

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

ECHOES OF PAST CIVILISATIONS

“ Every student, scholar, and enthusiast of Classical antiquity know that the ancient world is profoundly relevant and important to the modern. Here at Reading, this belief informs both our research and our teaching. The events, discoveries and people which you will learn about in our degree programmes



have left an indelible mark on our culture, and have also shaped how we see the world around us, both human society and the natural environment. With us, you'll have opportunities to study the use (and sometimes abuse) of Classical themes to serve modern political, cultural and social purposes, and to reflect on how the past retains its significance today. By doing so, you'll be challenged to dive deeply into the past, by interrogating a wide range of texts and objects from ancient communities, applying modern methods and approaches, and thinking critically about ancient and modern societies. ”

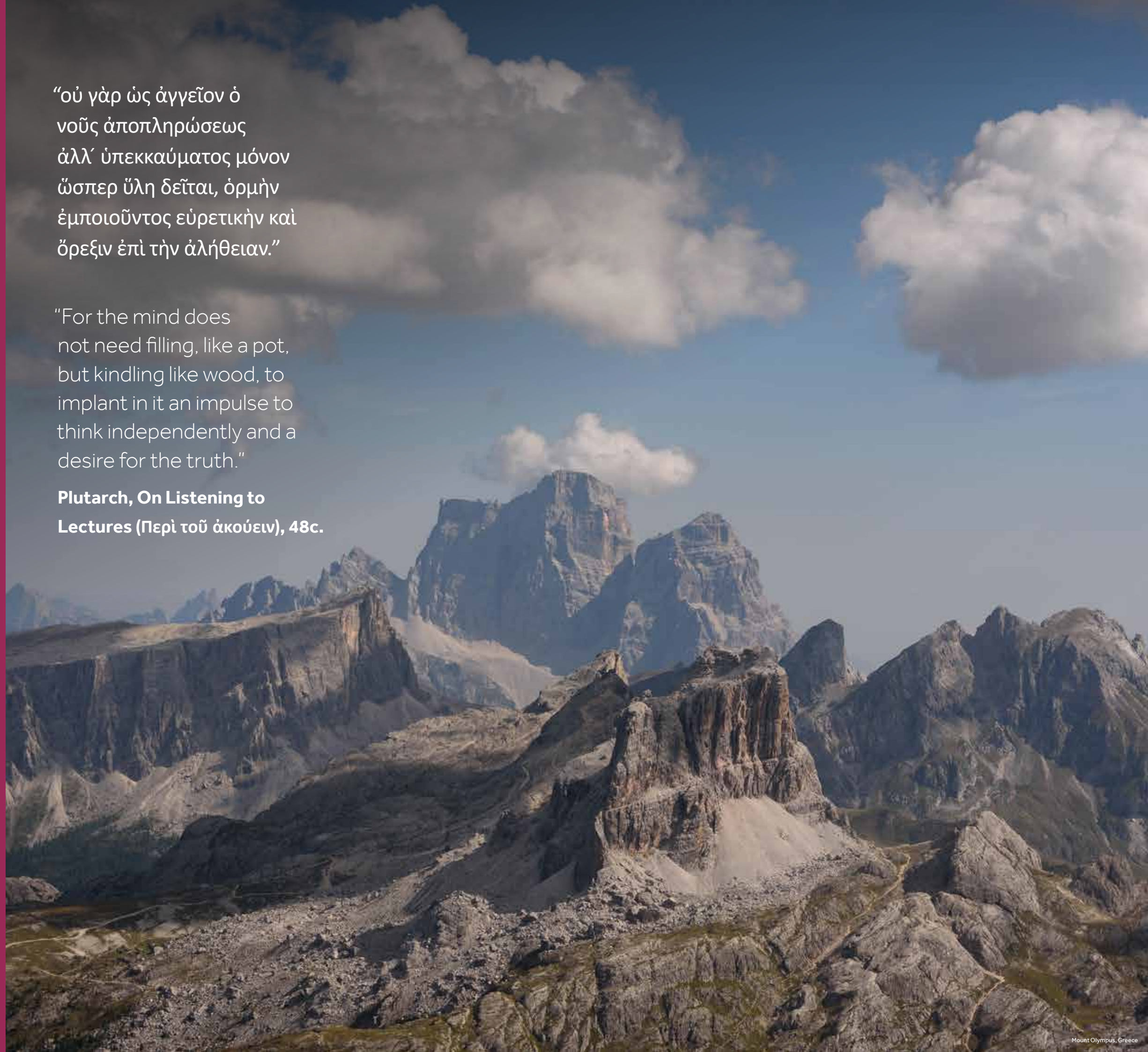
Professor Emma Aston
Head of the Department of Classics

reading.ac.uk/classics

“οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἀγγεῖον ὁ
νοῦς ἀποπληρώσεως
ἀλλ' ὑπεκκαύματος μόνον
ὥσπερ ὕλη δεῖται, ὁρμὴν
ἐμποιοῦντος εὐρετικὴν καὶ
ὄρεξιν ἐπὶ τὴν ἀλήθειαν.”

“For the mind does not need filling, like a pot, but kindling like wood, to implant in it an impulse to think independently and a desire for the truth.”

Plutarch, On Listening to Lectures (Περὶ τοῦ ἀκούειν), 48c.



EGYPTIAN ETHNICITY

Ancient history has frequently been weaponised by completing modern politic ideologies Rachel believes studying the ancient Mediterranean word and its interpretations help lead us to a deeper understanding of current race, ethnicity and gender debates. Her research explores multilingualism and interactions between Greeks and other cultures in the Hellenistic world, particularly Egypt and Central Asia.

During her 'Cleopatras' module students examine the influence of the context in which interpretations of the past are produced – Cleopatra becomes a lens through which we can view major political movements of the 20th and 21st centuries, including feminism and Black Power. As well as more contemporary interpretations, students look at ancient sources which were written by her Roman enemies and explore their criticism of her, much of which is based on her gender and ethnicity.

Rachel's work also influences her teaching on the 'Pioneers of Classical Archaeology' module. Students gain an understanding of the way in which certain key figures in the history of archaeology have been systematically erased: usually because of their nationality, race and/or gender. Teaching this course also involves confronting some hard truths about respected figures, like Flinders Petrie, and their involvement with mechanisms of imperial control or eugenics. Many artefacts in the Department's Ure Museum were acquired by these archaeologists.

Rachel's understanding of a multilingual ancient world means she also teaches ancient language. Reading is one of the few Classics departments in the UK to teach the ancient Egyptian language.

“I try and use my teaching as a way of getting students to think about race and ethnicity in the ancient and modern worlds.”

Professor Rachel Mairs





**BEYOND THE
GRAECO-ROMAN**



THE FORGOTTEN ANCIENT WORLD

The study of classics is inextricably tied up with that of ancient Greece and Rome, however Ian believes we should go one step further and explore the forgotten corners of the ancient world: the Middle East, Turkey, Israel, Egypt and India.

Ian believes that it is important for scholars and students to enhance their understanding of the Classical world through studying different ancient cultures together; something which the University of Reading strives to give students the opportunity to do here.

Ian teaches two undergraduate modules combining different ancient cultures: "Egypt and Greece" and "Anatolia and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age: the Context for the Trojan War". The first of his modules looks at why Greeks and Romans were fascinated by Egypt, and the interactions between these cultures. The second examines Greece and Turkey at the end of the Bronze Age; Ian finds that, because this research area and the evidence relating to it is so new, his students often come up with really original ideas that even the experts have missed.

Ian's research has also led him to encounter topics such as astronomy, music, sacrifice, and the culture of ancient China, and he hopes to influence modern perspectives of

the past, through discussion of his research at conferences, networks and other universities around the world. His work shows us just how far-reaching the Classical world really is and how important it is to look beyond the fascinating cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.



“ There are many lost links to earlier cultures, which have previously been ignored due to difficulty obtaining evidence. This creates opportunities for classicists today to explore these forgotten cultures; to uncover connections, draw comparisons and discover what is distinctive about each one. ”

Professor Ian Rutherford



FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY

As Curator of the Ure Museum and Professor of Classical Archaeology, Amy always approached the evidence of antiquity from an interdisciplinary perspective, leading to exciting discoveries, international recognition and amazing opportunities for her students. She promotes the study of ancient Greece through a combination of several academic subfields, including ancient history, archaeology, art history and classics, to fully interpret archaeological finds.

A fragment of a Classical red-figure pot whose decorator Amy was able to identify was one of her most significant finds in her excavations in the Athenian Agora. Such exquisitely decorated pots give us insights into ancient Greek's lives, myth, religion, and even politics. Realising that pots decorated with red figures were perhaps four times more labour intensive than those decorated with black figures, Amy has turned her attention to those 'pots of the people': smaller hastily decorated black-figure pots found in large numbers in excavations, now museum storerooms, yet overlooked in displays.

Working with a recently graduated PhD student of hers, Amy started finding images on the pots of women feasting, drinking and celebrating festivals in ancient Athens. Festivals have always been about bringing the whole community together so it shouldn't surprise us to find women there, but scholars have previously ignored this essential evidence

At Reading students not only benefit from learning about such new discoveries, but also from first-hand experience handling materials in our Ure Museum, which houses one of the largest collections of Greek ceramics in the UK. Our first-year students can do coursework based on the collections and many MA students focus their work around the artefacts or can study the history of scholarship on Greek vases. Amy enjoys seeing students' confidence grow as they become familiar with handling materials and follow up on the clues that connect artefacts with their other studies.



Professor
Amy Smith



“Classics is naturally interdisciplinary; you have to look at all the sources you've got. By using overlooked pots I have found proof and I'm bringing women back to the festival.”



**BRINGING
THE PAST
TO LIFE**

Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology

Established in 1922

*'...to give life and variety
to the study of Greek history'*

Percy Ure





“ Having the Ure Museum as part of the Department of Classics was a game changer for me. This was my first ever experience with object handling and it was done with excellent guidance. I became confident in my own abilities when it came to handling artefacts, and this gave me a good core understanding of archiving, materials used in the ancient world and the crafting techniques. ”

**Rebeca Bird-Lima,
BA Ancient History**



THE URE MUSEUM

At Reading, you will have the opportunity to look directly into the ancient world through our on-site museum.

The Ure Museum, based in the Department of Classics, houses over 3,000 objects and substantial archives in its extensive collections. It contains one of the largest collections of Greek ceramics in the UK.

The Ure Museum provides a wealth of hands-on opportunities for teaching and unique resources for research. Having the museum so close to hand means that students in the Department of Classics can engage in studies directly linked to museum work, including curation, data provision and education.

The museum also provides work experience and volunteering opportunities if you aspire to a career in the museum or heritage sector. Roles typically involve researching and cataloguing items, producing temporary displays and texts, and helping to plan events and exhibitions.

You can also help organise and deliver educational workshops for local primary schools and assist in the production of materials for these school visits and family events. This is a great way to explore an interest in teaching as a future career.





LEARN WITH EXPERTS

Study in a dynamic learning environment, with experts who are passionate about both their research and teaching.

Our academics use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, interactive seminars, small-group teaching and individual feedback, designed to ensure our approach suits you. Learning is a two-way collaborative process, and you will be encouraged to discuss, debate and advance your own theories. You will also receive one-to-one support from your academic tutor throughout your degree.

PAVING THE WAY

You will benefit first-hand from our academics' research which informs their teaching. This will also enable you to explore different ways of engaging with the ancient world, such as using the tools of digital humanities. For example, Prof. Matthew Nicholls, Visiting Professor of Classics, developed a multi-award winning digital model of Rome which allows researchers to investigate questions of sight lines, illumination and routes through the ancient city. The model forms the basis of a free online course at www.futurelearn.com/courses/rome. Our specialist modules often encourage you to produce artworks or creative writing as part of your assessment, building real-world skills and expertise.

“ Studying in the Classics Department at Reading taught me how much my own opinion mattered. I was encouraged to challenge my lecturers' views and engage in debate. ”

JOSH KERR
BA Ancient History graduate

SHAPE YOUR DEGREE

Choose from our wide range of modules to steer your degree in the right direction for you.

We offer a variety of modules, covering the Classical world chronologically, geographically and methodologically. Our academics have particular strengths in Late Antiquity, Greek history, the Bronze Age, Anatolia, Near Eastern studies, Egypt, Byzantium, early Christian studies, Greek religion, Greek tragedy, and Homer amongst other areas.

We also offer intensive teaching of ancient languages, overseen by our languages co-ordinator, at the right level for you from beginners to advanced. Alternatively you can choose to study ancient works in translation – BA Classics is our only undergraduate degree where languages are compulsory.

EXPLORE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

You can opt to study another subject alongside Classical Studies or Ancient History on our joint degrees, or you can take modules in other subjects, either to complement or diversify your studies. Popular choices include history, philosophy, politics, archaeology, English literature and modern foreign languages.

“ The Department of Classics truly leaves no stone unturned with the breadth of modules on offer. The flexibility to choose from such a range of modules and the ability to steer my degree in the direction I wanted is a testament to the broad research scopes of the academics in the department. I have studied modules in forensics, archaeology and linguistics alongside the core Classics modules such as Ancient Drama. The opportunity to take a diversity of modules helped me discover my niche in Roman tragedy which led to my master's degree in Classics and Ancient History ”

REBECCA MACRAE
BA Ancient History graduate



A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Employability modules and work placements are built into your degree to help you secure a successful career.

Gain valuable experience and insight into the professional workplace through our placement module. Increase your employability by being able to demonstrate experience in the professional sector or in academic research and by enhancing your transferable skills.

Prospective teachers can gain experience through:

- volunteering in a local school in the University's Students in Schools scheme
- working with the Department's Ure Museum to host workshops for local primary schools.

The Ure Museum also offers work experience opportunities for students aspiring to careers in the museum or heritage sector, or you can apply for a paid summer placement in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP), working with an academic on their research.¹

PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT YEAR

Transfer to a four-year programme and complete a professional placement year, gaining invaluable experience and putting your knowledge into practice. Our Placement Coordinators will support you throughout securing a placement, during the placement and while transitioning back to university.¹

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS

Our degrees offer you the opportunity to develop essential skills such as clear thinking, communication, research skills, diligence, independence and adaptability.

Previous graduates have gone on to a wide variety of careers, including accountancy, government, heritage, teaching, publishing, banking, events, theatre and marketing.

¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover.



SUPPORTING YOUR ASPIRATIONS

We offer a relaxed and friendly environment in which to explore the ancient world.

You'll have the opportunity to meet like-minded people through our central study space in the heart of the Department, at our weekly research seminars, or through the Classics Society which offers a variety of social events such as pizza parties and nights out.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Our academics are very engaged with students, and you are encouraged to approach them at any time for guidance and support. You can also apply to participate in the Peer Assisted Learning scheme (PAL), which groups you with trained students, typically from the year above, to support you and help consolidate your learning.

GO GLOBAL

Apply to study abroad as part of your degree, broadening your horizons, enhancing your studies and developing your skillset. You can study abroad for either a term or a year at a university in Europe, North America, Canada or Australia.

We take students on optional short-trips to Mediterranean cities, most recently Rome, and our students attend summer schools with the British Schools at Athens and Rome.¹

“ I remember sensing a cosy air about the Classics Department and the Ure Museum; everyone always very friendly and helpful. I cannot emphasise this enough, do not be afraid to say if you need help or don't understand something, that's what the lecturers are there for. ”

GEORGE UPFIELD
BA Classics graduate

¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover.

COURSES

BA ANCIENT HISTORY
BA CLASSICAL STUDIES
BA CLASSICS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Typical offer: BBB

International Baccalaureate:
30 points overall

BTEC Extended Diploma:
DDM

JOINT DEGREES

BA ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
BA ANCIENT HISTORY AND HISTORY
BA CLASSICAL STUDIES AND ENGLISH LITERATURE
BA ITALIAN AND CLASSICAL STUDIES
BA MUSEUM AND CLASSICAL STUDIES
BA PHILOSOPHY AND CLASSICAL STUDIES

BA ANCIENT HISTORY

Ancient History is the study of the ancient Greek and Roman world, spanning from the second millennium BC to around AD 600, covering modern Africa, Asia and Europe. The syllabus aims to familiarise you with the core chronological and geographical range of Greek and Roman cultures, while providing you with the opportunity to study more thematic topics in-depth.

YEAR ONE

In the first year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Greek History: War, Society and Change in the Archaic Age
- Roman History: The Rise and Fall of the Republic
- The Past in the Present
- Texts, Readers and Writer

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Ancient Greek or Latin
- Ancient Song
- A Museum Studies module

YEAR TWO

In the second year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Greek History: Persian Wars to Alexander
- Roman History: From Republic to Empire
- An employability module

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Ancient Warfare
- Ancient Epic or Drama
- Greek Religions
- Ancient Greek or Latin

YEAR THREE

In the third year you can expect to complete one of two compulsory modules:

- Dissertation
- Independent Project

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Nero: History, Literature, and Culture
- Greek and Roman Painting
- 'Race' and Ethnicity in the Ancient Greek or Roman Worlds
- Gender in Classical Antiquity
- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs
- Mastering the Art of Persuasion in the Ancient World
- Ancient Greek or Latin

*These modules are provided as a sample of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.

BA CLASSICAL STUDIES

Classical Studies has a literary focus, aiming to familiarise you with key genres of ancient literature (for example: epic, drama, love, poetry), their culture and historical contexts, and their impact on later literature and thought.

YEAR ONE

In the first year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Texts, Readers and Writers
- Ancient Song
- Greek History: War, Society and Change in the Archaic Age
- The Past in the Present

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Roman History: The Rise and Fall of the Republic
- Ancient Greek or Latin
- A Museum Studies module

YEAR TWO

In the second year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Ancient Epic
- Ancient Drama
- An employability module

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Greek History: Persian Wars to Alexander
- Roman History: From Republic to Empire
- Ancient Greek or Latin

YEAR THREE

In the third year you can expect to complete one of two compulsory modules:

- Dissertation
- Independent Project

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs
- Greek and Roman Painting
- 'Race' and Ethnicity in the Ancient Greek and Roman Worlds
- Mastering the Art of Persuasion in the Ancient World
- Nero: History, Literature, and Culture
- Gender in Classical Antiquity
- Ancient Greek or Latin

*These modules are provided as a sample of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.

BA CLASSICS

Classics concentrates on developing linguistic competence through intensive study of ancient Greek and Latin, alongside exploration of the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.

YEAR ONE

In the first year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Ancient Greek or Latin
- Greek History: War, Society and Change in the Archaic Age
- Texts, Readers and Writers.

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Roman History: The Rise and Fall of the Republic
- Ancient Song
- A Museum Studies module

YEAR TWO

In the second year you can expect compulsory modules in:

- Ancient Greek
- Latin
- An employability module.

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Ancient Epic or Drama
- Greek Religions
- Roman Satire
- Greek History: Persian Wars to Alexander
- Roman History: From Republic to Empire.

YEAR THREE

In the third year you can expect to complete one of two compulsory modules:

- Dissertation
- Independent Project

Choose between a number of optional modules such as:

- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs
- 'Race' and Ethnicity in the Ancient and Roman Worlds
- Gender in Classical Antiquity
- Mastering the Art of Persuasion
- Nero: History, Literature, and Culture.

*These modules are provided as a sample of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.

Important Information
This brochure was issued in 2023 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2024. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (May 2023). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check reading.ac.uk/study

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services.

Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Modules
Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on each course. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules and have been approved in principle for delivery in 2024/25. Please note that as part of our current curriculum improvement process, all modules require final University approval and the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this list will definitely run. Teaching staff on specific courses or modules mentioned in this brochure may be subject to change. For the most up to date module information, please check the webpage [insert] from [date which the modules will have been approved and uploaded]. For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to all students who may wish to take them, although the University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional

modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Joint courses
Our joint courses may have extra requirements, including English language requirements. Please check the individual course pages on our website for further details.

Year abroad and placement fees
Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding

Placements
Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their School/ Department.

Study abroad
The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (May 2023). For up to date information on the University's partnerships contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk

Where Study Abroad is not a compulsory part of the degree programme, the University of Reading cannot guarantee that every applicant who applies for the scheme will be successful. Whilst efforts are made to secure sufficient places at partner institutions, the number of places available and the University's partners can vary year-on-year. In all cases, the University cannot guarantee that it will be possible for applicants to choose to study abroad at a particular institution.

Further, certain courses and/or institutions may require you to satisfy specific eligibility criteria. It can be a competitive process. For further information on the University's Study Abroad Scheme please contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk



Department of Classics

reading.ac.uk/classics

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 @classicsuor

Ask us a question

reading.ac.uk/question

