

## BA Classical Literature and Civilisation

Fascinated by ancient Greece and Rome? Love reading and thinking for yourself? Then this innovative degree is for you. You will encounter the classical world in all its diversity, with the chance to explore its literature, culture, religion and history, and the many ways in which classical antiquity lives on in our world today. You will have the chance to travel to Greece or Italy and conduct your own research in places such as Pompeii, Crete, or Delphi. You may choose to learn Latin or Greek, or continue your study of either language from AS or A level onwards, or you may wish to pursue your studies entirely by working on literature and sources in English translations.

The programme is taught in the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology where you will have the opportunity to explore not only the classical civilisations of Greece and Rome, but also the cultures of Egypt and Ancient Western Asia, as well as the Byzantine Empire.

**[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)**  
[\(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

### Course fact file

UCAS code: Q820

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 30

Applications in 2013: 126

Typical Offer: ABB (**[More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details \(? OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](#)**)

Start date: September

### Related courses

[BA Classics \(/undergraduate/courses/caha/classics.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/caha/classics.aspx)

[BA Archaeology and Ancient History \(/undergraduate/courses/caha/arch-ancient-hist.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/caha/arch-ancient-hist.aspx)

[BA Ancient History \(/undergraduate/courses/caha/ancient-history.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/caha/ancient-history.aspx)

[BA Archaeology and Anthropology \(/undergraduate/courses/caha/arch-anthropology.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/caha/arch-anthropology.aspx)

### Contact

Admissions Tutor: [Dr Andrew Bayliss](#)

[\(/staff/profiles/caha/bayliss-andrew.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/caha/bayliss-andrew.aspx) Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)121 414 6431

Email: [caha-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:caha-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:anc-hist-classics@contacts.bham.ac.uk>)

[Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx\)](/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx)

### Details



This course offers a core programme in Classical Greek and Roman Literature and Culture, as well as the chance to explore option and specialisms in related disciplines such as Ancient History, Egyptology, Archaeology, and Byzantine Studies.

You will learn in a variety of different contexts, such as lectures, seminars, interactive workshops, independent research, and field trips. You will be supported by outstanding library resources, and have access to departmental facilities including a small study library and the museum. Classical Literature and Civilisation graduates from Birmingham benefit from a higher than average rate of employability for the subject, with 90% going into work or study within six months of graduation. The wide range of careers pursued by graduates of Classical Literature and Civilisation from Birmingham includes the law, publishing and media, the civil service, NGOs and charities, business and management, and education at every level.

### Why study this course

Academic staff in the department offer a wide range of expertise in the history, culture, archaeology and languages of the ancient world. Our teaching and research covers a vast range of interdisciplinary topics, from the study of Greek love poetry to the Christianisation of society in Late Antiquity, from Greek myth and wisdom to the presence of classical culture in contemporary literature and film.... just a few of the fascinating areas we focus on.

One of the highlights of your degree programme will be a real voyage of discovery to Italy or Greece in the two-week innovative study tour you will undertake during the Easter vacation in your second year. A small group of you with similar interests will be guided by us in planning your own personal tours, setting objectives to inform your individual projects and carrying them out to present a lucid and lively academic report on what you have seen, experienced and discovered. This tour is subsidised by the university.

Study here and you will have the privilege of learning from academics and postgraduate researchers who are at the forefront of **[interdisciplinary research](#)**

[\(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/research/index.aspx\)](#) in all the major civilisations of the ancient Mediterranean, and all periods of classical antiquity, up to and beyond the end of the Roman Empire. We are also committed to the highest standards in teaching: a number of our academics have received prizes and awards for the excellence of their teaching and supervision.

At Birmingham, you will find an intellectually challenging and stimulating environment for your undergraduate studies, focused on ensuring you are a fully supported and active learner. Our unique degrees are designed to provide both academic excellence and an exceptional portfolio of skills; a balance that is highly sought after by employers in today's intellectual and creative industries. The courses are also very flexible, allowing you to specialise more and more as you progress, culminating in a final-year dissertation that allows you to carry out in-depth, individually supervised research into a topic of your choice.

## Modules

### First year

You will study the literature and history of the Greco-Roman world, and choose from options to study Greek or Latin language, or the cultures of Egypt and Ancient Western Asia or Byzantium. You may choose to take modules in Archaeology or take modules outside Classics.

- [Year 1 module descriptions \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/undergraduate/clc-modules-1.aspx\)](#)

### Second year

Our core modules take you to the heart of the cultures of Athens and Rome: In Rome, you will be immersed in the age of Cicero and the dying days of the Roman republic, studying authors such as Catullus, Sallust and Lucretius as well as the many and varied works of Cicero himself. In Athens, the tragedies and comedies of the great Greek dramatists will bring to life the soul of Athens' participatory democracy. You will also be able to choose from our unique range of options in literature, culture, language, myth, religion, art, philosophy, archaeology and history. A special feature of the second year is the study tour to Greece or Italy in the Easter vacation. The trip is subsidised by the university.

### Third year

The highlight of the final year is your dissertation: a substantial research project, developed in collaboration with your supervisor, on a subject of special interest to you. In addition to this, you make free choices from our unique range of options. If you studied a language, you have now gained expertise in this, and are able to read and translate a wide repertoire of texts.

- [Year 2 and 3 module descriptions \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/undergraduate/clc-modules-2.aspx\)](#)

### Year Abroad

Students who have achieved grades of 2.1 or above in their first year will have the opportunity to take a [year abroad](#) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/index.aspx>) between their second and final year at one of a wide range of carefully selected partner institutions from around the world. In addition to the tutor support given from the host University, students who choose to take a Year Abroad will be allocated a member of staff from the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology who will monitor their progress while overseas through email and Skype contact.

## Fees and funding

**Standard fees** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard>) apply

Learn more about [fees and funding \(/undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx\)](#)

### Scholarships

Learn more about our [scholarships and awards \(/undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx\)](#).

## Entry requirements

**Number of A levels required:** 3

**Typical offer:** ABB

**General Studies:** accepted

**Additional information:**

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about [entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements\)](#)

**International students:**

Standard English language requirements apply

Learn more about [international entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/international\)](#).

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the [foundation academy web pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx\)](#).

## How to apply

Apply through UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (<http://www.ucas.com/>)

Learn more about [applying \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply\)](#)

## Joint Honours combinations

You can study Classical Literature and Civilisation as part of a Joint Honours degree with the following subjects:

- [Anthropology and Classical Literature and Civilisation BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/anthropology-and-classical-literature-and-civilisation.aspx\)](#)
- English Language and Classical Literature & Civilisation BA
- [English Literature and Classical Literature & Civilisation BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/english-and-classical-literature-and-civilisation.aspx\)](#)
- [Classical Literature & Civilisation and Philosophy BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/classical-literature-and-civilisation-and-philosophy.aspx\)](#)

## Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the [Unistats website \(http://unistats.direct.gov.uk\)](#) you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

## Learning and teaching

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. At Birmingham we advocate an enquiry based learning approach, from the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, qualities that are highly sought after by employers. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

### Support

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we will enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

Our **Academic Skills Centre** also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions to workshops on a range of topics including note taking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

From the outset, you will be assigned your own **Personal Tutor** who will get to know you as you progress through your studies, providing academic and welfare advice, encouraging you and offering assistance in any areas you may feel you need extra support to make the most of your potential and your time here at Birmingham.

The **Academic Writing Advisory Service (AWAS)** will provide you with individual support from an academic writing advisor and postgraduate subject-specialist writing tutors. You will receive guidance on writing essays and dissertations at University-level which can be quite different from your previous experiences of writing. Support is given in a variety of ways, such as small-group workshops, online activities, feedback through email and tutorials.

### Student experience

Supporting you throughout your transition to University, offering research opportunities and study skills support and helping you develop and prepare for your post-University careers - our **Arts and Law Student Experience Team (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/index.aspx)** strive to help you get the most out of your academic experience.

## Assessment methods

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this transition to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

You will be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through coursework which may take the form of essays, group and individual presentations and formal exams (depending on your chosen degree).

During your first year you will undergo a formal 'transition' review to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

At the beginning of each module, you will be given information on how and when you will be assessed for that particular programme of study. You will receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done. You will be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

## Employability

Graduates of Classical Studies develop a wide range of skills which are highly attractive to employers. Studying Classics involves analysing the ancient world in a political, social, and cultural context. This helps the development of skills in research and analysis of complex information, working independently and as part of a team, and articulate communication of judgments and arguments. You will also have the opportunity to carry out self-directed project work which helps self-management, organisation and research skills. The study of Latin and Greek develops analytical and verbal reasoning skills, as well as discipline and application, and it supports the use of a rich and varied vocabulary.

The University of Birmingham has employability rates for graduates of our Classics programmes above the national average. They have a high average starting salary of £18,000 per year, and go into work or study within six months of graduation. Our graduates go on to careers in a wide range of areas such as law, the civil service, business, education and the media, with employers including central and local government, museums, cultural and heritage organisations, charities and a range of commercial companies. Specific jobs include PR and communications, human resources, legal work, library work, events planning and tourism.

Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, **our Careers Network** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx>) can help you achieve your goal. This is a unique careers guidance service tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. This includes individual careers advice and events to give you insight into the professions and employers of interest to our graduates, including our 'Careers in Heritage, Museums and History' event.

We also hold events covering careers in teaching, event management, law marketing and working with charities. The newly developed optional professional skills module allows students in their second year to gain experience in a working environment which can lead to the development of further valuable skills. Placements are offered with the support of local employers, and we are developing links with heritage and cultural organisations to create more opportunities for students.

In addition, our students are encouraged to apply their skills in the workplace by undertaking internships in the summer; the work experience bursary scheme enables students to apply for funding for those career areas where placements are often unpaid. You can even apply for our 'Global Challenge' to work overseas on an expenses paid placement during your summer vacation.

### Extra-curricular activities

To enhance your career prospects even further, you will need to think about engaging in some extra-curricular activities while you're at university to broaden your skills and your network of contacts. This can include the many societies at the Guild of Students and also the many voluntary opportunities offered with local arts organisations. Our employer-endorsed award-winning **Personal Skills Award** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/psa.aspx>) (PSA) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

Our College of Arts and Law **undergraduate research scholarship scheme** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/studentexperience/urs/index.aspx>) enables interested students to work on a current academic research project being run by one of the College's academic researchers. Undergraduate research scholars gain work experience over the summer after their first or second year and have the chance to develop skills in both collaborative and independent research.

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

### Cultural Internships

Our innovative **Cultural Internships** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/culture/volunteering/regionally.aspx>) offer graduates the opportunity for a six month paid internship at a leading cultural institution in the West Midlands. These internships are a unique opportunity to learn fundamental, transferable business and interpersonal skills, through experience of real work in an established cultural institution. Our current partners include Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham REP, Birmingham Royal Ballet, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust and the Library of Birmingham. We have plans to expand the scheme to include our own major cultural assets, such as Winterbourne House, the Lapworth Museum, and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. This scheme will give you professional experience to set you apart in a competitive graduate market.

We also offer voluntary work which complements your studies by helping you gain practical experiences in occupational settings while contributing back to society. This can bring new skills that will be useful throughout your future and can make a positive impact on your learning whilst at university. Volunteering enables you to develop skills such as communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, self-confidence and self-discipline all of which can be transferred into your studies.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

100% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things



To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit

UNISTATS ▶

BA (Hons) Classical Literature and Civilisation

