

Studying Classics,
Classical Studies,
and Ancient
History at Bristol

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Welcome!

- Thanks for your interest in the Department; we're very sorry we couldn't meet you and welcome you to Bristol
- This presentation sets out some important information about our degree courses and student life here at Bristol.



1. Who We Are
2. Our Courses
3. Life in Bristol
4. Any questions?
5. Going Forward

Our students

- Our department comprises of about 90-100 students per year, across our four degree programmes.
- Because many of our modules are taken by students across the four degrees (and there are opportunities too to take modules outside the department) there is ample opportunity to get to know your fellow students!



The department

- We have around 16 full-time academic staff, from areas as far afield as Australia, Argentina, the USA and Dublin.
- Our academics work across the whole range of classical subjects, from ancient politics to Greek myth, through to the contemporary relevance of classical drama in modern creative practice.
- Our third year modules are particularly informed by our individual research interests, and offer an opportunity to engage in detail with our cutting edge research.

Meet (some of) the team!



Emma



Laura



Kurt



Shelley



Silke



Vanda



Pantelis



Nico



Esther



Lyndsay

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Key features

All of our degree programmes are designed to:

- Foster your love of your subject;
- Build disciplinary expertise;
- Offer breadth and variety (in subject, approach and period);
- Encourage you to be intellectually curious;
- Help you to share ideas and develop skills working with others;
- Offer a sophisticated critical ‘toolkit’ for future careers.



Our programmes

We have three single honours degree courses and one joint honours course in the department:

- **V110 Ancient History**
- **Q810 Classical Studies**
- **Q810 Classics**
- **QQ38 English & Classical Studies**

There is some overlap between the courses, but each degree has its own focus and compulsory elements.



Each course includes two compulsory elements per teaching block, and one optional module.

These optional modules can be chosen from within the department, or from modules elsewhere in the university; they offer an opportunity to tailor the course to your own interests.

For more information on individual modules, please consult the course catalogue on the university website.



Ancient History

You will spend your first year developing a general knowledge of some key narratives within classical history (Historical Survey: Ancient Greece and HS: Ancient Rome).

You will also develop skills in reading and assessing sources (Ancient Historical Writers) and look at a specific period in more detail (Ancient Historical Topic).

The idea is to develop a set of skills and a general knowledge which you can apply in more detail, and more sophisticated ways, in subsequent years.

Rome



Ancient History

First Year

TB1:

Survey: Ancient Greece;
Ancient Historical Writers;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Survey: Ancient Rome;
Ancient Historical Topic;
Optional Unit (Bristol
Futures).

Second Year

TB1:

Approaches to Roman History;
Material Remains of the Past;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Approaches to Greek History;
Roman Imperial Culture;
Optional Unit.

Rome

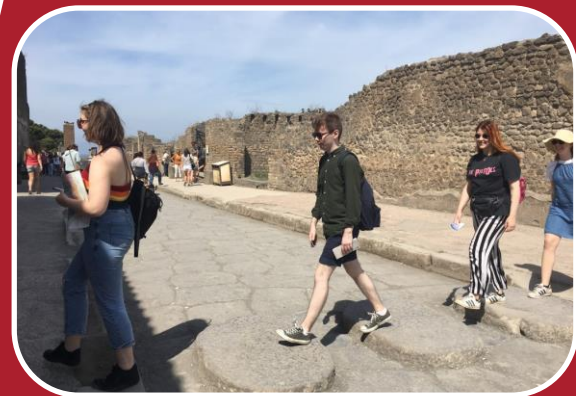


Classical Studies

The Classical Studies course is more focused on the culture of the classical world, and the ways it has informed the culture of the last two millennia.

In your first year you will explore some key areas within Greco-Roman literature (Literature, Epic), visual art (Sculpture) and philosophy (Thought), alongside choosing optional modules from within the Department or beyond.

In subsequent years, you will explore classical culture in more theoretically sophisticated ways, as well as exploring the legacy of the classical tradition.



Pompeii

Classical Studies

First Year

TB1:

Literature;
Sculpture;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Thought;
Epic;
Optional Unit (Bristol
Futures).

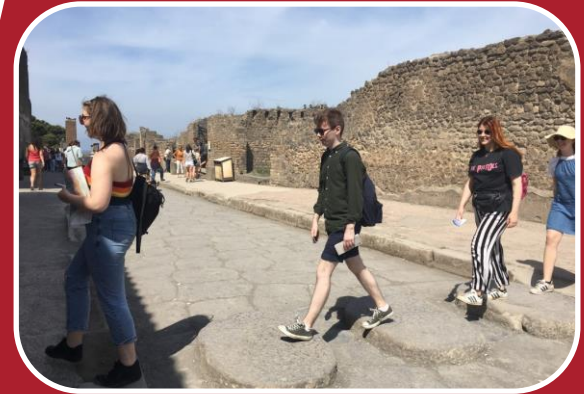
Second Year

TB1:

Myth;
Experiencing the City;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Legacy;
Drama;
Optional Unit.

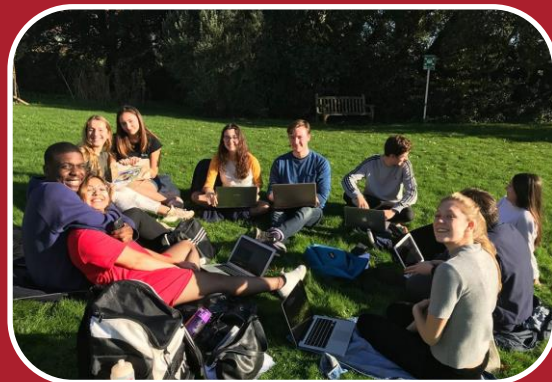


Classics

The Classics degree involves one Latin and one Greek module each Teaching Block for your first two years (which you will combine with optional modules).

Those with A-level or equivalent will start from level B in each language, while those with less experience will start from level A. Level A will take you from no knowledge of the language up to roughly A-level standard. Level B focuses on reading original texts, and exploring critical responses to them.

In subsequent years, you will develop your knowledge of the languages, as well as reading more classical texts, and exploring more sophisticated critical approaches to them.



Seminar Outside

Classics

First Year

TB1:

Greek
language/texts;
Latin language/texts;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Greek
language/texts;
Latin language/texts;
Optional Unit (Bristol
Futures).

Second Year

TB1:

Greek language/texts;
Latin language/texts;
Optional Unit.

TB2:

Greek language/texts;
Latin language/texts;
Optional Unit.



Seminar Outside

English & CS

The English & Classical Studies course includes modules from Classics & Ancient History and from English; there is a lot of flexibility in combining the two degree programmes.

Of the modules within our department, you have the choice of following a path more focused on classical culture (with overlaps with the Classical Studies course above) or focusing on the languages.

You will combine these classical studies with core parts of the English curriculum; this allows you to explore the legacy of the classical world across a wider chronological sweep.

Ostia



English & CS

First Year

TB1:
Literature 1150-1550 (E)
 or Sculpture (CS);
Critical Issues (E);
Literature (CS) *or* Latin/Greek (CS).

TB2:
Approaches to poetry (E)
 or Thought *or* Latin/Greek
(CS);
Literature 1550-1740 (E) *or* Epic
(CS);
Optional Unit (Bristol Futures).

Second Year

TB1:
Any special subject (E);
Literature 1740-1900 (E)
 or Experiencing the City (CS);
Myth *or* Latin/Greek (CS).

TB2:
Any special subject (E)
 or Drama *or* Latin/Greek (CS);
Literature 1900-present (E)
 or Legacy (CS);
Optional Unit.



Ostia

Third year

In your third year, you have a lot of flexibility in pursuing your own interests in more detail.

All courses (except advanced language courses) are open to all students in the department; so you can explore those areas which most interest you, in courses which are focused on the research interests of members of the department.

You will also produce a dissertation – a large-scale research project – and take the Applied Classics module, which involves a project focused on communicating your interests and knowledge about the ancient world to a wider audience.



Third Year class

Third year

Single Honours:

3 special subjects (including for Classicists 2 language units);
Dissertation;
Applied Classics.

English & Classical Studies:

Special subject (E) & contemporary mid-scale unit (E) *or*
Special subject (CS) *or* Gk/Lat (CS) *and* a C Unit (E);
Romantic or Victorian mid-scale unit (E) *or*
Applied Classics (CS) *or* Greek/Latin (CS);
Free choice of an F unit (E *or* CS);
Dissertation.



Third Year class

Special subjects

Third year subjects build directly on our academics' research interests, and allow you to explore more specific subjects in greater detail. Some examples of recent third year subjects:

- Pompeii;
- The Age of Augustus: Myth and History;
- Receptions of Greek Tragedy;
- The Trojan War in Ancient Literature;
- Pagans and Christians;
- The Persian Empire;
- Configurations of Gender and Sexuality;
- The Passions.



Relief from Persepolis [The Persian Empire]

Dissertation

A 10,000 word research project; you will build on your own interests, working together with your supervisor to formulate a title for your project.

Some recent dissertation topics:

- Foreigners in the Roman imagination;
- Illness and disease in Greek tragedy;
- Populism in the ancient world;
- Envy in Latin love poetry: a psychological approach;
- Greek and Roman castration;
- The Amazons in ancient and modern thought;
- Greek myth in Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927).



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Student life

In an ordinary teaching week, student life might include:

- Lectures and seminars (including an average of 10 hours per week contact time across all three years);
- One-to-one progress meetings with personal tutors;
- Consulting unit tutors about essays and assessments;
- Meeting with other students to work on a group project.

Elsewhere in the department we have a flourishing Classics society, whose activities include putting on an annual play and a trip to Bath alongside regular socials.



Field Trips

Every year, there is a field trip to Italy in Teaching Block Two. This year we went to Rome.

Day 1: Colosseum; Palatine; Forum and Imperial Fora;

Day 2: Campus Martius (Mausoleum of Augustus; Pantheon; Mausoleum of Hadrian etc);

Day 3: South of the city (Circus Maximus; Baths of Caracalla; Villa of the Quintilii; Via Appia etc);

Day 4: Ostia (Ostia; Monte Testaccio etc).

Staff also organise other trips to local sites, like the Roman fort at Caerleon, and to relevant theatre productions.



Careers week

Throughout your time with us, we will be helping you think about your future. In particular, every year the faculty holds a week of advice and talks from our *alumni* on opportunities for Arts graduates. There is a particular focus on careers popular with Classics and Ancient History students in:

- The public sector;
- Teaching;
- Cultural heritage sector;
- Publishing;
- PR, comms and marketing;
- Advertising;
- Banking, finance and consultancy;
- Technology;
- Events management;
- Writing and journalism;
- Music;
- Theatre, film and TV



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FAQs

1) Can I study (e.g.) Virgil's *Aeneid*?

The texts you study will depend on what courses you take; but it is very likely that you will read major texts like Virgil and Homer. For more unusual texts, even if you do not cover them as part of the course, you could choose to look at them in detail in your dissertation.

2) Can I study abroad?

Yes, single honours students from the School of Humanities usually have the opportunity to study abroad for one semester of their second year. Our students have studied in Canada, the USA, and Europe.



3) Do your courses cover only Greece and Rome?

Our main focus is on the cultures and history of Greece and Rome, but we also go beyond this geographically (including courses on the wider Mediterranean world and the Persian Empire) and chronologically (thinking about the legacies of the classical world today).

4) Can I start Latin or Greek from scratch?

Students on the Classics degree will take both languages from scratch if they have not covered them before; all other students may if they wish to start either Latin or Greek as optional modules. These can be a useful skill for anyone interested in the classical world!



If you have any questions which have not been covered here, please email edwin.shaw@bristol.ac.uk and I will try to answer them!



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Find out more

You can find all our course details in the online prospectus:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/>

For more information about the department, visit our website:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/classics/>

To find out more about our activities and keep in touch, please follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/BristolCLAH/>

[https://twitter.com/Bristol CLAH](https://twitter.com/Bristol_CLAH)



Again, if you have any questions which are not covered here, please do contact edwin.shaw@bristol.ac.uk.

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Thanks for reading!

We hope to welcome you
to Bristol soon.

