Latin

Features

* Excellent linguistic training in the skills of reading and understanding Latin texts.
* Extensive language support provided by our full-time senior language tutor and other staff.
* Strong grounding in Latin literature combined with an awareness of the wider cultural context.
* Wide choice of subjects and approaches in Honours, with specialist teaching by scholars with international professional reputations.
* Wide choice of complementary courses from other Schools and Departments in the University, such as English, Mediaeval History, Philosophy, or Modern Languages, that may be incorporated within a Latin degree.
* The School of Classics was rated first in Scotland and second in the UK in the Research Excellence Framework 2014.

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 rewarding. 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 process with an appropriately critical eye complex rhetorical and figurative discourses at stake in our everyday interactions, whether in print media, social media or live settings. 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 it 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.

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degrees)
Latin
Classics

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)
Latin and one of:
Ancient History
Arabic
Comparative Literature
English
French
Italian
Mathematics

Mediaeval History
Modern History
Philosophy
Social Anthropology
Spanish

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

* Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

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 the subject? – No.

Subject enquiries

E: classics@st-andrews.ac.uk
Indicative programme information

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. Two Latin works, one prose and one verse, are studied in each of the two semesters, alongside an ongoing programme of linguistic and literary critical consolidation. All students attend language support classes.

Second Year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
The second year is adapted to students at several 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. Texts studied are chosen from the classical age of late Republican/early Imperial literature but typically include authors and genres not previously studied. The modules Latin in Progress 1 & 2 are designed to enable ex-beginners to read and appreciate Latin at a comparable level to those who have studied it before. Students team up with their counterparts from the advanced 2000-level module to study a selection of texts from the classical age of late Republican/early Imperial literature, but continue to be given extra language support classes in a group of their own.

If you take 1000-level Latin in your second year, but have taken Greek in your first two years, you can take special modules in your third year and still complete an Honours degree in Latin.

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.

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 15 - 20
Second Year: lectures 20 - 30, tutorials 15 - 20
Honours: seminars 15 - 20

First Year
 begins 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 Year)
A combination of lectures, seminars, and classes, often in small groups, with increasing emphasis on students' own contribution.

Typical methods of assessment
Assessment throughout the degree is determined by assessed coursework and examination, taken at the end of the semester: splits vary between 60% coursework / 40% exam, 50%/50% and 40%/60%. 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 in local secondary schools via the Iris programme or an assessed module.

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

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