

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

ECHOES OF PAST CIVILISATIONS

“ At Reading we explore the fascinating Classical world, studying its people, cultures, discoveries and beliefs, to strengthen our understanding of the world we live in. Classics offers a window into an exciting and vibrant past which has surprising significance for our modern age.

We explore themes and regions not traditionally studied within a Classics Department, where you will be guided by a wide range of experts. You can also complement your studies with ancient languages, gain hands-on experience with artefacts from our very own Ure Museum, discover primary materials in other museums and archives, or study abroad.

Join us to embark on an intellectually stimulating, interdisciplinary course and discover the richness of the Classical world. ”

Professor Barbara Goff and Professor Amy C. Smith

Joint Heads of the Department of Classics

“οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἀγγεῖον ὁ
νοῦς ἀποπληρώσεως
ἀλλ’ ὑπεκκαύματος μόνον
ὥσπερ ὕλη δεῖται, ὀρμὴν
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

Rachel's research explores multilingualism and interactions between Greeks and other cultures in the Hellenistic world, particularly Egypt and Central Asia. Her work involves looking at archaeological and written evidence from the ancient world.

Her work feeds into her teaching of the 'Cleopatras' module which explores the life of Cleopatra VII of Egypt, the last Queen of the Ptolemaic Dynasty.

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. The course also puts an emphasis on recent receptions of Cleopatra.

Students read some modern biographies of Cleopatra and on the basis of their reading and knowledge of ancient sources, are asked to pitch a new biography of Cleopatra. The idea is to make them think about modern biographies of ancient figures not just as academic works,

but as commercial projects which are pitched to publishers.

Rachel's work also influences her teaching on the 'Pioneers of Classical Archaeology' module. This module explores the methods and accomplishments of 19th–early 20th c. archaeologists in the ancient world. Although, most of those who became famous were European or American, many local excavators and dealers played a part in the archaeological discoveries of the period, and this module reveals their stories. Interestingly, many artefacts in the Department's Ure Museum were acquired by archaeologists who are discussed in the module.

Rachel also teaches ancient languages. She emphasises that the ancient world was multilingual and spoke languages that are related to modern languages of the Middle East, like Arabic and Aramaic. We are one of the few Classics departments in the UK to offer an optional module in 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



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Barbara's research sheds light on the problems shared by the ancient world and the modern day – from migration to women's rights – and considers whether ancient solutions might be applicable to today's society.

Students at the University of Reading engage with Barbara's research through modules such as "Ancient drama", focusing on themes of exile, migration and home, which are particularly topical because of today's refugee crisis. In a separate project, Barbara worked with two undergraduate students to research a series of women's suffrage cartoons with Classical topics, as part of the Department's "Academic work placement" module.

Barbara believes it is important to try to learn from cultures that preceded ours. For example, the ancient Greeks and Romans experienced issues of diversity and multiculturalism. They were extremely mobile, as shown by a well-known tombstone found near Hadrian's Wall; this was erected by a man from Syria, who settled and married in Roman Britain. Furthermore, despite the huge geographical area and diverseness of the Roman Empire, Rome extended citizenship to all its inhabitants. Study of the ancient cultures reveals that mobility of populations, and the struggle to work out ways to live with each other, is by no means just a modern-day preoccupation.

Barbara advocates making the discipline of classics accessible to everyone, so we can all learn from the valuable experience the Classical world offers. Alongside the University and its students, she supports a number of initiatives which promote the study of classics in primary and secondary schools, including Minimus, Classics for All, The Iris Project and Advocating Classics Education.



Images: Syrian amphitheatre and Hadrian's Wall

Professor Barbara Goff



“ If we turn to classics to see how the ancient world handled the types of issues that still preoccupy us today, there is much that can be learned. Classics can open new windows on to our versions of ourselves. ”



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





**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.



SHAPE YOUR DEGREE

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

We offer an extensive selection 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.

Our range of modules enables you to select and combine optional modules to focus on a specific area of interest, thus creating your own pathway should you choose. Example pathways include History of the Near East, Material Culture and Classics in the Modern World. Alternatively, if your interests are broader, you can choose modules which explore a range of areas within the Classical world.

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.

“ 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

“ The flexibility to choose from such a wide range of modules and the ability to steer my degree in the direction I wanted, was amazing. I took Latin and an archaeology module in my first year despite having no previous experience in either topic. In my final year, I studied ancient Greeks and medieval magic. This allowed me to discover the medieval world, which led to my master's degree in Medieval 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 five-day "Work placement for classicists and ancient historians" module, or work with an academic on their research through our "Academic work placement" module.

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

90% of our leavers are in work and/or study 15 months after the end of their course. (Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018/19; First Degree responders from Classics). 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

Core modules:

- Greek history: war, society, and change in the Archaic age
- Roman history: the rise and fall of the Republic

OPTIONAL MODULES*

In addition to the core modules, options are available to help you customise the course across all three of our degrees. Recent options have included:

- Egypt and the Greco-Roman World
- Ancient biography
- Literature and Society in Late Antiquity

YEAR TWO

Core modules:

- Greek history: Persian Wars to Alexander
- Roman history: Republic to Empire

- Greek religions
- My Mother's Sin and other Stories
- Technology in the Ancient World
- Sexuality and Gender in the Ancient World
- Cleopatras
- Anatolia and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age. The Context for the Trojan War

YEAR THREE

Dissertation

- Early Macedon
- Ancient World on Film
- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs

*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

Core modules:

- Texts, readers and writers
- Ancient song

OPTIONAL MODULES*

In addition to the core modules, options are available to help you customise the course across all three of our degrees. Recent options have included:

- Egypt and the Greco-Roman World
- Ancient biography
- Literature and Society in Late Antiquity

YEAR TWO

Core modules:

- Ancient epic
- Ancient drama

- Greek religions
- My Mother's Sin and other Stories
- Technology in the Ancient World
- Sexuality and Gender in the Ancient World
- Cleopatras
- Anatolia and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age. The Context for the Trojan War

YEAR THREE

Dissertation

- Early Macedon
- Ancient World on Film
- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs

*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

Core modules:

- Ancient Greek
- Ancient Latin

OPTIONAL MODULES*

In addition to the core modules, options are available to help you customise the course across all three of our degrees. Recent options have included:

- Egypt and the Greco-Roman World
- Ancient biography
- Literature and Society in Late Antiquity

YEAR TWO

Core modules:

- Ancient Greek
- Ancient Latin

- Greek religions
- My Mother's Sin and other Stories
- Technology in the Ancient World
- Sexuality and Gender in the Ancient World
- Cleopatras
- Anatolia and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age. The Context for the Trojan War

YEAR THREE

Dissertation

- Ancient Greek
- Ancient Latin
- Early Macedon
- Ancient World on Film
- Ancient Egyptian Language and Hieroglyphs

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

Disclaimer

This brochure was issued in 2022 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 2023. 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 (Feb 2022). 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 www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-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 disclaimer

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. Information is correct at the time of going to press (Feb 2022) but 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 optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to 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 Course Director.

Joint courses disclaimer

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:

www.reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding.

Placements disclaimer

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 disclaimer

The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (Feb 2022). 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

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www.reading.ac.uk/question

