Ancient History

See also Classical Studies page 70, Classics page 72, Greek page 102, History page 104, Latin page 118

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (SingleHonours degrees)
Ancient History
Ancient History & Archaeology
History (see page 104) – you may choose to study Ancient History modules as an organic part of a History degree.

BA (International Honours degree)
Classical Studies – Ancient History and Archaeology pathway
(For likely grades and other information, see page 20)

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Ancient History and one of:
Art History
Biblical Studies
Comparative Literature
Economics
Film Studies
French
German
Greek
International Relations

Ancient History & Archaeology and Social Anthropology

Ancient History and two Modern Languages
Combinations are available in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian or Spanish, see page 130.

Required:

French – A at Higher or A at A-Level or HL6 at IB.
Latin
Mathematics – A at Higher or A-Level or HL6 at IB.
Persian
Philosophy
Social Anthropology
Spanish

Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

Likely grades considered for an offer

We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement and offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here.

SQA Highers: ABB (see specific subject footnotes above)
GCE A-Levels: AAA (see specific subject footnotes above)
International Baccalaureate Points: 36 including 3 at HL6

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

For full Faculty entrance requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher likely grades determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No but see note about competitive applications.

Subject enquiries

E: classics@st-andrews.ac.uk

Why study Ancient History here?

* Broad choice of periods and topics on offer, from the archaeology of Greece to the politics of the later Roman Empire. Our modules cover social, economic, political, religious, cultural, intellectual, scientific and literary history.
* Teaching by specialists in both historical and archaeological evidence, with research interests spanning the whole of the Mediterranean world, from ancient Persia to Roman Britain.
* Friendly but academically challenging departmental ethos, enhanced by impressive student:staff ratios.
* Active undergraduate Archaeological Society.
* The School of Classics was rated first in Scotland and second in the UK in the Research Excellence Framework 2014. It came first in the 2016 National Student Survey with a satisfaction rating of 100%.
* Fieldwork – students are encouraged to apply for a placement on one of our own staff’s fieldwork programmes or on an archaeological project or at one of the British School Summer Schools.
* Travel bursaries are available for approved programmes.

Facilities and resources

Classics is housed in Swallowgate, an attractive building overlooking the sea and situated close to the University Library and the main quadrangle. There are computing facilities in the building, seminar rooms and staff offices. The School has its own Library, supplementing the University Library’s major holdings of books and periodicals.

What will I study?

Ancient History in St Andrews comprises the study of ancient Greece and Rome, and of neighbouring peoples such as the Persians. You will study the period from the beginning of Greek writing and urbanism in the eighth century BCE to the collapse of the western Roman Empire during the fifth century CE. Geographically the subject is centred on the Mediterranean World, but at times is extended from the Persian Gulf to the Clyde and from the Crimea to the Sahara. Current modules include The Archaeology of Roman Italy, Persia and the Greeks, Hunger and Violence in the Roman World and Alexander the Great. The subject is vast and growing every day, especially through new archaeological research and through interdisciplinary collaborations.

Ancient History is taught by a team of internationally-acclaimed scholars. Together we offer modules on archaeological and literary as well as historical topics. Friendly contact is established from the start through small tutorial groups that enable you to get to know the staff and other students very quickly. All our Ancient History staff share the lecturing in first year.
Ancient History & Archaeology
We offer a wide range of modules at Honours, including several that are entirely or largely archaeological in content. The core module Principles and Techniques in Archaeology is complemented by options such as The Ancient City of Rome, The Archaeology of Roman Britain and the module In the Footsteps of the Ancients, which incorporates a field trip to Greece. Many students also choose to write a dissertation on a subject of archaeological and historical interest. Candidates for this degree often attend the Summer Schools run at the British Schools of Athens or Rome.

Ancient History element of your Honours degree
First year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
These modules assume no previous study of Ancient History or classical languages: any student is eligible to join. The first module traces the history of the Greek world from Archaic Greece to Alexander the Great. The second module follows Rome from its beginnings to the Emperor Augustus. They introduce political, social and archaeological aspects of civilisations that contributed much to later European culture. Lectures outline the major themes and questions, while the tutorials allow you to study key sources from the ancient world (in translation), so you are working directly with the evidence right from the start. These modules are complementary but may also be taken independently.

Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
Two more advanced modules, again complementary but independent: an investigation of the social, economic, administrative and religious history of the Roman Empire from Augustus to Constantine; and a study of the history of human settlement in the Mediterranean throughout classical antiquity. The rise and fall of classical civilisation is examined, with emphasis on archaeological evidence. These modules bridge the gap to Honours through a variety of assessment methods, including deeper analysis and practical tutorials using the University's archaeological collections.

Honours – third and fourth years
Ancient History students must take the core module Approaches to Ancient History in third year. There is a wide choice of other modules at this stage, covering a wide range of periods (from The Archaeology of the Cyclades to Government and Society under Diocletian) and showcasing different historical approaches: political (Ancient Empires), military (The Roman Army), social (Roman Slavery), cultural (Cities and Urban Life in Late Antiquity) and art-historical (Art of the Roman Empire, Classical Temple to Christian Basilica). For a full list of modules, see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue

All Single Honours students write a dissertation in their fourth year and this allows them to specialise in an area of their own key interest. Final year students may obtain teaching experience and mentoring from teachers in local secondary schools. Honours modules in the School carry 30 credits, so you study two modules each semester in Honours.

Typical class sizes and teaching information
First year: lectures 80 - 100, tutorials 8 - 12
Second year: lectures 60 - 80, tutorials 8 - 12
Honours: seminars 10 - 20

In your first year, you will typically attend three lectures each week, in addition to a seminar in some weeks. At Honours you will learn, debate and make presentations in lively seminars. You will spend a lot of time at all stages in reading and guided independent study.

Typical methods of assessment
Assessment throughout the degree is generally 50% assessed coursework and 50% by examination, taken at the end of the semester. Some Honours modules, however, are assessed solely or mainly on coursework, and others include practical assessment. The final class of degree is based on marks awarded over the last two years.

Additional compulsory charges
The optional Honours module In the Footsteps of the Ancients which is not offered every year, includes a compulsory field trip in Greece. Students must pay for accommodation, travel within Greece and entry permits. They must also pay for travel and health insurance, the flights to and from Greece, and meals other than breakfast. Some financial help may be available.

Study abroad
You may apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 22.

In the academic year 2017-2018, Honours students in the School of Classics may participate in Study Abroad for either one or two semesters at the University of Leiden as part of our Erasmus+ exchange.

For options available during your intended period of study, as well as information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

Careers
As contemporary channels of internet and television make world events more immediate and accessible, the ancient world is becoming ever more relevant in the lessons it has to offer. Increasingly economists, politicians and lawmakers are considering past histories and their relevance to future policy and strategy. Many graduates also use their degrees more directly in teaching, museums or archaeology.

Our Ancient History graduates can be found in a wide range of professions, including the law, audit, accountancy and teaching. They include administrators in the NHS and universities, civil servants, nurses, and bankers. Some use their IT skills in schools, some their pastoral skills in Human Resources and others their organising skills in events and conference management. Further training has led to curatorial posts in museums, whilst others are continuing to pursue their academic studies in ancient history, heritage management and archaeology.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.