Classical Studies

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/classics
classics@st-andrews.ac.uk

See also Ancient History (& Archaeology), School of Classics, Classics, Greek and Latin, History

Available degree options

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Classical Studies will enable you to explore beyond Greek and Roman literature, learning about cultural history, philosophy, religion and art. Topics include Athenian democracy, Greek tragedy, ancient erotic fiction, Roman culture and Platonic dialogue.

- Breadth of coverage: explore the glories of Greek and Roman culture from the earliest days of archaic Greece to the later Roman Empire.
- Diversity of specialist topics: mix and match from literature, art, archaeology, culture and society, and the reception of Greece and Rome in the modern world.
- No prior experience required: you can start studying Classical Studies here.
- Option to learn Latin and Greek from scratch alongside your Classical Studies courses.

What will I study?
Classical Studies is a broad and vibrant degree that allows you to explore all aspects of the literature, art and culture of the Greeks and Romans as well as their legacy to the modern world. All Greek and Roman texts are studied in English translation, but there are opportunities to learn Greek and Latin too, and to supplement your studies with Ancient History courses.

First year
In your first semester, you will study Greek drama, epic, art, religion and philosophy to explore the ways the Greeks used myths of the heroic past to explore pressing issues in their own society. In the second semester, you will study the poetry, art and literature of the Romans as they came to terms with the violent end of their ancient Republic and the rise of the first emperor, Augustus.

Second year
You will start by studying the art and literature of the late Roman republic. From the seething passions of Latin love poetry to the slick rhetoric of Rome’s politicians, and the efforts of Rome’s philosophers to find the virtuous life amidst political turmoil, you will explore in depth the Romans’ responses to the chaotic final years of the Republic. In the second semester, you will travel back to where it all began, and study the very roots of western civilisation in archaic Greece, with its ferment of innovation in poetry, philosophy and ideas of society.

Third and fourth years
(Honours)
You will choose from a wide range of specialist courses to pursue your interests in depth. Recent courses have included not only central topics in Classical Studies such as Greek epic, theatre and religion, Greek and Roman art, and women in antiquity, but also more unusual subjects like magic, animals in the ancient world, and the reception of Greek and Roman culture from the Renaissance to the present. You can supplement these courses with options drawn from the Ancient History programme for a truly wide-ranging exploration of the Greek and Roman worlds.

Entry requirements
We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/entry

Competitive applications will have previous experience of studying a modern or ancient foreign language at National 5 / GCSE level, or equivalent.

SQA Highers: ABBB
GCE A-Levels: AAA
International Baccalaureate Points: 36, including three subjects at HL.

“I have fallen in love with the life and literature of ancient Greece and Rome. The School has a great feeling of community where everyone knows each other. It is amazing to become good friends with fellow undergraduates, postgraduate students and even lecturers as each person has their own favourite area of the subject that you can pick up on even when you are not in class.”

Megan (South Lanarkshire, Scotland)