

## **MA (Research)/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Classics For students entering in 2010**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Classics and Ancient History, Archaeology
Programme length:	12 Months Full Time 24 Months Part-time
Date of specification:	August 2010
Programme Director:	Dr Timothy E. Duff
Programme Adviser:	Dr Peter Kruschwitz
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	Not appropriate

### **Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims both to provide a transition between first degree level work and doctoral research in various fields of Classics, and also an opportunity to study and expand students' knowledge of Greek and Roman cultures and to research new or specialist topics in their own right. It offers an introduction to techniques, methods, and tools of advanced study and research, both in the general investigation of the ancient world and in certain specialist fields. We stress the diversity of current approaches to understanding the classical past and to interpreting texts. We make no attempt to inculcate a particular research methodology but rather try to extend the skills and experience of individual postgraduate students in such a way as to enable them to develop their own approach to their chosen field. Thus, the provision is multidisciplinary, combining literary, historical, artistic and archaeological approaches. A wide choice of pathways is possible to allow students to follow their individual preferences in terms both of disciplinary approach and of period. Independent study is promoted and teaching is geared towards the individual development of students both in the teaching of optional modules and through the supervised dissertation. Students are also expected to take a course in Ancient Greek or Latin language, at an appropriate level from beginners to advanced.

### **Transferable skills**

In addition to providing a grounding for further research, the programme aims to enhance students' personal and interpersonal skills, in particular, to promote the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; to develop the ability to make decisions and to communicate effectively as both communicator and recipient; and to encourage the faculty of independent learning with a view to adaptability in employment, continuing professional development and life-enhancement.

## Programme content

All students take a Research Methods module (10 credits) which covers key skills in a series of workshops; attendance to the Departmental weekly research seminars is also part of Research Methods. All students also take a course titled 'Approaches to Classics' (30 credits) which introduces students of varied backgrounds to the disciplines, techniques and theoretical approaches relevant to the various branches of Classics and Ancient History and necessary for advanced work or research in the field. Students will also take a language module (20 credits) studying Ancient Greek or Latin in the Department at an appropriate level. By special permission, the latter may be replaced by a modern language offered through the IWLP. Language courses run throughout the first two terms. In the second term of the academic year, students take either a Special Options module (30 credits), which involves the study of two options, or a course on the Archaeology of Greece (40 credits), which is taught at the British School at Athens (NB: separate application required; additional costs apply). In the latter case, by special dispensation, students will take the language course for one term only for 10 credits. A 20,000-word dissertation (90 credits) is also required.

### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CLMRM	Research Methods	10	7
CLMAC	Approaches to Classics	30	7

### Language modules

*One 20-credit module to be chosen from*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL1L1	Latin 1	20	4
CL2L2	Latin 2	20	5
CL2L3	Latin 3	20	5
CL3L4	Latin 4	20	6
CL3L5	Latin 5	20	6
CL1G1	Ancient Greek 1	20	4
CL2G2	Ancient Greek 2	20	5
CL2G3	Ancient Greek 3	20	5
CL3G4	Ancient Greek 4	20	6
CL3G5	Ancient Greek 5	20	6
LA1PK1	Modern Greek 1	20	4
LA1PK2	Modern Greek 2	20	4

### Optional modules

*One module to be chosen from*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CLMSO	Special Options	30	7
CLMAG	Archaeology of Classical Greece	40	7

Dissertation

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CLMDIS	Dissertation	90	7

### **Part-time/Modular arrangements**

This programme may be taken over two years (part-time study) or five years (on a modular basis).

### **Progression Requirements**

N/A

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

All the modules are delivered through small group teaching. Non-linguistic modules are assessed through written assignments. The Research Methods module is assessed through a short written assignment. The Approaches to Classics module is assessed through a book review, an oral or web presentation and one 3,000-word essay. The Special Options module is assessed by two 3,800 word essays, one per option. Language modules are assessed by a combination of written assignments and examination. For the dissertation, students work with a supervisor on an individual basis.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)

#### Failing categories

40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

#### For Masters Degrees

To pass, the students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall and have no mark below 40 in Approaches and Dissertation. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

### For Postgraduate Diplomas

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded a Merit.

### For Postgraduate Certificates

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme must have a good BA degree (normally of at least II.1 standard) or an equivalent qualification.

Overseas students are also required to fulfil the University standards of English language proficiency.

Admissions Tutor: The Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes in collaboration with the course director.

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online ([www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk](http://www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk)), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation

periods). Further information can be found in the Student website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

The Department has a strong research record and a thriving community of postgraduate students. Discussion and interchange of ideas among staff and postgraduate students is fostered through the Departmental research seminars, which include regular contributions from international guest speakers. The Department has its own reference library and a 'Resource Room' with a variety of electronic resources for the use of postgraduates.

### **Career prospects**

This course equips students for further research, typically of a doctoral level. At the same time, when taken as an opportunity for further study, this degree will enhance the prospects of graduates in those diverse fields which Classicists are well-equipped to enter: administration, management, the civil service, law, accounting, publishing, museum work, and teaching.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The Department has an Erasmus Agreement with the University of Crete, Greece, which allows postgraduate student mobility in the Summer for the exclusive purpose of researching/writing the MA dissertation when the topic justifies such mobility. Because of the University system in allocating Erasmus funds, students considering this option should have decided on their dissertation topic and on the planned mobility already in autumn term.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The programme aims to provide graduate students with a thorough grounding in the research skills appropriate to advanced research in the Classics, and expertise in a number of chosen fields. It aims to develop a systematic approach to the acquisition of knowledge together with a critical awareness of current issues of debate and the ability to evaluate and develop appropriate conceptual frameworks. In addition it aims to prepare them for study at MPhil and PhD level by equipping them with the tools necessary for further independent research.

## Programme Outcomes

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ a broad spectrum of interpretations of classical culture approached through selected aspects and topics</li><li>▶ specific areas and topics of the student's choice, researched in depth</li><li>▶ key issues of contemporary debate and scholarly enquiry</li><li>▶ a range of current critical approaches and methodologies</li><li>▶ a range of research techniques drawn from different areas at a theoretical and a practical level of application</li><li>▶ specific linguistic and/or palaeographic skills</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through instruction and discussion in a classroom setting; visits to museums, galleries or theatres; through informal activities such as attendance at Department lecture and seminar series or at conferences and colloquia in Reading and outside; through guided independent reading, enquiry and research; and through the assessed elements of the programme – essays, presentations and the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a range of written assignments; through language tests and examinations; through individual presentations; and through the dissertation.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ engage in analytical and evaluative discussion of a range of texts and sources</li><li>▶ estimate the relevance of specific arguments and interpretations</li><li>▶ discriminate between opposing theories and interpretations</li><li>▶ formulate and present judgements, both orally and in written form, on the basis of evidence and argument</li><li>▶ follow original lines of thought and investigation and propose new hypotheses as appropriate</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed through formal teaching, participation in informal activities, independent research, presentations, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Intellectual skills are assessed informally through discussion and formally through a range of written assignments, including short essays and/or critical commentaries, long essays and a dissertation.</p>
<p><b>C. Practical skills – able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and make judgements in the absence of complete data</li><li>▶ deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, showing critical judgement and applying appropriate methodologies</li><li>▶ communicate conclusions effectively in oral and written form to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li><li>▶ have effective bibliographical and library research skills</li><li>▶ handle material evidence and visual data effectively</li><li>▶ demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Practical skills are developed through participation in formal and informal activities, independent research, presentations, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Practical skills are assessed through a range of written assignments, including short essays and/or critical commentaries, long essays and a dissertation, and through participation in a range of formal and informal activities.</p>

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

- ▶ present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing and clear layout
- ▶ present material orally in a clear, effective and persuasive manner
- ▶ act autonomously in planning, timing and implementing tasks
- ▶ work constructively and flexibly with others
- ▶ display the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Transferable skills are acquired through participation in seminars, attendance at lectures and seminars with internal and external speakers, and applied in self-study and the writing of assignments

*Assessment*

Transferable skills are assessed through all the assessment processes built into the programme. Oral communication is assessed in the presentation. Planning skills are an intrinsic part of the delivery of long essays to time throughout the course and of the development and production of one extended piece of work, the Dissertation.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**