Classical Studies

See also Ancient History page 56, Classics page 72, Greek page 102, Latin page 118

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degree)
Classical Studies

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)
Classical Studies and one of:

- Art History
- Biblical Studies
- Comparative Literature
- English
- Film Studies
- French
- Greek
- International Relations
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mediaeval History
- Middle East Studies
- Modern History
- Persian
- Philosophy
- Scottish History
- Social Anthropology
- Theological Studies

Classical Studies and two Modern Languages
Any combination of Arabic, French, Italian, Persian, Russian is available, see page 130.

Features

* All modules are taught in translation.
* Classical Studies includes study of the following: Greek and Roman literature, social structures, cultural history, philosophy, religion, art, and archaeology.
* Our academic staff are experts in their fields and provide you with the latest ideas and material to research and evaluate.
* The School of Classics was rated first in Scotland and second in the UK in the Research Excellence Framework 2014.
* Teaching in small groups assures close attention and individual help.
* New modules and topics include Greek religion and society, magic in literature and life, ancient animals, Hellenistic ethics and the reception of the Aeneid.
* The School has a lively student life including an undergraduate Archaeological Society.
* Our staff are friendly and approachable.

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 (which houses excellent collections) and the main quadrangle. There are computing facilities in the building, seminar rooms and a well-stocked class library.

What will I study?

All of our Classical Studies modules use texts in translation (whereas Classics modules approach them in the original Greek and Latin). You can discover and debate the nature of Athenian democracy, the power of Greek tragedy, the purpose of ancient erotic fiction, the imposing beauty of Roman sculpture, or the twists and turns of Platonic dialogue.

There is no compulsory language element to this degree programme, although you do have the option to try some Latin or ancient Greek at beginners’ level, and pursue the language if you wish.

Entry to the Single Honours and Joint Honours degrees in Classical Studies is very flexible. The most common route is to take all four first-year and second-year modules in Classical Studies, but other options are possible. You must take at least four modules in the classical subjects (Ancient History, Classical Studies, Greek and Latin), including at least two at 2000-level modules; this ensures some acquaintance with both Greece and Rome, and provides the literary, cultural and methodological frameworks you will need for the more specialised modules we offer at Honours.

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

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.

We strongly recommend that all applicants have a qualification in a modern or ancient foreign language at National 5 / GCSE level, or equivalent.

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.

Subject enquiries

E: classics@st-andrews.ac.uk
"As someone who threw themselves wholly into the School of Classics, taking only classical subjects from my first year onwards, I can honestly say that Classical Studies here is incredible. While the School is small, it works to our advantage, as the staff are extremely supportive outside classes and within them. The work is challenging, interesting and different and the courses are so diverse."

Marjan (London, England)

Indicative programme information

First Year Classical Studies modules (20 credits each)

First Semester: Myth and Community in Ancient Greek Literature and Culture.
This module explores some of the most dynamic literary and artistic achievements of archaic and classical Greek culture. Using a twin focus on myth and on ideas of community, the module ranges across Homeric epic, Athenian tragedy, Aristophanic comedy, and the writings of intellectuals; it studies the relationship between texts and images in the expression of cultural values; and it examines a series of major themes in Greek views of identity, morality, politics and religion.

Second Semester: Images of Augustan Rome.
This module studies a range of literary works that were written during the lifetime of the first emperor, Augustus, and their different reactions to the new regime that he established. A central theme of the module is the development of the architecture and public art of the city of Rome during this period, and the variety of ways in which the city features in the literature of the time.

Second Year Classical Studies modules (20 credits each)

First Semester: Culture and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.
This module addresses the intellectual life of late Republican Rome through a range of artistic and literary sources, including the poems of Catullus on myth, sex and politics, and the great poem by Lucretius on atomic physics and what it means for you.

Second Semester: Early Greek Poetry and Philosophy.
Early Greece is the age of beautiful poetry and cutting-edge philosophy. This module explores the diversity of early Greek thought at the crossroads of poetry and philosophy, starting with Hesiod's struggle to re-order the world of gods and humans, before considering the exciting literary and intellectual experiments of the successors of Hesiod and Homer, who saw poetry as a way of writing philosophy, exploring love, and attacking enemies.

Honours – Third and Fourth Years
You choose further modules for more advanced study of ancient texts, discourses and images. Modules reflect the research interests of the staff who teach them, and take you straight to the heart of current questions in our understanding of the Greeks and Romans. Modules currently available include:

- The Ancient and Modern Novel
- Greek Theatre
- Knowledge and the World in Hellenistic Philosophy
- Animals in Greco-Roman Antiquity
- Herodotus
- Roman Praise

Honours modules in the School carry 30 credits, so you study two modules each semester in Honours. Single Honours students write a dissertation worth 30 credits in their fourth year.

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 60 - 80, tutorials 8 - 12
Second Year: lectures 60 - 80, tutorials 8 - 12
Honours: seminars 10 - 20

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.

At Honours you will learn, debate and make presentations in lively seminars. All members of staff contribute to the Classical Studies programme. Staff interests include Greek and Roman archaeology and art, Greek and Roman literature (including late Latin literature), ancient drama, Homer, Herodotus and Thucydides, Roman historiography, ancient science and philosophy, Greek rhetoric, ancient economic and social history, ancient literacy, the Classical tradition, the representation of foreign peoples, Athenian imperialism, and the cultural history of the Roman Empire.

Typical methods of assessment
Assessment throughout the degree is generally 50% assessed coursework and 50% by examination, taken at the end of the semester; in some modules, coursework predominates. 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.

Careers

Recent Classical Studies graduates include librarians, journalists, civil servants, teachers and nurses. Others hold posts in museums, finance, and teaching English overseas. Some have embarked on further training in classics, accountancy, law, and journalism.


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