4</b>              |             |                                                             |        |                    |                         |
| 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  
SSHC522S5 The Archaeology of the Roman Empire  
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  
SSHC068S5 Introduction to Ancient Greek (Level 5)  
SSHC067S5 Introduction to Latin (Level 5)  
HICL077S5 Intermediate Latin  
HICL074S5 Intermediate Ancient Greek

### **Options for Level 6:**

SSHC565S6 Exiles, Refugees and the Ancient World  
SSHC566S6 Ruins. The Creation of the Past  
HICL203S6 The Empire of Letters: Correspondence in the Roman World  
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

Note: Options shown are indicative only, and those running may vary by academic year.

## **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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