Classics courses are wide-ranging and explore concepts and issues which remain fundamental today. You will study ancient political, social and cultural life, as well as Greek and Latin, literature, art, architecture, philosophy and religion.

- In-depth linguistic and literary training from the very start. You will study the main genres, periods and authors of Greek and Latin literature – and many unusual ones too – with intensive linguistic training to help you read and interpret the texts with sensitivity.
- We offer separate degrees for Latin and Greek, and a combined Classics degree that includes both languages.
- Wide range of specialised courses from epic to tragedy, philosophy and modern reception.
- Opportunity to start Latin and Greek here, with dedicated support for beginners in each language.

What will I study?

Latin and Greek are the gateways to two literatures of enormous richness and sophistication that have profoundly shaped western thinking on literature, philosophy, politics, art and many other subjects. To study them at university is not just a linguistic challenge, but a challenge to understand what the texts meant in their original context and what they might mean today. You can study Latin or Greek separately as Single Honours degrees in their own right, or combine them together in the Classics degree. If you have never had the chance to study Latin or Greek before, you can start one or even both languages from scratch here.

First year

Your first two years will focus on developing the linguistic and interpretative skills you will need for advanced literary study. Beginners will focus on intensive language learning in their first year, while those who have studied Latin or Greek before (to Higher, A-Level, IB or equivalent) will refine their linguistic skills and learn new skills of literary and cultural analysis. If you are taking Classics and starting both languages from scratch, you can ease yourself in by taking one language in your first year and starting the other in your second.

Second year

You will continue to develop your skills of literary analysis by reading a wide range of texts, authors and genres. Whether you are studying Greek, Latin or both, you will work with texts drawn from the whole range of ancient literature, such as epic, drama and poetry, oratory, historiography and philosophy, and unusual genres such as the ancient novel.

Third and fourth years

(Honours)

You will choose from a wide range of specialised courses to pursue your interests. Recent courses in Greek have included tragedy, theatre, rhetoric, and education. Recent courses in Latin have included epic, comedy, satire, and biography. We offer many other courses besides these, including prose composition in both languages. If you started one language in your second year, you will take special courses in your third year to complete your linguistic training.

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.

Classics, Greek and Latin

See also: Ancient History & Archaeology; School of Classics; Classical Studies; History

Available degree options

- MA
- BA
- MA
- MA
- Single Honours
- International Honours
- Joint Honours
- Triple Honours

See entry requirements and other information, page 12
See Arts combinations, pages 172-173
See Triple combinations, pages 136-137

Previous knowledge of subject required? No

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

SQA Highers: ABB

GCE A-Levels: AAA

International Baccalaureate Points: 36, including three subjects at HL.

“Taking Ancient Greek has made my understanding of both the classical world and the foundation of European culture so much better, as well as opening a whole new area of learning. The amount of language contact time has given me more knowledge than I thought I could handle – it’s been fast-paced but very enjoyable. Not to mention the high quality of teaching and the constant enthusiasm of the lecturers – their enjoyment of the subject is infectious!”

Hugh (Berkshire, England)