

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Classical Archaeology				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMACLARC_C (October start) TMACLARJ_C (January start)				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year full-time; 2 years part-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>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.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references

16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Successful candidates will be able to:</p> <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Intellectual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Practical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Personal and Social</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
<p>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 compulsory 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.</p>	

18	Programme Description
<p>Rome in Britain: Receptions of Antiquity and the Grand Tour (SSHC489S7) 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.</p> <p>Optional modules may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • A World in Motion: Mobility, Network, and Material Culture in Mediterranean Antiquity (SSHC502S7) • The Archaeology of Roman Slavery (SSHC475S7) 	

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC358S7	Themes and Concepts in Archaeology	30	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
7		(Option 3)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC358S7	Themes and Concepts in Archaeology	30	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		(Option 3)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Note: the January start route is the same as the October start, but January starters take the compulsory module Themes and Concepts in Archaeology in their third term rather than their first, and submit their dissertation in early January rather than in September.

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

20	Programme Director	Dr Caspar Meyer
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2010
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2010
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2010
24	Date(s) updated/amended	October 2022