

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 reflections of our modern age.



We go beyond the traditional realms of the ancient world to include themes and regions not traditionally studied within a Classics Department, offering you a wide range of expertise. You can also complement your studies with ancient languages, gain hands-on experience with artefacts from our very own Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, or take advantage of our long-standing links with the British Schools in Athens and Rome to study abroad.

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

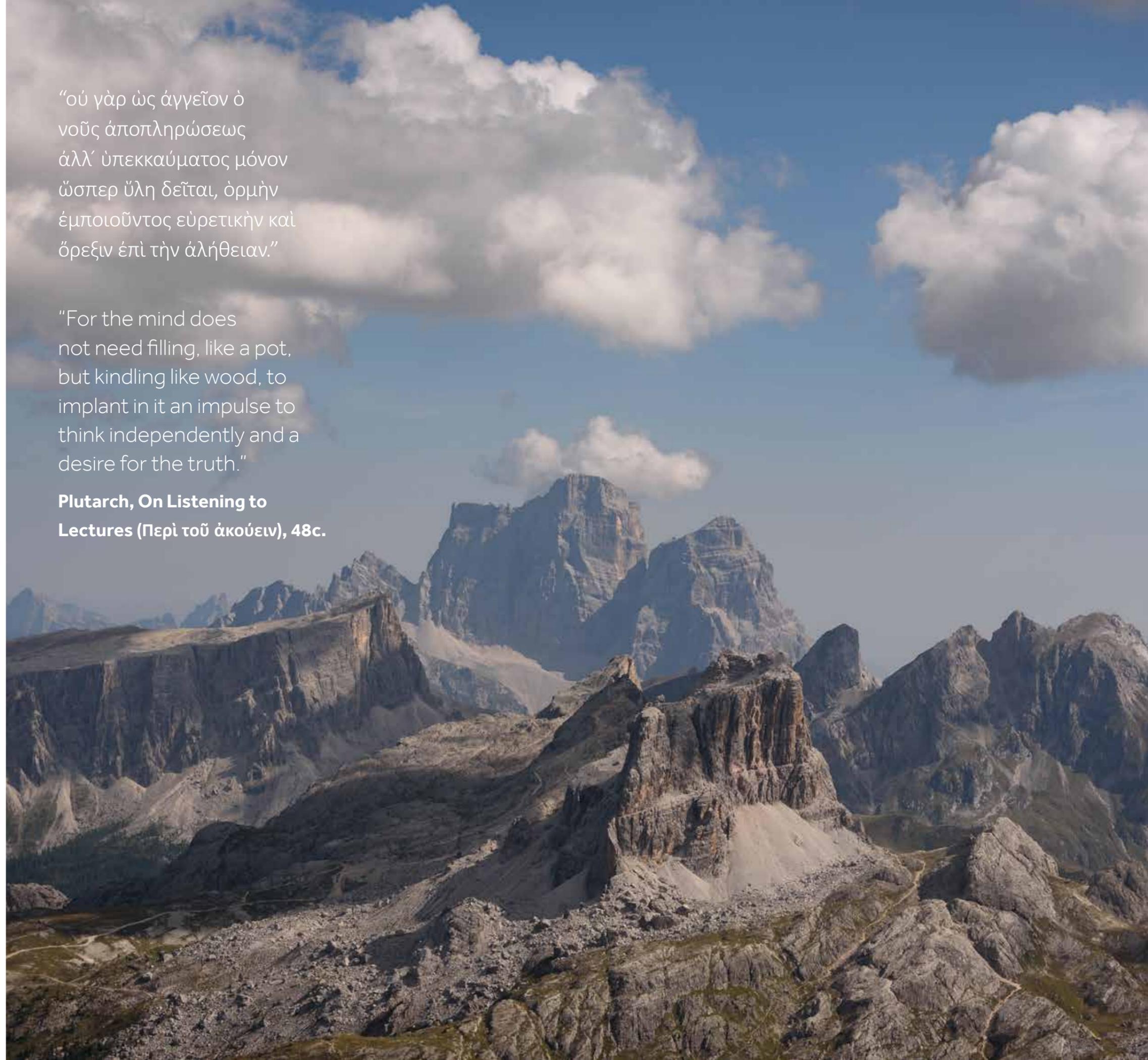
**Dr Emma Aston**  
Head of the Department of Classics

[www.reading.ac.uk/classics](http://www.reading.ac.uk/classics)

“οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἀγγεῖον ὀ  
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.**



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ANCIENT ROME

Inspired to make ancient Rome accessible to everyone, Matthew created an award-winning digital model of the city, forming the basis of a free online course which enables you to walk the ancient streets alongside him.

Matthew is passionate about explaining and understanding ruins, trying to imagine how they once were and communicating that to others. His digital model, dated c.AD 315, offers you the chance to discover the famous city's secrets, architecture and history.

The model enables you to explore thousands of buildings, including reconstructions of major monuments such as the Colosseum, as well as many miles of ordinary housing, tombs and

commercial buildings. It aims to offer a view of the entire city, from any angle, at any time of day.

The online course combines real-life footage of contemporary Rome with views of the 3D digital model and a range of evidence including archaeological remains, coins and inscriptions, to fully immerse yourself in the ancient city.

Open to everyone, the course offers excellent insight into studying Roman history at the University of Reading, where Matthew uses the model in his teaching, as well as on field trips to Rome.

To sign up for Matthew's course, visit [www.futurelearn.com/courses/rome](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/rome)



“ The work we do at the University of Reading makes a huge contribution to people's knowledge and understanding of the past, and I'm so glad the world can now join us on this journey of discovery. ”



Dr Matthew Nicholls



**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**



# YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

**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.



**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. ”



**BRINGING  
THE PAST  
TO LIFE**



**Professor Eleanor Dickey**

**Eleanor produced the first major translation of ancient Roman school textbooks, casting new light on schooling in antiquity. Wishing to bring to life her findings about ancient society and their approach to learning, Eleanor created the Reading Ancient Schoolroom.**

Eleanor's project replicates an ancient classroom to enable modern students to find out first-hand what an ancient school was like. Working with students and colleagues in the University of Reading's Classics Department, Eleanor made papyrus rolls of texts, sewed Roman costumes, and obtained wax tablets, reed pens, and inkwells to create a genuine Roman classroom experience.

Local children were invited to experience the recreated ancient schoolroom, and at the end of the first event, teachers and children were eager to learn more. What started as a one-hour workshop evolved into a full-day experience offering Roman reading, writing, mathematics, languages, Roman graffiti workshops, object handling in the Ure Museum and Roman food tasting.

Through her research, Eleanor has discovered that ancient schooling methods were highly individual, offering flexibility to

students with differing needs and one-on-one time for every pupil: there were no set start times, no lectures and no raised hands as pupils worked individually and at their own pace. Ancient teachers wrote eloquently about the importance of tailoring education to the individual, and when looking at the long-term impact of the project Eleanor hopes that it can bring ancient insights to bear on modern education, making it a happier and more beneficial experience for everyone.

**“ The ancient schoolroom is tremendous fun for me and for the University of Reading students who volunteer as teachers, as well as for the children who join us. We all learn an amazing amount, and getting to know my students outside the classroom gives me so much appreciation for their many talents. ”**



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**“ This was a really fun and interesting experience, learning how education has changed over time, and engaging children with the ancient world. ”**

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



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# 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 personal tutor throughout your degree. Our excellence in teaching has been recognised by numerous awards, including the 2014 Guardian Higher Education Award for Teaching Excellence, a 2017 National Teaching Fellowship, and many student-nominated Reading University Students' Union Teaching Excellence Awards.

## PAVING THE WAY

Our contribution to research in the Classical world has been recognised through the University's ranking in Classics of 6th in the UK for research overall, 3rd in the UK for research output<sup>1</sup>, with 100% of our research impact judged to be world leading or internationally excellent<sup>2</sup>.

You will benefit first-hand from our academics' research which informs their teaching. For example, Dr Matthew Nicholls, Associate Professor of Classics, developed a multi-award winning digital model of Rome which allows us to investigate questions of sight lines, illumination and routes through the ancient city. This model is also proving an invaluable teaching tool, enabling students to immerse themselves in the architecture and history of ancient Rome.

“ 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

<sup>1</sup> Times Higher Education Institutions Ranked by Subject, 2014, based on its analysis of REF 2014 – Classics.

<sup>2</sup> Research Excellence Framework, 2014 – Classics.



# 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, Classics in the Modern World, and Ancient Languages. 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.

“ Despite starting at Reading studying classical studies, my interest in languages grew. With the Department's incredible support and the course's flexibility, I tailored my degree to reflect this by changing to classics, and taking French as an optional module. ”

**JEMMA CALLUE**  
BA Classics graduate



# A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

# SUPPORTING YOUR ASPIRATIONS

## **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
- teaching Latin to primary school children in the Literacy through Latin and Minimus schemes
- 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.<sup>1</sup>

## **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.<sup>1</sup>

## **YOUR FUTURE AWAITS**

Over the past five years, an average of 93% of our graduates have been in work or further study within six months of graduating.<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to availability, see inside back cover.

<sup>2</sup> Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, 2011-12 to 2015-16.

## **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 also offer annual five-day trips to either Athens or Rome with the Department, and you can apply for summer school schemes with the British Schools at Athens and Rome.<sup>1</sup>

“ The friendliness and enthusiasm of the Classics Department staff is second to none and made my time studying at Reading truly enjoyable. ”

**ALEX HEAVENS**  
BA Classics graduate

<sup>1</sup> Subject to availability, see inside back cover.

# COURSES

BA ANCIENT HISTORY  
BA CLASSICAL STUDIES  
BA CLASSICS

## JOINT DEGREES

BA ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
BA ANCIENT HISTORY AND HISTORY  
BA ARCHAEOLOGY AND CLASSICAL STUDIES  
BA CLASSICAL STUDIES AND ENGLISH LITERATURE  
BA CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES  
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:

- Roman epic
- Egypt and Greece
- Ancient biography

### YEAR TWO

#### Core modules:

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

- Plato, philosophy and the city
- Greek religions
- Greek sculpture
- Rome's Mediterranean Empire
- Ancient technology
- Greek political thought
- Classics and critical theory

### YEAR THREE

#### Dissertation

- Digital Silchester
- Ancient Macedon
- Xenophon's *Anabasis*
- Ancient Egyptian language

\*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:

- Roman epic
- Egypt and Greece
- Ancient biography

## YEAR TWO

### Core modules:

- Ancient epic
- Ancient drama

- Plato, philosophy and the city
- Greek religions
- Greek sculpture
- Rome's Mediterranean Empire
- Ancient technology
- Greek political thought
- Classics and critical theory

## YEAR THREE

### Dissertation

- Digital Silchester
- Ancient Macedon
- Xenophon's *Anabasis*
- Ancient Egyptian language

\*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:

- Latin
- Ancient Greek

### 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:

- Roman epic
- Egypt and Greece
- Ancient biography

## YEAR TWO

### Core modules:

- Latin
- Ancient Greek

- Plato, philosophy and the city
- Greek religions
- Greek sculpture
- Rome's Mediterranean Empire
- Ancient technology
- Greek political thought
- Classics and critical theory

## YEAR THREE

### Dissertation

- Latin
- Ancient Greek

- Digital Silchester
- Ancient Macedon
- Xenophon's *Anabasis*
- Ancient Egyptian language

\*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 2018 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 2019. 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 (July 2018). 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](http://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 (July 2018) 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](http://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 (July 2018). For up-to-date information on the University's partnerships contact [studyabroad@reading.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:studyabroad@reading.ac.uk).



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