



Contact us

- @BristolUni
- bristoluniversity
- UniversityofBristol
- UniversityofBristol

Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Shelley Hales, Dan Rowley
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Classics and Ancient History



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA Ancient History

three years V110

BA Classics

three years Q800

BA Classical Studies

three years Q810

Joint Honours

BA English and Classical Studies

three years QQ38

Why study classics and ancient history at Bristol?

Classics and ancient history involve the study of ancient Greece and Rome and their reception by later cultures.

At Bristol, not only do we offer the full range of traditional subjects, but we also challenge our students to decide for themselves what the classics mean for them in this culture and at this time. Topics range from ancient Greek and Latin language units at all levels to historical and cultural surveys and highly specialised seminar subjects.

Moreover, all of our courses give you the opportunity to choose optional units, some of which may be taken outside the department. For example, you may choose to study post-classical art history, politics, Sanskrit or Italian, or pick from dozens of other topics across the University.

Whatever you choose, our strong staff-student ratio means that you will receive plenty of help in developing your own well-informed and sophisticated ideas. Many units involve small-group work, and all our third-year units are taught in small-group seminars.

Intellectual ambition, rigour and debate – these are the hallmarks of the Department of Classics and Ancient History, where critically acclaimed researchers and new scholars alike are at the forefront of defining the future of the discipline.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

What will you study?

Whichever course you choose, you will take four core units and two optional units for each of your first two years. One of the optional units must be taken somewhere in the department, while the other may be taken anywhere in the University.

In classical studies, you focus on Greek and Roman art, myth, literature, and the history of their reception. This course aims to help you develop sophisticated new ways of interpreting and enjoying both ancient and modern culture. A typical core unit is Myth, in which you learn a variety of theories for discovering the deep meanings of a mythical text, such as the Homeric Hymn to Demeter. You may choose to learn an ancient language.

In classics, you concentrate on Greek and Latin language and literature. You will be allocated to appropriate Greek and Latin classes based on your previous experience. No previous knowledge is required; however, students

without experience of Greek or Latin should be able to demonstrate an aptitude for other foreign languages. With the exception of introductory units, all students combine language acquisition with literary, historical or philosophical interpretation. A typical core unit is Catullus and Horace, in which you read selected poems by the two Roman authors, study their poetic techniques, learn how they adapted previous Greek and Latin literary traditions and, on this basis, develop your own interpretations.

In ancient history, you explore the Greek and Roman world, the sources of information available, and the different interpretive approaches employed by ancient and modern historians. Some units will focus on teaching you how to find and interpret evidence, while others concentrate on core periods in Greek and Roman political and cultural history, such as the Hellenistic period or Late Antiquity. You may also choose to learn an ancient language.

In the third year of all courses students take seminar units on special topics related to staff research interests. With the aid of a staff supervisor you will research and write a dissertation on a subject of your choice. You will also take Applied Classics, an innovative unit in which you will work as part of a group to identify, plan, market and execute a project aimed at presenting the ancient world to the wider public. Those studying ancient languages may continue them during the third year; students on the classics degree must continue with at least one language.

Teaching methods for all courses vary by unit, but most students will encounter a combination of small discussion seminars (typically ten to 20 students), language instruction (ten to 30 students) and large lectures (40 to 100 students). We encourage you to attend regular one-to-one tutorials for essay feedback and discussion of your progress. You will encounter a variety of

assessment, including portfolios, essays and exams. You will also have the opportunity to give and receive feedback on oral presentations. The assessments will allow you to demonstrate your subject-specific knowledge and expertise and to develop key critical and communication skills to prepare you for life as a graduate.

Academically, the department covers everything from Latin and literature to critical theory and ancient philosophy, reflecting also on the parallels with modern post-classical texts, art and even popular music and cinema.



'My studies have helped me to develop critical thinking and the ability to research and express ideas in essay form. I have also had opportunities to express thoughts and debates in tutorials with peers.'

Emma, studied classics

Careers and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Arts students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech startups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, as well as sectors not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

Graduates from the Department of Classics and Ancient History go on to careers in law, finance and commerce, management, journalism, the civil service, teaching, the media, and many other areas.

All of our courses aim to teach a wide variety of analytical and communicative skills, which are valued by employers in many fields. For example, you will learn to write correctly and develop your sense of style; you will improve your ability to synthesise complex sources of information, draw judicious conclusions and present those conclusions clearly; and you will expand your capacity to construct sophisticated

and persuasive arguments in writing and in conversation. We have close contact with the Careers Service so that you benefit from further training and advice.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work, and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.



Graduate employers
Ministry of Defence
Bundel Greenham
Lloyds Banking Group
Santander
Vodafone



Career destinations
Marketing Executive
Civil Service Employee
Finance Graduate Trainee
Management Consultant
Underwriter

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is for students of classics. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.

Making your application

Classics

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-classics for more information about our course.

Typical offer for BA Classics

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB).

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs 6 or B at GCSE in a modern or ancient language, or equivalent qualification such as Latin or Greek short course.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-classics.

Application advice for classics

All applicants should show a proven capacity for language learning.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Classics and Ancient History: bristol.ac.uk/classics.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-classics.

Ancient History and Classical Studies

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-ancienthistory and bristol.ac.uk/ug20-classicalstudies for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BA Ancient History and BA Classical Studies

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB).

IB Diploma 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-ancienthistory and bristol.ac.uk/ug20-classicalstudies.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students