Ancient History

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

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degrees)
Ancient History

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)
Ancient History and one of:
- Art History
- Biblical Studies
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- Film Studies
- French
- German
- Greek
- International Relations
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mediaeval History
- Persian
- Philosophy
- Social Anthropology
- Spanish

Ancient History and Archaeology and Social Anthropology

Ancient History and two Modern Languages
Any combination of Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian, Spanish

Ancient History-Russian combinations are not possible due to a timetable clash.

W Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.
C Due to a 2000-level timetable clash in second semester, students in second year take at least one of the 2000-level Classical Studies modules rather than 2000-level Ancient History.
NR Ancient History-Russian combinations are not possible due to a timetable clash.

Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

SQA Highers: AABB
GCE A-Levels: AAB
International Baccalaureate Points: 36

We strongly recommend that all applicants have a qualification in 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 Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance 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.

Features

- Part of the largest School in Scotland specialising in Ancient History.
- Broad choice of periods and topics on offer, from the archaeology of Greece to the politics of the later Roman Empire.
- Teaching by specialists in both historical and archaeological evidence.
- Friendly but academically challenging departmental ethos.
- Active undergraduate Archaeological Society.

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 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 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 and Carthaginians. You 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 Minoan Crete, Persia and the Greeks, Alexander the Great and Death in Roman Culture. 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 not just modules on Greece and Rome but also on archaeological and literary 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

If you choose this degree, we offer a wide range of modules at Honours 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 fieldtrip to Greece. Many
“The Ancient History Department offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of hugely interesting topics, with plenty of choice and flexibility. The expert tutors are open, friendly, and genuinely invest time in ensuring you achieve the best you possibly can. Students also have access to the incredibly well stocked Classics Library, with breathtaking views over the North Sea; I can spend whole afternoons there lost in a good book.”

Caitie (Dunning, Perth and Kinross, Scotland)

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.

Indicative programme information

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 focused assessment methods, including deeper analysis and practical tutorials using the University’s archaeological collections.

Honours – Third and Fourth Years
There is a wide choice of 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 (Alexander the Great, Ancient Empires), military (The Roman Army), social (Roman Slavery), cultural (Cities and Urban Life in Late Antiquity (300-700 CE)) and art-historical (Art of the Roman Empire, Classical Temple to Christian Basilica). See www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue for a full list of modules. Honours modules in the School carry 30 credits, so you study two modules each semester in Honours.

Study abroad
You may apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 46.

In the academic year 2016-2017, students in the School of Classics may apply to spend one or two semesters at the University of Leiden as part of our Erasmus+ exchange.

For options available during your intended period of study, see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents

For further information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

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.

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.

Additional compulsory charges
The optional Honours module In the Footsteps of the Ancients includes a compulsory field trip in Greece. Students paid £500 in 2015 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.

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. For more information: http://bit.ly/sta-classics-careers

See also page 36 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.