

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Classics BA Classical Studies BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UBACLSCS_C (Classics 4 year part time) UUBACLSC_C (Classics 3 full time) UBACLSDS_C (Classical Studies 4 year part time) UUBACLSD_C (Classical Studies 3 year full time) UUBFCLSD_C (Classical Studies with Foundation Year, 4 year full-time) UBFCLSDS_C (Classical Studies with Foundation Year, 6 year part-time)
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	QQP7 BA Classics QQ67 BA Classical Studies QQ6R BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year
6	Home Departments	History, Classics and Archaeology
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full time, 4 years full time with foundation year, 4 years part time, 6 years part time with foundation year
9	Mode of Study	Part time and Full time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Royal Holloway
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	Classics and Ancient History

14	Programme Rationale & Aims	
	<p>BA Classical Studies/BA Classics:</p> <p>The BA in Classical Studies allows students to explore and critically analyse aspects of classical culture. The degree is characterised by research-led teaching, and the breadth of topics on offer reflects the wide range of research expertise of staff. Students may study the culture and history of Greek and Roman societies across the Mediterranean and Near East, from the archaic period to the Roman imperial period, and the reception of classical culture in later periods of history. Undergraduates are encouraged to select options that reflect this breadth of time period and geography in preparation for more specialised study in their honours years. Students are also encouraged to engage in wider debate on how we interpret the classical world and why this matters, debate which is at the forefront of current research in all disciplines of classical antiquity. Students add a further dimension to their study of the classical past with a course in an ancient language, commensurate with ability, acquiring linguistic skills in Latin and/or Greek. The BA in Classics allows students to</p>	

	<p>progress in Greek and/or Latin language, from beginner’s level up to the Set book level. Some levels (normally intermediate and advanced) may be taught during daytime. Greek and Latin language and literature are the primary, but not exclusive focus of this programme, and students are also required to take at least one history/archaeology/literature course unit. Many elements are common to the two degree programmes.</p> <p>The main aims are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enable students to develop and deepen their understanding of the conceptual and theoretical bases of the discipline, its methods of inquiry, its materials and common interpretations 2. To offer students the opportunity to develop and deepen their skills of critical evaluation and analysis 3. To enable students to develop and extend their key skills as a foundation for personal development, employment or further academic study 4. To enable mature students in full-time employment to undertake undergraduate study in Classics or Classical Studies, in fulfilment of the mission of the College <p>Distinctive Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part-time evening teaching (with exception of some language classes) - Combination of lecture, seminar and individual tutorial teaching and supervision - The BA in Classical Studies/Classics fills a central place in the portfolio of courses offered within the School of History Classics & Archaeology, offering Birkbeck students the opportunity to gain a University of London single honours degree in Classics/Classical Studies, taught by internationally renowned researchers (the School was rated 5* in the last RAE). As such, its principal aim is to provide access to high quality research-led education, reflecting the latest intellectual and pedagogic trends in the study of the field. <p>BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year:</p> <p>For the BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year programme, the purpose is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT of FT programmes. The curriculum for the ‘with foundation year’ programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme ‘with foundation year’ are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.</p>
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15	Entry Criteria
	<p>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.</p>

	<p>BA Classics/BA Classical Studies:</p> <p>The UCAS tariff entry requirement is 104-120 points, and for the BA Classics, students should have an A level in in either Greek or Latin. Students who fail to achieve required grades in A-Levels may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential. The UCAS tariff applies to students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year:</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Classical Studies but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>Students completing the Foundation Year of the BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. <p>Students completing the BA Classical Studies will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, concepts and approaches used in the discipline to the analysis of classical topics 2. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of social, political, cultural and intellectual changes within specific periods and areas of the classical world • The nature of a range of ancient textual, epigraphic, documentary, literary and archaeological sources, their problems and potential in providing us with an understanding of Classical culture and history • The shape of particular fields of Classical and historiographical discussion, including the factors which influence different interpretations of the Classical world 3. Successfully completed an independent research project, in the form of a supervised dissertation, making critical use of ancient source material and modern academic debate 4. Extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities 5. Developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral and written presentations, planning and

	<p>producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently, managing time effectively, and, where they have so chosen, using information technology.</p> <p>Students completing the BA Classics will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed their linguistic skills, knowledge and understanding of either Greek or Latin to ‘Set Book’ advanced level 2. Translated, and developed an understanding of linguistic and literary analysis, of one or more ‘Set Book’ in Latin or Greek 3. Demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, concepts and approaches used in the discipline to the analysis of classical literature 4. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural, intellectual and/or political aspects of classical literature • The shape of Classical debate, including influences on interpretation of Classical literature 5. Successfully completed an independent research project, in the form of a supervised dissertation, making analytical use of ancient literature in its original language, and of modern academic debate 6. Extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities 7. Developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently, managing time effectively, and, where they have so chosen, using information technology.
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subject being studied. Seminars mix tutor-led instruction with group discussion and debate, depending on the attainment level. They allow students to explore issues in depth in a smaller group, and there is an expectation that all students will actively participate by reading recommended texts and sources in advance, and offering questions to, and discussing viewpoints with, the group. Both lectures and seminars are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key analytical skills. The BA Classical Studies and Classics degrees have been designed to guide and support students in the attainment of the skills necessary for independent learning: by the end of their studies, students should be able to read critically, prioritise material and sources, and present arguments coherently in both written and oral forms.</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners’ reports and peer-monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by e-mail, and teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance and feedback, and individual tutorials, designed to support independent learning. A detailed handbook for each course gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes, and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organisation and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class and</p>
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	<p>through an online student resource. Guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students throughout the year.</p> <p><i>Assessment Methods:</i> This comprises a mixture of essays, reports, book reviews and other written work, and unseen written examinations across the taught modules; in language classes assessment 5 also takes the form of written translation and grammar exercises. Essays enable students to read around a particular facet of a subject in depth; examinations provide an opportunity to test students' grasp of a wide range of material within a reasonably short assessment procedure. All students must demonstrate basic proficiency in both examinations and coursework. Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, and/or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The Department works closely with the Disability Office to enable all students to participate fully in our courses:</p> <p>http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support</p>
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18	Programme Description and Structure
	<p>Description</p> <p>The BA Classics/Classical Studies programme consists of 12 modules, for a total of 360 credits. These include three compulsory study skill modules, <i>Approaching the past</i>, <i>Exploring the past</i>, <i>Writing the past: dissertation</i>. In order to be awarded a degree in Classical Studies, students must have attempted at least one language module in their first year. In order to be awarded a degree in Classics, students must have attempted at least four (and no more than six) language modules over the course of their degree, at least one of which must be a 'Set Book' in either Greek or Latin literature. Classics students, in addition to the compulsory <i>Approaching the past</i> modules, are also required to take at least one non-language level 4 optional module in their first year.</p> <p>Compulsory modules:</p> <p>There are three compulsory skills modules, one at level 4, one at level 5, and one at level 6.. They aim to provide students with the essential tools for undertaking historical study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approaching the past</i> (level 4): the module introduces students to the different methodologies in relation to the past, it provides basic training in study skills, and familiarity with assessment methods. This is taught in year 1 for FT and PT students • <i>Exploring the past</i> (level 5): provides an overview of the conceptual framework of historiographical discussion, and asks students to consolidate their learning on substantive modules by reflecting on specific historiographical issues. This is taught in year 2 for FT and PT students. • <i>Writing the Past: dissertation</i> (level 6). This is a 60 credit module (double-weighted) The dissertation is completed in the final year of study. It aims to demonstrate that the student is capable of independent study. Students develop their own dissertation topics and carry out their own research, in collaboration with a supervisor. Students must normally obtain a pass in the dissertation in order to graduate. • In addition to these compulsory modules, BA Classics and Classical Studies students need to take the level 5 compulsory module <i>Journeys to the Underworld</i>, which is a module exploring the literary and mythical narratives about the Underworld in Greek and Latin

literature and culture. The module runs in a two years cycle: students therefore will take it in either year 2 or 3, depending on the year it is running.

Optional modules:

- Level 4 modules (1st year modules) These introduce students to broad time periods, a wide range of geographical areas, and essential themes. They are taught by a mixture of lecture and seminar. Full time students usually take three level 4 optional modules. Part-time students usually take two optional Level 4 modules in their first year, and one further optional level 4 module in their second year. The modules are assessed by a combination of exams, essays, book reports, and source analysis.
- Level 5 modules (2nd year modules). These are more focussed modules, taught predominantly via seminar. They develop in greater depth the themes established at optional level 4 modules. Full time students will usually take three of these modules in their second year. PT students will take two of these modules in year 2 and one further in year 3. Level 5 modules are assessed by essays and examination.
- Level 6 modules (3rd year modules). These are highly focussed modules, which rely particularly on the analysis of primary source materials. FT students will take two of these modules in their 3rd year of study. PT students will take one module in year 3 and one further module in year 4. These modules are assessed by essays and examination.

Language modules

Language courses are similarly Level 4, 5 or 6. Students taking Beginners Latin or Greek in their first year will take them as Level 4 courses: that means that the assessment is by written examinations, but that the numerical mark of the assessment will not count towards the final classification of their degree result. In other words, Beginners Latin or Greek taken in the first year will simply count as pass/fail.

Students taking **Beginners Greek or Latin** in their **second year** will take them as **Level 5 courses**: that means that the numerical mark they achieve in their exams will count towards the final classification of their degree.

Intermediate Greek and Latin, and **Advanced Greek and Latin** are Level 5 courses.

Greek/Latin Set Book courses are Level 6 courses

There is a wide variety of modules on offer within the degree, and for further information see the department's website: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history>

BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year

Students in the BA Classical Studies with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3 in the foundation year(s). There are four core modules:

1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City
2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge
3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP
4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy

Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may **progress** onto Year one of BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year.

4 year part-time programme: BA Classics				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option (Greek or Latin, commensurate with ability)	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Option	30	Option
5/6		Language option	30	Option
5 5/6	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR Option	30	Compulsory option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5/6		Language option	30	Option
5 5/6	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR Option	30	Compulsory option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: Dissertation	60	Compulsory
6		Language option	30	Option
3 year full-time programme: BA Classics				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5/6		Language option	30	Option
5/6		Language option	30	Option
5 6	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR Option	30	Compulsory Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5 6	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR Option	30	Compulsory Option
6		Language option	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: dissertation	60	Compulsory

3 year full-time programme: BA Classical Studies				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option
4		Option	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR	30	Compulsory
6		Option		Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR	30	Compulsory
6		Option		Option
6		Option	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: dissertation	60	Compulsory
4 year part-time programme: BA Classical Studies				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Option	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: dissertation	60	Compulsory

BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years)				
Foundation Year 0				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option
4		Option	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR	30	Compulsory
6		Option		Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld OR	30	Compulsory
6		Option		Option
6		Option	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: dissertation	60	Compulsory
BA Classical Studies with Foundation Year (Part-time 6 years)				
FOUNDATION Year (0a)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
FOUNDATION Year (0b)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4/5/6		Language option	30	Option
4		Non-language option	30	Option

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Option	30	Option
6	SSHC408D6	Writing the past: dissertation	60	Compulsory
Greek and Latin Modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL016S4	Beginners' Greek	30	
4	HICL017S4	Beginners' Latin	30	
5	SSHC068S5	Beginners' Greek	30	
5	SSHC067S5	Beginners' Latin	30	
5	HICL074S5	Intermediate Greek	30	
5	HICL077S5	Intermediate Latin	30	
6	HICL001S6	Advanced Greek Language	30	
6	HICL185S6	Greek Set Book A	30	
6	HICL165S6	Latin Set Book A	30	
6	HICL205S6	Latin Set Book B	30	
6	HICL202S6	Greek Set Book B	30	
Optional modules at level 4				
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Option
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: from field to finds	30	Option
4	SSHC405S4	The Archaeology of Greece and Rome	30	Option
4	SSHC409S4	The Medieval World	30	Option
Optional modules at level 5				
5	HICL190S5	From Ancient to Medieval Societies	30	Option
5	SSHC434S5	Cultural Interaction in the Archaic Greek World	30	Option
5	SSHC435S5	Beginnings: The Archaeology of Prehistory	30	Option
5	SSHC436S5	Popular culture in American History, 1870 to the	30	Option
5	SSHC437S5	Between God and Rome: the Byzantine empire, 307-1453	30	Option
5	SSHC440S5	Under the Volcano – the First and Last Days of	30	Option
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld in classical Literature and culture	30	Option
Optional modules at level 6				
6	HICL184S6	The Athenian Empire	30	Option
6	HICL203S6	The Empire of Letters	30	Option

Year of study: 2022/23

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

¹⁹	Programme Director	Dr Serafina Cuomo
²⁰	Start date	Pre 1980
²¹	Date approved by TQEC	Pre 1980
²²	Date approved by Academic Board	Pre 1980
²³	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2020 (for 2020/21)