



Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Welcome



Welcome to the Department of Classics at Royal Holloway!

Our teaching combines world-leading research across a vast array of subjects and disciplinary areas, allowing you to develop skills, individual interests and knowledge across all aspects of the Greek and Roman worlds – as well as

the ancient Middle East and Roman Britain. Not only do we look at the past, but we also offer you the opportunity to examine the reception of Classics in culture today, along with modern innovations like digital archaeology.

As an undergraduate in the Department of Classics you will be part of a dynamic, close-knit community. As a community, we work to develop the best learning provision for all our students, with courses designed to progressively build knowledge and skills to support you in developing your diverse interests and projects. Our teaching and research are engaged with real world issues from gender to imperialism, from literature to material goods, which were as much an issue for the ancients as they are for us.

Our aim is that you will graduate from the Classics Department with expertise, intellectual resources and skills that will enable you to be flexible, resilient and adaptable – ready to face the challenges of our diverse and ever-changing world.

Professor Christos Kremmydas

Head of Department



2nd

**in the UK for
student experience
in Classics**


*(The Times & Sunday Times
Good University Guide, 2024)*

Contact details

Course enquiries

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royalholloway.ac.uk/classics

Classics at Royal Holloway

- **A degree to suit your interests**

Whichever classical degree you choose at Royal Holloway, it can be tailored to suit your interests. You can span the breadth and diversity of what our Classics department has to offer or specialise in a particular area.

- **Classics for everyone**

Whether you have studied classical subjects at school or not, we will support you to grow your interests, knowledge and skills throughout your degree. If you have a fascination for ancient civilisations, you will find a very warm welcome in our department.

- **Outstanding teaching**

Staff in our department love their subject and want to communicate that to you in their teaching. 95% of our students say that our staff are good at explaining things (NSS 2023).



“The supportive and inspiring attitude of the department provides a perfect environment to thrive as a student, as well as nurturing an individual passion for the field of study. I have found each lecture and seminar valuable and exciting, all led by incredibly knowledgeable academic staff!”

Harriet
BA Classics

- **Experience the ancient world**

Studying Classics isn't confined to the classroom. We like to offer opportunities to get hands on experience, such as the chance to go on field-trips to places like Athens or to volunteer to work on a real archaeological dig with one of our academics over the summer.

- **Our personal approach**

We pride ourselves on supporting our students both academically and personally. We are a close-knit community and keep seminar-groups small to ensure that you receive dedicated attention from outstanding academics who get to know you right from the start of your degree.

- **Our research-led teaching**

What we teach comes directly from the world-leading research conducted by academics in our department. We will share with you in the classroom the new discoveries and perspective-shifting interpretations that keep the ancient world relevant today.

- **Our ideal location**

You will be able to take advantage of everything that London has to offer to a classicist without having to live in the city. We have close ties with renowned institutions like the British Museum and Museum of London, and you will have access to world-class research facilities at the Institute of Classical Studies, as well as to our own excellent College library.

6th in the UK for Classics
and Ancient History

(Guardian University Guide, 2024)

Choosing your degree

Degree courses

We offer a range of courses: Classical Studies is our most flexible course, while others offer the opportunity to specialise in your chosen field right from the start of your degree. Courses are made up of compulsory and optional modules, meaning that you will benefit both from a coherent structure and from the ability to choose modules to suit your interests. Visit royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here for more information on each course.

Modules and progression

The first year is designed to provide a broadly-based introduction to the study of the ancient world at degree-level, and to build your range of transferable skills. Introductory modules assume no previous knowledge and allow you to sample the breadth of what Classics has to offer, including Greek and Roman literature, history, archaeology and philosophy.

Modules in your second and final years enable you to study particular areas in greater depth. You will build on the firm foundation of knowledge and skills developed in your first year in modules that focus more closely on particular topics and themes, such as individual authors or genres, specific historical periods, or particular methodologies and practices.

In the final year of your degree, you will have to write a dissertation. This is an opportunity to carry out independent research on a topic of your choice under the supervision of one of our expert academics.

Greek and Latin language

Depending on the course you choose, you can study Latin and/or Ancient Greek, developing your existing skills or starting from scratch. We offer beginners' and intensive modules; intermediate modules; and language & reading and author modules, to develop detailed study of texts in the original.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

	UCAS code
BA Ancient History	V110
BA Classical Archaeology and Ancient History	VV41
BA Classical Studies	Q810
BA Classics	Q800
BA Greek	Q700
BA Latin	Q600

CLASSICS AS A MAJOR SUBJECT

BA Ancient History with Philosophy	V1V5
BA Classical Studies with Philosophy	Q9V5
BA Classics with Philosophy	Q8V5

JOINT DEGREES

BA Ancient & Medieval History	VV19
BA Ancient History & Philosophy	VV15
BA Classical Studies & Comparative Literature and Culture	Q8Q2
BA Classical Studies & Drama	QW84
BA Classical Studies & Philosophy	QV8M
BA Classics & Philosophy	QV85
BA English & Classical Studies	QQ38
BA English & Latin	QQ36
BA Modern Languages & Classical Studies	RQ98
BA Modern Languages & Greek	RQ97
BA Modern Languages & Latin	RQ96

Studying here

Teaching and assessment

We tailor teaching to the subject matter, but modules are typically taught through a combination of lectures, which offer an overview of important themes, and seminars, at which you will be encouraged to present and debate your ideas.

Languages are taught in smaller classes with increased contact hours, and language tutors also offer 'language lab' drop-in sessions to provide additional support. Students conducting research for second-year projects and final-year dissertations will also benefit from one-on-one supervision from our expert academics.

We will assess your work using a variety of different methods throughout your degree, including examinations and written coursework, in-class tests and oral presentations, research essays and creative projects. Individual feedback from your tutors will help you to develop your writing in essays and to build your verbal-communication skills in presentations. You will develop your research skills and hone your ability to construct a compelling argument both verbally and in your writing.

Resources

As a classicist at Royal Holloway, you will have access to outstanding resources for learning and conducting research. Our archaeologists use cutting-edge specialist technology in their research and in their teaching so you will have the opportunity to use some of this equipment for yourselves. We also have access to archaeological archives, and links with local museums and commercial archaeology companies, through which you can gain curatorial experience or develop specialism in finds analysis.

Classics beyond the campus

Our field-trips offer the chance to get hands-on with research-led teaching. In recent years, our students have enjoyed behind-the-scenes visits to the British Museum and Museum of London, a day off-campus in

a professional kitchen cooking real Roman recipes, trips further afield to Pompeii, and the chance to gain voluntary experience on archaeological digs in Italy, Greece and Turkey.

University of London

Royal Holloway is part of the University of London, which is home to a world-class community of teaching and researching classical academics. As a student at Royal Holloway, you will have access to exceptional resources, as Senate House, in central London, houses not only the Institute of Classical Studies library, but also the University of London library, to which you will have access along with other college libraries in London.



Classics students cooking Roman food

Student life

Supporting you

Supporting you is our priority. When you arrive at Royal Holloway, you will be assigned a personal tutor who will provide academic and pastoral support, including guidance on your module choices and help with personal and practical matters. All staff in the Department have weekly consultation and feedback hours so that you can drop in if there is anything you would like to talk about.

Our community

Our Department has a real buzz about it thanks to its lively community of undergraduates, postgraduates and academic staff. We have an active Classics Society that runs an exciting programme of events, including fun socials and an annual trip to Greece or Italy, and it even stages a classical play in English translation! In recent years, our students have held their own weekly reading groups on topics ranging from Homer to contemporary critical theory. We are home to three major research centres which host international events both on and off campus. The Department also holds the annual Dabis Lecture, to which we invite highly respected speakers from around the world.



“Every single member of staff is willing to help or signpost you in the right direction. As a part of the Classics department I never felt unsure or unheard. With the aid of both intellectually stimulating lectures and understanding lecturers, the department has always felt comforting and engaging.”

Antonia
BA Classical Studies



Your future career

Students of classical culture gain skills sought by employers for careers ranging literally from accountant to zoo-manager!

Our multidisciplinary curriculum, presentations, teamwork, specialist digital technology, debates, and creative projects encourage the independence, resilience, and flexibility required for today's rapidly-changing global and multicultural world.

Recent graduates from the Department of Classics have progressed into roles including barrister, events manager, communications manager, museum exhibitions curator, speech writer, teacher, charity sector manager, and journalist.

Many of our graduates also continue into postgraduate study, including progressing onto one of the postgraduate courses here.

Careers support

We prepare you for the world of work right from the start of your degree. Our carefully staged departmental employability programme includes our first-year academic and work-related skills module, and our competitive second-year work micro-placement scheme. The placement scheme includes workshops on how to sell and evidence your skills, CV and application writing, and interview technique. We run popular annual alumni events where recent Department of Classics graduates return to offer current students their careers advice and experience.

5th in the UK for
career prospects

(Guardian University Guide, 2024)



“The research and analytical skills I gained during my Classical Studies degree have stood me in good stead, whilst also making me excellent company at parties. I now make films for the British Museum, and that instinct for story telling that the Classics department nurtured in me now carries me across the entirety of human history and around the world, though my first love will always be the Julio-Claudians!”

Sian Toogood

Senior Producer, British Museum
BA Classical Studies (2005)

This brochure was produced in October 2023 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays

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