MA(Res) in Ancient Maritime Trade and Navigation (full-time)
For students entering in 2014/5

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Classics and Ancient History
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	08/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Prof Annalisa Marzano
Programme Advisor:	Dr Arietta Papaconstantinou
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	Not Applicable

Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to provide graduate students with a thorough grounding in contemporary approaches to key aspects of the study of ancient (from Classical time to the Medieval period) Mediterranean trade and navigation and to equip them with the tools for further research, including doctoral study, by developing their critical and conceptual understanding. In order to do this most effectively all students spend two months in Venice, being taught by staff of Ca' Foscari University on such topics as ancient shipbuilding and navigation techniques, and methodologies of underwater archaeology. The intensive module taught in Venice has been designed expressively for this programme and includes many guided visits to important sites and museums; these visits are a crucial component of the student learning experience. The provision is multidisciplinary, combining literary, historical, documentary, and archaeological approaches. Independent study is promoted and teaching is geared towards the individual development of students, especially through the supervised dissertation. Students are also required to take a language course (Italian, Latin; or if approved by the Programme Director, ancient Greek). The programme also offers the (optional) opportunity to participate over the summer in an underwater archaeological excavation in one of the several projects directed by staff of Ca' Foscari University. Travel expenses to/from Venice and living expenses there (subsistence and accommodation) are the student's responsibility, in addition to the tuition fees paid for the programme.

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. Students will also develop skills in the critical analysis of diverse evidence, and be able to think comparatively and cross-culturally.

Programme content
All students take a Research Methods module (10 credits), which covers key skills in skills in a series of workshops; attendance of the Departmental weekly research seminars is also part of Research Methods. All students also take a module titled ‘Approaches to Ancient Trade and Navigation' (30 credits) which runs throughout the first two terms; this module develops the techniques necessary for the study of ancient trade and navigation. Students will also take either a module of Italian (through IWLP) or Latin/ Greek at an appropriate level (20 credits). Italian is useful not only for communicating while living in Italy, but also for reading excavation reports and other research material. Latin and Greek are important languages to access directly the ancient primary sources. Which language to choose will be determined in collaboration with the Programme Director on the basis of the student's interests and plans for future career/study. If the student has a strong archaeologically-oriented interest, the language module can, with the permission of the programme director, be substituted with Coastal and Maritime Archaeology, a module on offer in the Department of Archaeology (20 credits). If the student has already proficiency in Latin/Greek and Italian, and has a stronger interest in the historical side of the programme, by special permission another relevant modern language may be studied instead for credit. Language courses run throughout the first two terms and will be assessed, in the case of students on this programme, by means of an in class test at the end of the Spring Term. Students will spend two months at the University of Ca' Foscari completing the intensive course entitled Ancient Navigation and Underwater Archaeology (30 credits), which involves seminars and lectures (taught in English) as well as site and museum visits. To complete the degree a 20,000-word dissertation is required (90 credits).

Compulsory Modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
CLMRM	Research Methods	10	7
CLMAT	Approaches to Ancient Trade and Navigation	30	7
CLMAN	Ancient Navigation and Maritime Archaeology	30	7
CLMDIS	Dissertation	90	7

Optional Modules
One 20-credit module to be chosen from
Language Modules:

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
LA1PI1	Italian 1	20	4
LA1PI2	Italian 2	20	5
Or			
ARMO33D	Coastal and Maritime Archaeology	20	4

Part-time or modular arrangements
This programme may be taken over two years (part-time study).

Progression requirements

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 Ancient Trade and Navigation module is assessed through a book review, an oral or web presentation, and one 4,000-word essay. The Ancient Navigation and Underwater Archaeology module, taught in Venice, is assessed in English by a combination of course participation, presentation and long essay (4,000/5,000 words). Language modules are assessed by a combination of written assignments and class examination.
The Coastal and Maritime Archaeology module is assessed in the Spring Term by combination
 of course participation, presentation, and long essay.
 For the dissertation, students work with a supervisor on an individual basis.

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

Mark Interpretation
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 over 180 credits and have no mark below 40 in CLMAT and CLMDIS. 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 over 120 credits. 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 Certificate
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more over 60 credits. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.*

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme must have a good BA degree in related disciplines (normally a good II.1 standard or higher) 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 consultation the Programme Director.

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories.   Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see 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 a ‘Resource Room', incorporating a reference library and a 'Resource Room' with a variety of electronic resources for the use of postgraduates.
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 Centre. The Student Services Centre 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), 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 Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

Career prospects
This course equips students for further research, typically of a doctoral level and offers additional qualifications/expertise for professionals already working in the cultural heritage sector (e. g., museum curators; staff at coastal archaeological sites; professional field archaeologists). 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, teaching.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
N/A

Programme Outcomes
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.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

- a broad spectrum of interpretations of classical culture approached through selected aspects and topics
- specific areas and topics of the student's choice, researched in depth
- key issues of contemporary debate and scholarly enquiry
- a range of current critical approaches and methodologies
- a range of research techniques drawn from different areas at a theoretical and a practical level of application
- specific linguistic and/or palaeographic skills

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

Assessment
Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a range of written assignments; through language tests and examinations; through individual presentations; and through the dissertation.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

- engage in analytical and evaluative discussion of a range of texts and sources
- estimate the relevance of specific arguments and interpretations
- discriminate between opposing theories and interpretations
- formulate and present judgements, both orally and in written form, on the basis of evidence and argument
- follow original lines of thought and investigation and propose new hypotheses as appropriate

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through formal teaching, participation in informal activities, independent research, presentations, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.

Assessment
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.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and make judgements in the absence of complete data
- deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, showing critical judgement and applying appropriate methodologies
- communicate conclusions effectively in oral and written form to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- have effective bibliographical and library research skills
- handle material evidence and visual data effectively
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems

Practical skills are developed through participation in formal and informal activities, independent research, presentations, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.

Assessment
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.

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 adaptably 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.