

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Honours Degree programmes in Classics**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). The specification is valid for entrants from **September 2012**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Classics are:

- to enable students to explore the diverse range of Classical studies and to specialise in the study of Greek and Latin;
- to deliver a syllabus informed by the research expertise of staff and suited to the needs of the students;
- to develop knowledge and understanding of Greek and Latin language and literature and of the research associated with them and to prepare students to undertake their own research under appropriate levels of supervision;
- to promote personal and academic development and provide a sound basis for further study, post-graduate research or employment;
- to develop the skills that will enable students to study in other Classical disciplines and support their developing interests and objectives;
- to support the development of a range of transferable skills suitable both for further academic study and for a range of future careers.

The programme is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units made up of an equivalent number of whole (1.0) or half (0.5) units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programmes provide progressive structures in which students are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), 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 programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- a critical awareness of the multiplicity of material available;
- a critical knowledge of different methodologies of and approaches to ancient literary studies;
- a general appreciation of the varied and interlinked methodologies for understanding ancient literature;
- skills in Greek and Latin sufficient to understand and analyse large sections of a range of ancient authors in the original language;
- an opportunity to gain a knowledge of methodologies drawn from a variety of sub-areas of Classical Studies.

Skills and other attributes

- skills necessary for the written and oral presentation of arguments and debate;*
- the discipline to meet deadlines;*
- research skills;*
- the capacity for independent thought and study.*

* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is by means of lectures, large and small seminar groups, and one-to-one tutorials. Lectures are used primarily to provide a conceptual map of an area, to expand students' knowledge base, to model relevant approaches to presentation skills and scholarly thinking. Language and oral presentation skills are developed in small to medium sized groups and students are required to study authors in the original. Research skills are developed through private study and specific projects, while writing skills are developed through set assignments and feedback from tutors. Students are required to study ancient literature. All course units include formative assessment (to provide students with feedback which helps to develop knowledge, understanding and skills) and summative assessment, which counts towards the final marks for the unit. Assessment methods include translations, commentaries, essays, projects and dissertations. Full details of the assessment for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

[Back to top](#)

Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

For Single, Combined and Joint Honours programmes in Classics one unit of Classical Greek and one unit of Latin must be taken each year. During the course of their degree, students must take at least one Language-Testing Author course unit in one of the languages and are expected to do so in both languages unless they have entered with no or very limited experience of one of the languages. In such a case, students must complete three units of that language. Students may additionally take courses in other aspects of Classics and Classical Studies from the Departmental list of available units. Students may take course units in Ancient History offered by the History Department, not more than the equivalent of one course unit (as agreed by the Classics Department) from another RHUL department and/or up to the equivalent of two course units (as agreed by the Classics Department) at KCL or UCL.

Single Honours degree programme

Stage One:

Students must take, from the Departmental list of available courses,

one Classical Greek Language unit, **one** Latin Language unit, **four** Introductory Courses (half-units).

Stage Two:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language unit or Language-testing Author unit, **one** Latin Language unit or Language-testing Author unit, and choose options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Two courses.

Stage Three:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language-testing Author unit (or CL1726 for those whose Greek unit at Stage Two was CL1715), **one** Latin Language-testing Author Unit (or CL1776 for those whose Latin unit at Stage Two was CL1765), and choose options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Three courses.

Joint Honours degree programme with Classics as an equal component

Stage One:

Students must take, from the Departmental list of available courses, **one** Classical Greek Language unit and **one** Latin Language unit
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Two:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language unit or Language-testing Author unit and **one** Latin Language unit or Language-testing Author unit
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Three:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language-testing Author unit (or CL1726 for those whose Greek unit at Stage Two was CL1715) and **one** Latin Language-testing Author unit (or CL1776 for those whose Latin unit at Stage Two was CL1765)
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Combined Honours degree programme with Classics as a major component

Stage One:

Students must take, from the Departmental list of available courses, **one** Classical Greek Language unit, **one** Latin Language unit, **two** Introductory Courses (half-units)
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Two:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language unit or Language-testing Author unit, **one** Latin Language unit or Language-testing Author unit, and choose options equal to the value of **one** unit from the Departmental list of available Stage Two courses
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Three:

Students must take **one** Classical Greek Language-testing Author unit (or CL1726 for those whose Greek unit at Stage Two was CL1715), **one** Latin Language-testing Author unit (or CL1776 for those whose Latin unit at Stage Two was CL1765), and choose options equal to the value of **one** unit from the Departmental list of available Stage Three courses
plus specified courses in the other subject.

[Back to top](#)

Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. 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.

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.

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in Stages Two and Three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in Stage Three.

In order to qualify for the award, a student must gain a final weighted average of at least 35%, and must successfully complete:

- two units designated as Classical Greek Language;
- two units designated as Latin Language;
- one unit designated as a Language-Testing Author Unit in Classical Greek;*
- one unit designated as a Language-Testing Author Unit in Latin;*

* An additional language unit may be substituted if a student enters with little or no prior experience of studying that language.

[Back to top](#)

Student support and guidance

- All students are allocated a personal adviser who meets with them regularly throughout the programme. The adviser's role is to provide guidance on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All teaching staff, course co-ordinators, seminar leaders and administrative staff provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff are available and accessible either through a dedicated office hours system or by appointment.
- Students are also able to make appointments to see the Head of Department by contacting the Senior Faculty Administrator.
- Detailed student handbooks and course resources.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable 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. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

As well as providing a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and Classics-related careers, the programme will provide students with skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. In recent years, graduates have found employment in accountancy, banking, commodity broking, the wine trade, teaching, retail and personnel management, market research and advertising, computer programming, publishing and landscape design, the tourist industry, teaching, and the media. The College [Careers Service](#) provides tailor-made support for Classicists through a series of talks and events. The Department offers three Master's programmes: MA Ancient History; Classical Art and Archaeology; Classics; plus opportunities for research leading to M.Phil or Ph.D.

[Back to top](#)

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 Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 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. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. 35% of the Classics Department's research profile is of 3* and 4* standard.

[Back to top](#)

List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Classics are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Classics & 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). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours degree programmes in Classics

BA Classics (Q800)

Joint Honours degree programmes with Classics as an equal component

BA Classics and Philosophy (QV85)

Combined Honours degree programme with Classics as a major component

BA Classics with Philosophy (Q9V5)

[Back to top](#)