

Programme Specification

BA Ancient History

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: V110

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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 Ancient History with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Ancient History with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Classics and Ancient History (including Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek)

Programme information and content

We teach a broad and inclusive version of the ancient world, using and evaluating many diverse forms of evidence – archaeological, literary, philosophical, and historical. Our guiding principle is that the ancient world should be accessible to all, and everyone can benefit from and enjoy studying it. The capacities and interests that we foster will enable our graduates to act as engaged citizens of the multicultural modern world, open to new arguments and able to adjust their perspectives in line with the evidence. The skills gained in the course of our stimulating degree programme – including communication, presentation, research, and data management skills – are valued by a wide range of employers. Students also have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of ancient languages. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Ancient History through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the programme.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the study of Greek and Roman civilizations with a particular emphasis on the critical engagement with primary sources, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific historical topics.
Part 2:	Enables you to develop your knowledge of Greek and Roman history by studying a range of different periods from ancient history across a choice of modules, from ancient Egypt to Late Antiquity. A careers-focused module will encourage you to reflect on the transferable skills you are gaining through your degree and guide you towards the best ways to present these to prospective employers.

Placement/Study abroad year:	The four-year variants of the programme (BA Ancient History with Study Year Abroad or Professional Placement) offer you an outstanding opportunity to develop your experiences and transferable skills, either through study in a different academic setting (Study Year Abroad) or through a Professional Placement. The programme also offers shorter placement and study abroad opportunities.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a topic in depth for a dissertation or an independent project.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Ancient History

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate understanding of the principles and methods by which ancient historical information is acquired and analysed.
2	Demonstrate acquaintance with a diverse set of primary sources and scholarship
3	Identify suitable sources of information in primary materials and scholarship.
4	Analyse and synthesise complex data sets and make connections between different types of evidence.
5	Understand and evaluate different arguments, using independent thinking to arrive at evidence-based conclusions.
6	Communicate effectively in writing and in other media.
7	Reflect on your own work and development.
8	Demonstrate awareness of the social, cultural and political context of ancient historical interpretation and practice.
9	Acknowledge contemporary debates around issues such as inequality, sustainability, globalisation, cultural diversity, decolonisation and anti-racism.
10	Demonstrate a wide range of skills relating to employability in the wider world of work; these include teamworking, problem solving, communication, independent working and digital literacy.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
Study Abroad By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution. Placement By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

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:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
CL1GH	Greek History: war, society, and change in the Archaic Age	20	4
CL1PP	The Past in the Present	20	4
CL1RH	Roman History: the rise and fall of the Republic	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Classics and modules from an approved list.			
Part 2 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
CL2CGH	Greek History: Persian Wars to Alexander	20	5
CL2RO	Roman History: From Republic to Empire	20	5
Students must choose one 20-credit employability module from a list provided by the department.			
Students must take a minimum of 40 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Classics, with the remaining credits made up of specified modules outside the department and up to 20 credits of modules from an approved list.			
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 Professional Placement Year (CL2PPY) or Study Abroad Year (CL2SAY).			
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.

Students must select at least 60 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Classics.

Up to 20 credits may be selected from modules from an approved list.

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.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

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/independent project in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study. Throughout the programme, you should treat the feedback you get for oral and written work as an important learning resource, and you are strongly encouraged to discuss your feedback with staff.

The 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 - 204 hours, Part 2 - 130 hours, Part 3 - 96 hours. Latin and Greek language classes will have more contact hours (up to 80 hours per year for beginners' languages).

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a wide range of suitable activities, from essays and exams (both written and oral) to presentations, creative responses, and reflective exercises. These activities will become more complex as you progress from Part 1 to Parts 2 and 3. You should expect between one and three assessed assignments per 20 credits. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

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.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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 placement/study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Professional placement/Study abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Some modules use textbooks that are recommended for purchase; the estimated cost is £150 across the programme.

Optional modules may include visits to museums and field trips, including abroad. Travel and/or accommodation costs may range from £20 for a day trip to London to £600 for a week abroad.

Placements may require students to cover the cost of their travel. Study abroad may require additional costs for tuition, travel, and accommodation.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Ancient History for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

2 July 2026

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