

Programme Specification

BA Classical Studies and English Literature

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: QQ38

UFCLXEN

UFCLXENPE

UFCLXENSY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Classical Studies and English Literature with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Classical Studies and English Literature with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Classics and Ancient History (including Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek)

Programme information and content

In **Classical Studies** we teach a broad and inclusive version of the ancient world, using and evaluating many diverse forms of evidence – archaeological, literary, philosophical, and historical. Our guiding principle is that the ancient world should be accessible to all, and everyone can benefit from and enjoy studying it. The capacities and interests that we foster will thus enable our graduates to act as engaged citizens of the multicultural modern world, open to new arguments and able to adjust their perspectives in line with the evidence. The skills gained in the course of our stimulating degree programme – including communication, presentation, research, and data management skills – are valued by a wide range of employers. Students also have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of ancient languages. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Classical Studies through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the programme.

In **English Literature** you will develop your understanding of a variety of literary works from different places and written in different historical periods. You will study familiar genres as well as some less well-known and newer forms. You will have the opportunity to consider different methods of critical analysis and you will develop your skills in close reading and interpretation. You will be supported as you develop your own writing skills. As a graduate in English Literature from the University of Reading, you will have the skills you need to better understand the society in which we live and to express your ideas and opinions more clearly.

Part 1:	Part 1 of Classical Studies introduces you to the study of Greek and Roman civilizations with a particular emphasis on the range of different
---------	--

	<p>texts and how we know about them, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific topics in ancient literature, history, and culture.</p> <p>In English Literature we consider the major literary genres (poetry, prose fiction as well as drama) and you will become familiar with key disciplinary debates.</p>
Part 2:	<p>Part 2 in Classical Studies enables you to develop your knowledge of the ancient world by studying a wide range of literary forms and their reception, as well as a range of different periods from ancient history across a choice of modules, from Alexander the Great to Late Antiquity. A careers-focused module will encourage you to reflect on the transferable skills you are gaining through your degree and guide you towards the best ways to present these to prospective employers.</p> <p>In English Literature Part 2 allows you to investigate literature from different historical periods and from different perspectives. In all our modules, we consider how our interpretative work can help us to understand our own cultural moment better.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	<p>The four-year variants of the programme (BA Classical Studies and English Literature with Study Year Abroad or Professional Placement) offer you an outstanding opportunity to develop your experiences and transferable skills, either through study in a different academic setting (Study Year Abroad) or through a Professional Placement. The programme also offers shorter placement and study abroad opportunities.</p>
Part 3:	<p>Part 3 allows you to specialise in ways that suit your interests; these modules also enable you to contribute to debates that shape our subject by choosing from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff.</p>

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Classical Studies and English Literature

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate understanding of the principles and methods by which literary texts are read and analysed.
2	Demonstrate broad, deep, and coherent knowledge of English literature in its principal modes and genres: across poetry, prose, and drama; covering a range of historical periods; and comprehending the regional variety and global reach of the English language.

3	Apply discipline-specific practices of close reading, interpretative analysis and critical argument.
4	Distinguish and evaluate different research methods and theoretical debates in current literary studies, using independent thinking to arrive at evidence-based conclusions.
5	Articulate your own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately, and clearly in writing and in other media.
6	Undertake autonomous learning, enquiry and research within the disciplines of Classical Studies and English Literature, applying their mastery of relevant knowledge, skills and methods
7	Reflect on your own work and development.
8	Discuss and appraise published research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, within the fields of Classical Studies and English Literature.
9	Initiate, devise, compose and conclude self-directed learning tasks of different scales: from learning journals, presentations, reports and coursework essays, to extended essays, independent projects and dissertations.
10	Demonstrate awareness of the social, cultural and political contexts of literary interpretation and practice.
11	Acknowledge contemporary debates around inequality, sustainability, globalisation, cultural diversity, decolonisation and anti-racism.
12	Demonstrate a wide range of skills relating to employability in the wider world of work; these include teamworking, problem solving, communication, independent working and digital literacy.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
<p>Study Abroad</p> <p>By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.</p> <p>Placement</p> <p>By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.</p>

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CL1SO	Ancient Song	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
EN1TPW	Theories and Practice of Writing	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Classics, the Department of English Literature, or from modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must choose one 20-credit employability module from a list supplied by the Department of Classics.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Classics and the Department of English Literature.

Students must select 40 credits of modules in Classics, with at least 20 credits of modules in Ancient Epic (CL2AE) or Ancient Drama (CL2DR).

Students must take 60 credits of modules from the Department of English Literature. Students must take at least ONE module from a list of up to four modules covering historical periods before 1900, as specified by the department.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules from an approved list.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the four-year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Professional Placement Year (CL2PPY) or Study Abroad Year (CL2SAY).

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select one 40 credit dissertation in either Classics or English Literature or the 40 credit Independent Project Module (CL3IPR).

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Classics and 40 credits of optional modules in English Literature.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules in the subject area where the dissertation/project module is taken may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, so that each student has a minimum of 40 credits in both Classics and English Literature.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

For **Classical Studies** you will be taught through a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2, with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation or independent project in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study. Throughout the programme, you should treat the feedback you get for oral and written work as an important learning resource, and you are strongly encouraged to discuss your feedback with staff.

The total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 204 hours, Part 2 - 130 hours, Part 3 -

96 hours. Latin and Greek language classes will have more contact hours (up to 80 hours per year for beginners' languages).

For **English Literature** your learning experience will involve a mix of lectures, asynchronous recorded content and small-group seminar discussion, as well as workshops and tutorials. There is a greater emphasis on small-group discussion at Part 2, but material to help you familiarise yourself with the subject knowledge needed for each module will be provided in live lectures and in asynchronous recorded content. In Part 3 you will choose the modules that best reflect your interests as a critic and a writer. You will be responsible for researching the texts yourself, and your learning will mostly consist of small-group discussion.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

For **Classical Studies** you will be assessed through a wide range of suitable activities, from essays and exams (both written and oral) to presentations, creative responses, and reflective exercises. These activities will become more complex as you progress from Part 1 to Parts 2 and 3. You should expect one or two assessed assignments per 20 credits, except in language modules, where frequent assessments are essential to monitor progress.

For **English Literature** you will be assessed by coursework essays across your three years of study, but you will also be asked to do assessed presentations, develop learning journals, write Critical/Creative work, and undertake research projects. Detailed guidance will be given for assessment methods that are unfamiliar and you will be given module-specific marking criteria for each module.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and

(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional placement/study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Professional placement/Study abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Some modules use textbooks that are recommended for purchase; the estimated cost is £150 across the programme.

Optional modules may include visits to museums and field trips, including abroad. Travel and/or accommodation costs may range from £20 for a day trip to London to £600 for a week abroad.

Placements may require students to cover the cost of their travel. Study abroad may require additional costs for tuition, travel, and accommodation.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Classical Studies and English Literature for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
3 July 2025

© The University of Reading 2025