

Programme Specification

BA Classical and Medieval Studies

For students entering Part 1 in September 2021

UCAS Code: QV81

UFCLXME

UFCLXMEPE

UFCLXMESY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Classical and Medieval Studies with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Classical and Medieval Studies with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a through degree level education in Classical and Medieval Studies. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to both the cultures of antiquity and the Medieval period. Students explore issues of critical and historical interpretation and engage with primary sources from both eras.

In **Classical Studies**, the aim is 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.

In **Medieval Studies**: the History element of this joint-disciplinary programme offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms, and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff.

Part 1:	<p>In Classical Studies, introduces you 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.</p> <p>In Medieval Studies: introduces you to the discipline through study of long-term historical change across the medieval, early modern and modern periods, also familiarising you with the sub-fields of political, intellectual and cultural history.</p>
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	It aims to develop the research, presentational, organisational and essay-writing skills required for the successful study of history at undergraduate level, while highlighting contrasts between academic and popular history, and the importance of strategic career planning.
Part 2:	<p>In Classical Studies, provides you with a 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.</p> <p>In Medieval Studies: provides you with the opportunity to develop more specialised historical knowledge of historical periods and geographical areas. You also have the opportunity to select modules encouraging you to engage with public history beyond academia, identify the wide range of transferable skills arising from the study of history at BA level, and develop additional skills directly relevant to successful job applications. If you intend to base your final-year dissertation on research in medieval studies, we strongly recommended that your choices at Part 2 include a module introducing you to a variety of primary sources and research approaches.</p>
Part 3:	<p>In Classical Studies, gives you the opportunity to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth.</p> <p>In Medieval Studies: gives you the opportunity for more in-depth study through a further range of Options, and, if you choose to base this in History, supervised, independent research for your dissertation</p>

Module information												
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.												
Part 1 Modules:												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module</th> <th>Name</th> <th>Credits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HS1JH1</td> <td>Journeys through History 1: Power and People</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HS1JH2</td> <td>Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concept</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HS1RSO</td> <td>Research Skills and Opportunities in History</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module	Name	Credits	HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20	HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concept	20	HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20
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Students must select at least 40 credits from a list of specified modules in the Department of Classics.												
Remaining credits will be made up of modules in Latin or Ancient Greek, or modules available across the University.												
Part 2 Modules:												
You must choose one 10 credit employability module from a list supplied by the Department.												

Students must select 50 credits of modules in Classics, with at least 20 credits of modules in Ancient Epic or Ancient Drama.

Students must select 60 credits from a list of modules in medieval history available in the Department of History.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules in Classics may be substituted by an IWLP Modern Greek module or *from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.*

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select 40 credits in either a Dissertation or an Independent project module and dissertation preparation. Admission to the Independent Project module is at the discretion of the programme director.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Classics. Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be replaced by IWLP Modern Greek.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in medieval history available in the Department of History.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

In **Classical Studies** there are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

In **Medieval Studies**: Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of the study trip is not expected to exceed £350.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimate was calculated in 2020.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through 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.

In **Medieval Studies**: You will be taught mainly through lectures and seminars. Some History modules include group and one-to-one supervisions and/or study trips. History is a subject which frequently requires preparation for classes through reading and independent study. Formal classes, of whatever kind, are there to give you guidance over content and

approaches, and to offer opportunities for different kinds of learning (listening/note-taking; discussions; formal and informal presentations; essay-writing; other kinds of writing) but the responsibility for study lies with you.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 156 hours, Part 2 - 192 hours, Part 3 - 120 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework.

In History, besides formal essays, shorter written exercises such as book reviews and source analyses, the programme includes an innovative range of coursework assignments such as reflective reports, placement logs, wikis, blogs, vlogs and online galleries. Some modules may be partly assessed by oral presentation, visual presentation and/or online exercises. In the case of placement modules, a placement provider's report on the student's performance on placement may form part of the assessment process.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module in Part 1 (HS1JH1, HS1JH2, HS1RSO); and
- (iv) obtain at least 40% in 40 credits of specified Classics modules in Part 1.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

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

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120

credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Classical and Medieval Studies for students entering Part 1 in session 2021/22
30 July 2020

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