

**BA Classical Studies**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6**

**UCAS code: Q810**

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:	3 years
Date of specification:	13/Aug/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Rachel Mairs
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Classics
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Classical Studies. The syllabus aims to familiarise students with the literature, art, philosophy and history of Greek and Roman cultures and their reception and use in modern culture, whilst providing them with the opportunity to study more thematic topics in depth. The programme also provides for the development of the specific interests of students through independent study and specifically the dissertation. Students are encouraged to include elements of ancient languages throughout their degree programme. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Classical Studies through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the programme.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

**Programme content**

Part 1 introduces students to the study of Greek and Roman culture, with a particular emphasis upon the development of the study of primary sources and source criticism, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific topics in Greek and Roman Civilisations. Part 2 develops the student's knowledge of ancient literature and develops an awareness of the role of the classics in the shaping of the modern Western culture via compulsory core modules which also develop their literary skills. In addition, students choose three option modules that are either more thematic or add greater depth than the core modules. In Part 3, there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth.

Not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

In Parts 2 and 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

CL1SO	Ancient Song	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4

Students can choose the remaining credits from modules available from the Department of Classics and from elsewhere in the University.

Optional modules in the Department of Classics (maximum of 80 credits).

CL1GH	Greek History: War, Society and change in the Archaic Age	20	4
CL1RH	Roman History: The rise and fall of the Republic	20	4
CL1G1	Ancient Greek 1	20	4
Or			
CL2G2	Ancient Greek 2	20	5
Or			
CL3G3	Ancient Greek 3	20	5

CL1L1	Latin 1	20	4
Or			
CL2L2	Latin 2	20	5
Or			
CL2L3	Latin 3	20	5

Exceptionally, students may take Latin or Ancient Greek at Stage 4 (Level 6).

Students also have the option of choosing 80 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

## **Part 2 (three terms)**

### *Compulsory modules*

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	5
CL2DR	Ancient Drama	20	5
CL2PR	Prospects for Classicists and Ancient Historians	10	5

### Optional Modules (50 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 modules normally include options in classical Literature, History, Art, Culture and Reception. Students may also take cross-listed Museum Studies modules. Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one level 5 module.

## **Part 3 (three terms)**

### *Compulsory modules*

CL3DP	Preparation for Dissertation in Classics	10	6
And either			
CL3DN	Dissertation for Classics	30	6
Or			
CL3INP	Independent Third Year Project	30	6

Admission to CL3INP is at the discretion of the Programme Director

### Optional modules (80 credits)

A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally include a range of cross-disciplinary options. Students may also take cross-listed Museum Studies modules. Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one level 6 module.

## **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

1. Obtain at least 40% in the module CL1TR and at least 40% in the module CL1SO;
2. Achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits;
3. Achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

## **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see the Examinations Office website.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Teaching is delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2, with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

### **Admission requirements**

No previous experience of Ancient History or Classical Studies is required for admission.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

A-Levels: ABB from three A-level subjects (excluding General Studies).

International Baccalaureate: 32 points overall.

Scottish Highers: ABBBB/ Advanced Highers: ABB

Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Matthew Nicholls

### **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-session 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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

The Department of Classics is the Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

Graduates in Ancient History have found that their degree course has been a good basis for careers in management and administration; the civil service; commerce; law; the media including journalism, broadcasting and publishing; librarianship; and teaching. Graduates have also gone on to postgraduate courses within the field of the Classics at Reading and elsewhere.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

CL2PL is the placement module Work Placement for Classicists and Ancient Historians. It gives students the opportunity to gain experience in a graduate level employment position. Students find their own placements (that is part of the exercise), but they are guided and supported in this by the Department.

Students are encouraged to study abroad for a term to a year (normally in Part 2) either within Europe via the ERASMUS programme or at one of the University of Reading's non-European partner institutions. They will require the consent of the departmental study abroad coordinator in order to participate. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites. Application early in the preceding year (autumn term/very early spring term) is essential. There are also opportunities to study at the British Schools at Rome and Athens.

### **Placement opportunities**

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### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. the literature, thought, art and religion of antiquity,
2. a diverse range of primary materials.
3. a range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of primary materials,
4. a range of techniques and methodologies,
5. the reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation.

##### *Assessment*

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. The Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to:***

engage in analytical and evaluative thinking about texts, sources, arguments and interpretations, independently estimating their relevance to the issue in question, discriminating between opposing theories, and forming judgements on the basis of evidence and argument.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Skills will be introduced in lectures, developed through reading, writing of essays, dissertation and examination

##### *Assessment*

Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

##### **C. Practical skills - *able to:***

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence,
2. develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument,

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the dissertation

3. select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of evidence or data,
4. have effective bibliographical and library research skills.

*Assessment*  
Coursework and examinations, as well as in the dissertation

**D. Transferable skills - able to:**

1. deploy a range of IT resources effectively,
2. present material orally in a clear and effective manner,
3. present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing, and clear layout,
4. work creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others,
5. to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.
6. Show a competency in numeracy within the parameters of the subject.
7. Assess aptitudes in preparation for a career.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

In lectures and seminars and applied in self-study and writing of assignments

*Assessment*  
Coursework and examinations, as well as in 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.**