Apply your knowledge
Our innovative Applied Classics unit lets you work as part of a group to identify, plan, market and execute a project aimed at presenting the ancient world to the wider public.

Eclectic curriculum
The department covers everything from Latin and Greek language and literature to ancient history and modern critical theory, reflecting also on the contemporary relevance of the classical world in modern texts, art and cinema.

Career-ready skills
Hone your skills in critical thinking, persuasive writing and self-expression. Our graduates have found positions in research, administration, media, museums, art galleries, heritage management, the civil service, law, accountancy, computing and teaching.
Why study classics and ancient history at Bristol?

Studying our degree programmes lets you explore enduring problems that span all of Western culture from Greek and Roman antiquity through to the present, ranging from the birth of democracy at Athens to the ongoing relevance of Greek myth in contemporary culture.

In classical studies, you will focus on Greek and Roman culture: the art, myth and literature of the classical world, the history of its reception, and its continuing relevance. In ancient history, you will explore the Greek and Roman world from the second millennium BCE to the first millennium CE, the sources of information available, and the different interpretive approaches employed by historians. In both courses, you may also choose to learn an ancient language.

In classics, you will concentrate on Greek and Latin language and literature, with appropriate Greek and Latin classes based on your experience. No previous knowledge of ancient languages is required, and you can start one or both languages from scratch. Higher-level language units will introduce you to more sophisticated critical approaches to classical literature.

Whichever course you choose, you will take four core units and two optional units for each of your first two years, allowing you to pursue your own interests in classics and beyond. One of the optional units may be taken elsewhere in the University in a subject you’re interested in. There is the possibility of studying abroad for one semester in the second year.

In the third year, seminar units let you explore special topics related to staff research interests, engaging in detail with cutting-edge work on the ancient world. Working with a supervisor, you’ll also research and write a dissertation on a subject of your choice.

Sample units may include:
- The Greeks and the Supernatural
- Roman Emperors – A Survival Guide
- Women and the Family in Ancient Greek Tragedy
- Pagan and Christian in Late Antiquity: Debate and Interaction.

Find out more
Entry requirements, course structure and units
[bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-classics](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-classics)

‘I am inspired to study at Bristol knowing they have some of the best research teams in the country. Bristol’s greatest asset is its diversity of both students and opportunities.’

Panayiotis (BA Ancient History)

The department’s research is brought together by the Institute of Greece, Rome, and the Classical Tradition, which hosts a series of fascinating public lectures and events. Professor Mary Beard, who was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University in 2012, is a Vice-President of the Institute.

In the second year you have the chance to spend an unforgettable semester studying in Canada, Australia or the US.

You’ll study in our recently renovated Humanities Hub, home to new lecture theatres, flexible teaching spaces, a screening room, exhibition area and a range of social spaces.
Courses

BA Ancient History
BA Classics
BA Classical Studies
BA English and Classical Studies

Connect with the Department of Classics and Ancient History

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). 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. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.