Programme Specification

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<td>3</td>
<td>Programme Title(s)</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Exit Award(s)</td>
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<td>Duration of Study (number of years)</td>
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<td>Mode of Study</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)</td>
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Programme Rationale & Aims

The MA Classical Archaeology responds to a growing interest among potential applicants for postgraduate study in the field and integrates the expertise of HCA faculty into a coherent and stimulating curriculum. The programme is designed to appeal to students who wish to acquire practical fieldwork skills in Mediterranean archaeology and develop their understanding of the cultures and societies of ancient Greece and Rome through the parallel and connected study of architecture, iconography, epigraphy, numismatics as well as contextual and environmental data from excavation and surface surveys. The mode of delivery (part-time, evening, face-to-face, and research-led) fills a clear gap in current MA provision in the London region. The programme provides a key entry point to graduate study of Classical Archaeology, suitable also for those with BA degrees who are approaching the study of classical material culture for the first time. Birkbeck’s location, in central London adjacent to the Institute of Classical Studies, provides access to an internationally pre-eminent research community. Birkbeck’s special teaching mission means that this course will be unique nationally, as a research-led MA course tailor-made for students in full-time employment.

Entry Criteria

Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references
# Learning Outcomes

Successful candidates will be able to:

**Subject Specific**

1. Identify and classify a broad range of classical Greek and Roman antiquities on the basis of material, technical and morphological criteria
2. Explain the historical meaning of formal artefact categories and assemblages
3. Use the study of key artefacts, images, texts and historiographical concepts systematically to explore the creation, diffusion and afterlife of the material culture of ancient Greece and Rome in an interdisciplinary way
4. Show awareness of the basic terminology and methodology of classical archaeology, its intellectual foundations, and the epistemological constraints they impose on the discipline
5. Select, assess and synthesize typological, stylistic, iconographical and contextual criteria of archaeological evidence relevant to a particular historical discussion
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of visual and laboratory-based analysis of material evidence

**Intellectual**

7. Engage critically with the principal explanatory models and conceptual arguments of classical archaeology and art history
8. Demonstrate the ability to formulate historical hypotheses based on the creative and rigorous combination of various registers of evidence
9. Assess the appropriateness and relative merit of competing approaches to historical explanation of material culture
10. Recognize the comparative context of archaeological interpretation, and the opportunities comparative study provides for the development and application of transferrable analytical skills in new situations

**Practical**

11. Demonstrate the ability to read, criticize and communicate the results of academic research both orally and in writing
12. Evaluate the empirical strength of evidence, arguments and conclusions
13. Make comprehensive and efficient use of the specialist facilities and collections accessible at Birkbeck and its immediate environs
14. Apply digital resources and information technologies as appropriate to his or her research and its presentation in course work and seminar talks

**Personal and Social**

15. Command the skills and confidence to work independently within a well-guided and collaborative framework
16. Work in and contribute to an interactive learning environment characterized by open discussion and constructive criticism
17. Display the organizational skills to meet deadlines for course work and exam preparation, and the intellectual curiosity encouraging self-motivated research
Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Teaching includes classroom lectures and seminars, as well as practical sessions in laboratories, museums, and in the field. Teaching also makes use of appropriate technologies including Moodle. In accordance with existing school guidelines, assessment of postgraduate Level 7 modules is entirely by submitted essay work, and by a dissertation of 15,000 words. Candidates must take and pass the core course and three optional modules in order to progress and to graduate. Students are permitted to retake a module if the performance in assessed coursework was inadequate in the first attempt. The final classification will be based upon all modules, equally weighed. All coursework is marked by the relevant module tutor and second marked by a member of the programme’s teaching staff.

Programme Description

The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the core module ‘Themes & Concepts in Archaeology’ in the first term of their degree. They then have a choice of a further three option modules (taken across two years for the part-time degree, or within one year for the full-time degree). There is also skills training in preparation for the dissertation in the first part of the summer term; students received one-to-one supervision for their dissertation research, and the dissertation is then submitted at the end of September in the year in which the degree is completed.

Optional modules may include:
Between Words and Walls: Housing in the Graeco-Roman World (SSHC295S7)
From Temples to Museums: Post-Classical Encounters with Classical Antiquities (SSHC227S7)
The Edge of Empire: The Archaeology of Roman Frontiers (SSHC064S7)
The City of Rome: Ancient to Medieval (SSHC063S7)
Material Worlds (SSHC353S7)
Archaeological Architecture (SSHC259S7)
Field school: Buried Humanities (SSHC352S7)
Frameworks for Archaeology: Curatorial Archaeology in England (SSHC255S7)

Programme Structure

Full Time programme

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
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## Part Time programme

### Year 1

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<td>SSHC027D7</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
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### Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf)

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

### Student Attendance Framework – in brief


**Principle**

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.
22 Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

23 Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner’s reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality

24 Programme Director

Dr Caspar Meyer

25 Start Date (term/year)

Autumn 2010

26 Date approved by TQEC

Spring 2010

27 Date approved by Academic Board

Summer 2010

28 Date(s) updated/amended

October 2017