

## MA Antiquity: Late Antiquity pathway

The Antiquity MA: Late Antiquity pathway explores the transformation of the Roman World in the period AD 300–700. It examines major debates about the period, tackling historical, textual, archaeological and art historical material. These debates will be examined through case-studies focussing on the city as a venue for change and continuity and as an arena for political, social and religious display and competition.

This is one of several pathways available on the [Antiquity MA \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/iaa/antiquity.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/iaa/antiquity.aspx).

Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Birmingham has been ranked among the top five Russell Group departments of Classics in the Research Excellence Framework 2014.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

### Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Taught

**Study Options:** Full time, part time

**Duration:** 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

**Start date:** September

### Contact

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[Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx)

### Details

This is the degree for you if you enjoyed studying the ancient world as an undergraduate, and would now like to study Late Antiquity in greater depth and at a higher level; or if you want to explore this aspect of antiquity and it wasn't included in your first degree. It allows you to specialise, but also encourages you to branch out into related disciplines and to consider interdisciplinary approaches.

You will study three core modules [full descriptions available below]:

- The Late Antique City
- Approaches to Images, Material Culture and Texts
- Research Skills

You will also choose three optional modules from across all of the programme's pathways, offering the opportunity for interdisciplinary study. You will also complete a 15,000-word dissertation on a subject of your choice, with one-to-one expert supervision.

### Modules

You will study three core modules:

#### The Late Antique City

The module will look at the development of the city and the use of civic, religious and social space in the period AD 300–700. It will cover both the western and eastern halves of the Roman empire, and use literary, visual and archaeological material to examine such issues as: the effect of Christianity on the social and religious topography of cities; the relationship between city and hinterland; the role of the city in political and social life; the relationship between emperor and the city/church and city; civic life; the city as a centre of commerce; debates on the decline of urbanisation in late antiquity.

#### Approaches to Images, Material Culture and Texts

This module invites you to experiment with interdisciplinary approaches. Linked to a series of research seminars by academic staff, the module is a forum in which staff and students work together to identify significant current directions in research, and to explore links, and differences, between academic disciplines.

#### Research Skills

This module will help you to develop the skills necessary for graduate level research, introduce you to the latest methods and techniques for interpreting primary sources, and demonstrate how to make critical use of scholarly works. You will learn how to define and approach interesting research questions, and develop an overview of the fields of scholarship most relevant to your pathway.

You will also choose three optional modules, from a range which typically includes:

#### Empire and Identity: The City in the Roman West

This module is in two parts, both linked by questions of how contact with the Roman empire changed peoples' perceptions of themselves and how this was represented in particular through their material culture.

The first part considers the 'Romanisation' debate of the last hundred years, from the 'top-down' view of Haverfield and his successors, who brought to bear their own experiences of European colonialism and imperialism, through to more recent 'bottom-up' analyses employing post-colonial and related analyses, to the current position where the term can be seen as counter-productive.

The second part looks at the construction of 'barbarian' identities in the later Roman period (mainly the 4th and 5th centuries). It considers the construction of 'ethnicity' in the 20th century, from Kossinna on, and its relationship to material culture (if there is any). The recent discussions of the construction of 'identity' rather than just 'ethnicity' are considered. Particular use is made of the rich textual and archaeological evidence for the (Visi-)Goths.

Both part of the module seek to deconstruct traditional views and show how new thinking is necessitating profound review of previously accepted categories of 'ethnicity' in favour of considerations such as age, gender and status.

## Individuals in History

This module explores the theory and practice of historiography, normally in the Roman world, with particular emphasis on the role of the individual. Typically, the module will be centred on a key text or texts which will enable students to develop strategies for reading and understanding the sources (biographic, literary, historical, material cultural) through which the role of the individual is accessed, and the relationship between individuals and their cultures is understood. This module will investigate issues such as: the significance of individuals in models of historical causation; the impact of biographical tropes and the importance of particular topoi for understanding characterisation; theories of the individual, character-development and biographical criticism; how individuals project themselves into history, versus the impact of historiographic/cultural imperatives on the representation of individuals within history.

## Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology and Material Culture I

This module is based on the largest source of fresh evidence for the Late Roman-to- early medieval Eastern Mediterranean world (including southeastern Europe), namely archaeology. It is designed to accustom interested students to using archaeological materials in the discussion of historians' ideas about economic, social, cultural, and even political changes. A background in archaeology is not essential, but some general aspects of the aims and methods of different types of archaeological projects must be introduced. The module(s) will deal with this by exploring the history of archaeological practice as it concerns the post-Roman East. We will then focus on the new debates which archaeology stimulates about important aspects of history from ca. 300 to ca. 800 AD. These concern the multiple impacts of invaders and invasions, Christianisation, demographic changes, the transformation of urban culture, and changes in rural settlement, agriculture, and artisanal production. By the end of this module you should be able to recognise key aspects of the Late Roman and Transitional ('Dark-Age') archaeological record, understand the problems and value of different archaeological strategies, and use the burgeoning archaeological literature to discuss some of the major long-term changes that characterise the period ca. 300-800 beyond western and northern Europe.

## Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology and Material Culture II

This module is based on the burgeoning archaeology of the medieval eastern Mediterranean and SE Europe and has the same general aims and themes as Late Roman and Byzantine Archaeology I. However, taking account of the rise and spread of Islam, the Slavs, and eventually the Crusades, and the divisions which these brought to the geographical space concerned, the course concentrates on the Christian world in the Balkans, Greece, Cyprus and Anatolia. At the same time the survival of local archives from the 9th c. onwards creates new possibilities for an historical archaeology of regions and sub-regions. By the end of this module you should be able to recognise key aspects of the medieval Byzantine and Crusader ('Frankish') archaeological record, use the archaeological literature to question some of the grand narratives of historians, and see 'dramatic' short-term historical changes from new perspectives.

Plus:

- Archaeology of Greece
- Herodotus and Ancient Worlds
- Myth and Text in Antiquity
- Research Project Development

*Some of these optional modules may form the core of other pathways.*

## Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are as follows:

- Home / EU: £6,210 full-time; £3,105 part-time
- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

For part-time students, the above fee quoted is for year one only and tuition fees will also be payable in year two of your programme.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about [fees for international students](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx>)

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments. Learn more about [postgraduate tuition fees and funding](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx>).

## Alumni Bursary

The University of Birmingham is offering awards of ?2,000 to outstanding alumni wishing to undertake Masters study at the University during 2015. There are 50 awards available and applications for the bursary must be submitted by 17:00 on 31 March 2015. Full details and how to apply can be found on the [Distinguished Alumni Scholarship page](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/Distinguished-Alumni-Scholarship-scheme.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/Distinguished-Alumni-Scholarship-scheme.aspx>).

## Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's [Postgraduate Funding Database](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx>).

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

## Entry requirements

Learn more about [entry requirements](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx>)

## International students

### Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our [country pages](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx>) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

## English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx>) to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx>)

## How to apply

### Before you make your application

You may wish to **register your interest with us** (<https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate>) to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

### Making your application

Learn more about **applying** (</postgraduate/courses/apply-pg/index.aspx>).

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx>)

**Apply now** (<https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CALo10.htm>)

## Learning and teaching

The research modules will train you to a professional level in bibliographic research, project development, information management and retrieval, oral presentation, active listening, and a range of subject-specific skills tailored to this pathway.

You will also become part of, and contribute to, the vibrant international community of the College of Arts and Law Graduate School, which offers dedicated research resources and a supportive working environment. Our team of academic and operational staff are on hand to offer support and advice to all postgraduate students within the College.

### Support with academic writing

As a postgraduate student in the College of Arts and Law, you have access to the **Academic Writing Advisory Service (AWAS)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/awas/index.aspx>) which aims to help your transition from undergraduate to taught Masters level, or back into academia after time away. The service offers guidance on writing assignments and dissertations for your MA/MSc programme with individual support from an academic writing advisor via tutorials, email and the provision of online materials.

International students can access support through the **English for International Students Unit (EISU)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/eisu/insessional/index.aspx>).

## Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. [Get the latest Flash Player](#) [Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

Birmingham's Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology graduates develop a broad range of transferable skills including: familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; the expertise to write clearly and

concisely and to tight deadlines; critical and analytical ability; the capacity for argument, debate and speculation; and the ability to base conclusions on statistical research.

In 2013, over 92% of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Many of our postgraduates enter roles for which their programme has especially prepared them, such as museum and heritage activities and archaeological posts. Elsewhere, a range of professions are undertaken by our graduates, from librarianship and teaching to accountancy. Employers that our graduates have gone on to work for include: AOC Archaeology Group; Blakesley Hall Museum; City and Borough Councils; English Heritage; KPMG; National Trust; and Sotheby?s.

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