Classics

See also Ancient History page 56, Classical Studies page 70, Greek page 102, Latin page 118

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degree)
Classics

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)
Classics and one of:
- Comparative Literature
- English
- French
- Italian
- Management
- Modern History
- Persian
- Philosophy
- Social Anthropology
- Spanish

W Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

Features

- The School of Classics was rated first in Scotland and second in the UK in the Research Excellence Framework 2014.
- Excellent linguistic training in the skills of reading and understanding Greek and Latin literature.
- Strong grounding in the classics of Greek and Latin literature combined with an introduction to the wider culture of the ancient Mediterranean.
- Wide choice of related subjects which may be studied as part of the Single Honours Classics degree, including Greek and Roman political and cultural history, ancient philosophy, archaeology and material culture.
- Wide range of complementary modules from other Schools and Departments in the University, such as Mediaeval History, Philosophy, or Modern Languages.

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 Classics programme in St Andrews is designed for those who wish to study both Latin and classical Greek language and literature to Honours, either starting from scratch or building on previous study. At the outset, there are separate classes for beginners and those with prior knowledge. There are opportunities at all stages to take related and complementary subjects, especially Ancient History and Ancient Philosophy. To study Classics in the original languages is to engage at first hand with the tradition which revolutionised the intellectual life of Western Europe. It requires a combination of precise linguistic skills, a mature sense of historical context and development, and an openness to new ways of seeing our own world.

The first two years are spent in gaining a thorough grounding in the language and literature of Latin and ancient Greek.

In the third and fourth year you choose modules reflecting your own special interests. These may include the major genres of Greek and Latin literature, such as Epic, Comedy, or Historiography. A wide selection of other historical, philosophical and cultural topics may also be studied, such as Pleasure, Goodness and Happiness: Hellenistic Ethics, Government and Society under Diocletian, and The Ancient and Modern Novel.

Subject enquiries

E: classics@st-andrews.ac.uk
“I have found the course here challenging and rewarding. The flexibility and variety of modules has really enriched my experience, giving me the opportunity to explore the classical world more widely. My degree has let me explore the ancient world in ways I didn’t know I could – it is exciting.”

Livvy (Blandford Forum, Dorset, England)

Indicative programme information

First Year
(4 x 20-credit modules required – 2 in each of Greek and Latin)
Whether you are a beginner in Greek and Latin, or have studied them before, we have specially designed modules for you. As part of the Classics programme, you will study both Greek and Latin all year (two semester-long modules each). You will study one further module in each semester in a subject of your choice – either related to Classics (e.g. Ancient History or Classical Studies) or else something completely different. Both the beginners and advanced programmes help to develop your skill and confidence in reading Greek and Latin texts independently and to broaden your knowledge of classical literature and culture.

By the end of the year all beginners will have studied some Greek or Latin literature in the original and will have the basic skills to translate real Greek or Latin texts.

Second Year
(4 x 20-credit modules required – 2 in each of Greek and Latin)
The needs of both ex-beginners and more advanced students are catered for in a pair of modules which allow for convergence between the two groups. Again both Greek and Latin are studied all year and there are two further modules of your choice to round out your programme. In Latin the focus is on the literature of the Republic and the Empire. In Greek the epic narrative and comic prose dialogue are explored in one semester and bucolic or pastoral poetry and the romantic novel are studied in the other.

At the end of these modules you will be familiar with Greek and Latin literature from a wide range of genres and periods.

Honours – Third and Fourth Years
You choose from a range of modules covering major genres, such as Epic, Comedy, Satire, Rhetoric and Historical Writing in both Greek and Latin, with an option to study Latin and Greek Prose Composition. You will do a minimum of two modules in Greek and two in Latin at this level, and then you can target the rest of your Honours modules to specialise in one classical language or the other, or balance your programme with a mixture of both. You may also write a dissertation on a topic of special interest.

At all levels students may combine Greek and Latin with modules in Classical Studies and Ancient History or may choose unrelated subjects.

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 25 - 35, tutorials 10 - 15
Second Year: lectures 25 - 35, tutorials 10 - 15
Honours: seminars 10 - 20

First Year
Three to four weekly lectures/classes and, where possible, one is broken down into smaller groups.

Second Year
Typically three to four classes per week. Ex-beginners receive close attention and help to meet their developing needs; they are increasingly integrated with the advanced class over the year. Questions and discussion are encouraged in all classes.

Honours
Honours is taught by a combination of lectures and seminars, mostly in small groups with increasing emphasis on students’ own contribution, both in informal class discussion and in presentations by individuals or small groups.

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

Traditional Classics courses have provided an entry to a wide range of careers and positions since employers have placed a premium on the combination of intellectual flexibility and rigour of Classics graduates. Students graduating with classical degrees typically do well in the graduate employment market. Graduate destinations include financial services, the law, marketing and management, civil and armed services, journalism, museums, galleries, and libraries, teaching and further research. Some have built on their linguistic skills to use modern foreign languages in employment. For more information: http://bit.ly/sta-classics-careers

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