Subject enquiries
E: classics@st-andrews.ac.uk

Why study Latin here?

* Excellent linguistic training in the skills of reading and understanding Latin texts.
* Extensive language support for all students provided by our full-time senior language tutor.
* Strong grounding in Latin literature combined with an awareness of the wider cultural context. We cover many canonical texts but also branch out beyond them, with theoretical reflections on issues such as genre and intertextuality.
* An extensive range of major authors and literary genres is available, including modules on Roman biography, letter writing and the later reception of Latin poetry.
* Our academic staff are experts in their fields and provide you with the latest ideas and material to research and evaluate. Specialisms currently include Roman comedy, satire, panegyric, scientific and technical writing, epic and reception studies.
* Wide choice of related subjects which may be studied as part of the Single Honours Latin degree, including political and cultural history, philosophy, archaeology and material culture, as well as modern languages.
* Teaching in small groups assures that you get close attention and individual help.
* The School has a lively student life.
* Our staff are friendly and approachable.
* The School of Classics was rated first in Scotland and second in the UK in the Research Excellence Framework 2014. It was ranked first in the 2016 National Student Survey with a satisfaction rating of 100%.

Facilities and resources
Classics is housed in Swallowgate, an attractive building which overlooks the sea and is only a few yards away from the University Library and the main quadrangle. There are computing facilities in the building, seminar rooms and a well-stocked class library.

What will I study?

The study of Latin language and literature is fascinating and the Latin-speaking world of Classical and Mediaeval times is a significant foundation of our modern Western world and Latin is the ancestor of French and Spanish and the other Romance languages. Study of Latin for a long or short period results in increased linguistic sensitivity and the ability to understand all sorts of phrases and nuances in our own
“The Latin Department is open and flexible, and the staff are always accessible and willing to help. They allow us to study new and different texts and ensure the classes are interesting and involving.”

Hector (Burgess Hill, West Sussex, England)

eyday exchange. The study of Latin literature offers the chance to explore a huge range of genres (from epic poetry and historiography to philosophy and letter-writing), and opens up windows on social, cultural and political history too.

Over a third of the students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts take a classical subject at some stage in their degree programme. You can choose Latin in your first year as one of your three subjects, even if you have never studied it before. Although you may study it for just for one semester or for a year, many who did not intend to take a degree in Latin discover its appeal and continue through to the second year and on to Honours.

Two 1000-level Latin modules are offered, one for students who have not studied the language before, or have taken it at a lower level. The other module is for those who have studied Latin at a higher level. In the first two years you study a wide range of Latin texts, gaining the confidence and skills to read independently. In the third and fourth year you choose options reflecting your own special interests.

Latin element of your Honours degree

First year (2 x 20-credit modules required)

With Elementary Latin 1 & 2 beginners will, by the end of the year, have studied some Latin literature in the original and will have the basic skills to translate real Latin texts. The World of Latin 1 & 2 modules give more advanced students the opportunity to build their skill and confidence at reading extended Latin texts independently and to broaden their knowledge of Latin literature and culture. Linguistic and literary critical skills are taught in the study of Latin prose and verse. All students attend language support classes.

Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)

The second year is adapted to students at varying levels of attainment in Latin. Students who have progressed from the non-beginners’ stream take modules designed to further their ability to read and appreciate Latin texts for themselves. The modules for ex-beginners enable them to read and appreciate Latin at a comparable level to those who have studied it before. Both groups study a selection of texts from the classical age of late Republican/early Imperial literature, but each group has extra language support classes.

Honours – third and fourth years

In Honours 30-credit options may include Roman Epic, Latin Philosophical Writing, Latin Historical Writing, Latin Didactic Poetry, Latin Letters, Latin Prose Composition, Latin Oratory, Roman Satire, Roman Comedy, Senecan Tragedy and Late Latin, and others. You may offer a 10,000-word dissertation as the equivalent of a 30-credit module.

There is a wide choice of other modules to complement Latin studies in all years, not only within Classics but also in other Schools.

Typical class sizes and teaching information

First year: lectures/seminars 25 - 35, tutorials 15 - 20, reading support <15
Second year: lectures/seminars 20 - 30, tutorials 15 - 20, reading support <15
Honours: seminars 15 - 20

First year

Beginners have four classes each week and students following the advanced programme have two weekly lectures/classes plus one small weekly group tutorial. There is, in addition, one language-support tutorial per week.

Second year

Typically two lectures/classes per week plus one tutorial. Ex-beginners have one additional language tutorial per week.

Honours – third and fourth years

A combination of lectures, seminars, and classes, often in small groups, with increasing emphasis on students’ own contribution. Final year students may obtain teaching experience in local secondary schools via the Iris programme or an assessed module.

Typical methods of assessment

Assessment throughout the degree is determined by assessed coursework (40% - 60%) and examination, taken at the end of the semester. Dissertation and teaching experience modules have no final exam. The final class of degree is based on marks awarded over the last two years.

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

Recent graduates who have studied Latin in Honours have moved into careers in law, museums work, journalism, teaching, finance, industry and applied computing; some have gone on to further study of the subject.

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