

Programme Specification

BA Museum and Classical Studies

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: P1Q8

UFMUXCL

UFMUXCLPE

UFMUXCLSY

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 Museum and Classical Studies with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Museum and Classical Studies 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

The programme aims to provide you with a thorough degree level education in Museum and Classical Studies, and a sound preparation for those considering a career in the museums and heritage sector. The Classics side aims to give students experience in and understanding of Classical culture from a literary, material and thematic perspective, while also equipping them with a sound historical framework which allows them to appreciate the context of ancient texts and objects. On the Museum Studies side, students learn about the presentation of ancient culture to the public, and reflect on how we approach the past through objects and their display. They also gain essential hands-on experience working with museum objects alongside a range of professional archive and museum staff, employed across the University's Museums and Special Collections Service (UMASCS), including its three museums: MERL, the Ure Museum of Classical Archaeology, and the Cole Museum of Zoology. All this will be achieved through structured progression from Parts 1 to 3.

Part 1:	Museum Studies introduces you to the principles and practices of the museum sector and builds relevant skills of research and analysis in a professional context. Classical Studies introduces you to the study of Greek and Roman culture, with a particular emphasis upon the development of the study of primary sources and source criticism, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific topics in Greek and Roman Civilisations.
Part 2:	Museum Studies focuses on practical museum work and the engagement with primary data, the development of analytical skills and the nature of

	<p>interpretation through a museum placement and a series of ‘real-world’ research and design projects within working museums.</p> <p>Classical Studies provides you with a knowledge of ancient literature and develops an awareness of the role of the classics in the shaping of the modern Western culture via compulsory core modules which also develop your literary skills. In addition, students choose three option modules that are either more thematic or add greater depth than the core modules.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	<p>The four-year variants of the programme (BA Museum and Classical Studies 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>Museum Studies lets you develop (design, plan, create and evaluate) a museum display through the supervised project and gives the opportunity for increasing specialisation through the provision of a range of specialist subjects as well as for conducting an original research project through the dissertation.</p> <p>Classical Studies gives you the opportunity to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation or independent project topic in depth.</p>

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Museum and Classical Studies

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 ancient literary texts and museum collections are analysed.
2	Demonstrate acquaintance with a diverse set of primary sources and scholarship and identify suitable sources of information within these materials.
3	Analyse and synthesise complex data sets and make connections between different types of evidence.
4	Describe the historical development of museums, and the variety of theoretical and practical approaches to understanding, constructing, and interpreting the past.
5	Understand and evaluate different arguments, using independent thinking to arrive at evidence-based conclusions.
6	Communicate effectively in writing and in other media.
7	Demonstrate practical experience in a museum setting, and an ability to catalogue, label and interpret specific objects.

8	Understand the principles of collections management, object analysis and display and understand how to undertake critical evaluation of education and learning resources in a museum setting.
9	Demonstrate awareness of the social, cultural and political context of ancient literary production and interpretation as well as museums interpretation and practice, and their impact upon other communities, including historically and currently marginalised groups, and the need to engage with such communities.
10	Reflect on your own work and development.
11	Acknowledge contemporary debates around issues like inequality, sustainability, globalisation, cultural diversity, inclusivity, decolonisation, repatriation, and anti-racism.
12	Demonstrate a wide range of skills, relating to employability in the wider world of work; these include teamworking, problem solving, data analysis and synthesis, communication, independent working, digital literacy, and health and safety.

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
CL1GH	Greek History: war, society, and change in the Archaic Age	20	4
CL1PP	The Past in the Present	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4

MC1PTP	Presenting the Past: an Introduction to Museum Studies	20	4
--------	--	----	---

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Classics and modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MC2CCM	Curatorship and Collections Management	20	5
MC2LE	Museum Learning and Engagement	20	5

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Classics, with the remaining credits made up of specified modules outside the department and up to 20 credits of 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:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MC3DD	Display Design, Planning and Creation: Project Module	40	6

Students may select 40 credits in either the Dissertation in Classics module (CL3DIS) or the Independent Project module (CL3IPR).

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from the list available from the Department of Classics.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University.

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:

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars, and individual essay feedback), recommended reading, and the writing of essays and the completion of a Museum Project. Knowledge of practical techniques and methodologies are further developed through the museum placement and the creation of a museum display.

Intellectual skills will be introduced in lectures, practicals and placements, developed through reading, writing of essays, practical activities, designing of a display, and examination, with individual feedback provided on the content and organisation of essays and other coursework. Independent thinking is developed especially through the display design module and recommended dissertation or independent project for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

Practical skills are developed through the deployment of seminar classes and essay assignments, and through participation in the placement module. Oral presentation also constitutes a percentage of the assessment of the Project Module. These skills may also be developed through the recommended optional dissertation or independent project module where work on collections will be encouraged.

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

The programme will be assessed through a wide range of suitable activities, from essays and exams (both written and oral) to presentations, work placements, creative projects, and reflective exercises. These activities will become more complex as you progress from Part 1 to Parts 2 and 3. You should expect between one and three assessed assignments per 20 credits. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

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

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

In Classical Studies there are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

In Museum Studies you may be required to cover transportation costs during your placement although a number of local placements are available. There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

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 Museum and Classical Studies for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
4 July 2025

© The University of Reading 2025