

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the Honours Degree programme in **Classical Archaeology and Ancient History and Classical Archaeology and Ancient History with an International Year**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2018**.

The aims of the Honours Degree programme in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History:

- to give students with all levels of previous experience the opportunity to learn about the world of Greco-Roman antiquity by combining two major sources of evidence for daily life, politics and culture: history and archaeology
- to train students in key analytical skills by gaining experience in the interpretation of literary, material and visual sources
- to train students in key practical skills via portfolio projects to boost their CVs when applying for jobs, especially in the heritage and archaeological sector
- to allow students to develop specific strengths by taking specialised courses that reflect our staff's expertise and research areas e.g. the City of Athens; Roman Britain; the Roman Near East; Alexander the Great, Augustus
- to encourage students to take progressive responsibility for their own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with each other in seminars, through the informed choice of options and an extended piece of writing in the final year.
- to make students familiar with, and gain an understanding of, major sites in the Classical world, such as Athens, Rome and Pompeii
- to provide a gateway to further postgraduate study in either Classical Archaeology or Ancient History
- to provide students with key skills, the ability to work independently and in a self-directed fashion; to devise and deliver a project; and an ability to set learning goals;
- to develop students' transferable skills in studying at degree level, communicating ideas and information, information retrieval, and presentation, both written and oral, and teamworking
- to develop the range of skills necessary to pursue a further degree in Classical archaeology and/or Ancient History
- to develop students' ability to derive information and ideas from fragmentary or imperfect sources

The standard programme is delivered over three years of full-time study or six years of part-time study. The degree 'with an International year' comprises an extra-curricular year between the second and third stages which contributes to the final marks of students on the four year programme. On successful completion of the programmes a student should have an understanding of the area of the BA at a level appropriate for a graduate qualification. Whilst being self-contained degrees in their own right, the programmes provide suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to MA study in the same or closely related fields (notably Classical Archaeology, Ancient History).

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme, and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is

contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

### **Learning outcomes**

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- knowledge of a variety of critical approaches to Classical Archaeology Ancient History
- a detailed understanding of the methodological questions and issues involved in studying Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, including the application of relevant technologies in archaeology
- a detailed understanding of both Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- the acquisition of knowledge of scholarship in the chosen areas of the discipline to a level appropriate for a BA degree.

#### *Skills and other attributes*

- the ability to develop and complete an extended project\*
- an ability to self-direct in research and in the delivery of a project\*
- familiarity with and the capability of presenting work to recognised scholarly standards in a recognised scholarly format\*
- time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time\*
- the ability to analyse and evaluate critically, reflect critically on one's own practices and methodologies, to take initiatives, and responsibilities and to innovate\*
- the ability to present work at an appropriate standard both orally and in writing\*
- the ability to conduct archaeological and historical research independently
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of archaeological and historical material, concepts and theories at an Honours level, demonstrating an understanding of both archaeological and historical methodologies, including the application of relevant technologies, appropriate to the field of study
- the ability to use information resources, libraries, webs-sites, material and visual evidence, and original texts in translation, as appropriate to the field of study
- the ability to apply classroom learning in the field

\*transferable skills

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### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

Teaching and learning will be through a mix of formal lectures, seminar discussions, oral presentations, guided independent research, guided independent study, optional fieldwork, coursework essays, and a dissertation. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research, creative and technical skills. The compulsory fieldwork will allow students to put into practice archaeological techniques learnt in the classroom, and will inform subsequent study and research. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically through written work. Formative feedback will be provided continuously through informal oral feedback in seminars and more formally through written feedback on essays. Full details of the assessments for individual course elements can be obtained from the [Department of Classics](#).

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### **Details of the programme structure**

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Department.

#### **Stage One:**

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

- CL 1550 Greek History and the City State (**15 credits**)
- CL 1560 Key Themes in Roman History (**15 credits**)
- CL 1580 Introduction to Greek Archaeology (**15 credits**)
- CL 1581 Introduction to Roman Archaeology (**15 credits**)

and choose options to the value of **60 credits** from the Stage One courses offered by the Department.

#### **Stage Two:**

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

- CL 2194 From Dig to Digital (**30 credits**)

and choose options to the value of **60 credits** from the following list:

- CL 2352 Greek History to 322 BC (30 credits)
- CL 2358 Greek Historiography (15 credits)
- CL 2369 Historiography of the Roman World (15 credits)
- HS 2004 Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic (15 credits)
- HS 2005 Rome and its Empire from Augustus to Commodus (15 credits)

and choose further Stage 2 options to the value of **30 credits**

In addition, students will be required to undertake two weeks of fieldwork training (which may include museum or lab work); this will be a compulsory part of the programme but will not be assessed for credits. Fieldwork will normally be undertaken in the second year of the programme, but may in exceptional circumstances be taken in the third year instead as long as it is completed before the beginning of Summer Term.

#### **Stage Three:**

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

- CL 3200 Extended Essay (on a topic in Classical Archaeology or Ancient History) (**30 credits**)

In addition, students must take Classical Archaeology options to the value of **30 credits**, Ancient History options to the value of **30 credits**, and further options in EITHER Classical Archaeology OR Ancient History OR Classical languages to the value of **30 credits**.

Over the three years of the programme, students must take a minimum of 120 credits of Classical Archaeology and 120 credits of Ancient History.

### **Single Honours Degree with an International Year (four years)**

#### **Stage one:**

As stage one, listed above

### **Stage two:**

As stage two, listed above

### **Stage three, part 1- extra-curricular year:**

Students must take courses at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The courses to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Academic Co-ordinator in Classics. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit, CL3700. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks. CL3700 is non-condonable for the degree title 'with an International Year'.

### **Stage three, part 2 – Final year in Department of Classics:**

As stage three, listed above. These courses will contribute 80% to the final stage three marks.

\*\*Students commencing stage three, part 1 on this four year programme will not be permitted to transfer back to one of the three year programmes offered by the Department of Classics. The Department will give consideration in the case of extreme hardship, documented by extenuating circumstances and supporting material, as it normally would, should a student not be able to complete their year abroad.

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### **Progression and award requirements**

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally, there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

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### **Student support and guidance**

- Personal Tutors: All students are allocated a personal tutor, who will meet with them regularly throughout the programme. The personal tutor will advise on all matters connected with academic work or will provide support in pastoral issues. Where the personal tutor is unable to help directly, students may discuss issues with the Departmental Manager, who will be able to refer them to an appropriate source of help.
- Staff are available and accessible through a dedicated office hours system or by appointment (by e-mail)
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee. The Classics Department runs a large number of programmes with provision that overlaps between programmes. Representation on the Committee is by year group and gender, with representation for mature students.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources. Students will have access to a detailed Undergraduate Handbook, up-dated regularly on the web. Course resources are available through Moodle.

- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are held in College libraries and the Computer Centre supports access to internet and IT provision.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer. The College has a dedicated Careers Service with liaison into Classics. An academic member of staff within the Department liaises with the Careers Service and supports the running of events.
- Access to all College support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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### **Admission requirements**

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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### **Further learning and career opportunities**

Graduates from programmes in the Classics Department have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions which include journalism, publishing and the media, advertising and marketing, the creative industry, the public sector, and teaching. A RHUL degree can be the precursor to embarking on research, ultimately leading to a PhD. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers and Employability Service](#).

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### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3\* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4\* or 3\* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. The results for the quality of our research outputs placed Royal Holloway 15th in the UK based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score and 20th in the UK for 4\* and 3\* research.

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### **Teaching arrangements, accreditation and list of programmes**

The programmes in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London and lead to awards of the University of London. These programmes are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Archaeology & Ancient History describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)).

BA Classical Archaeology and Ancient History (VV41)

BA Classical Archaeology and Ancient History with an International Year

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