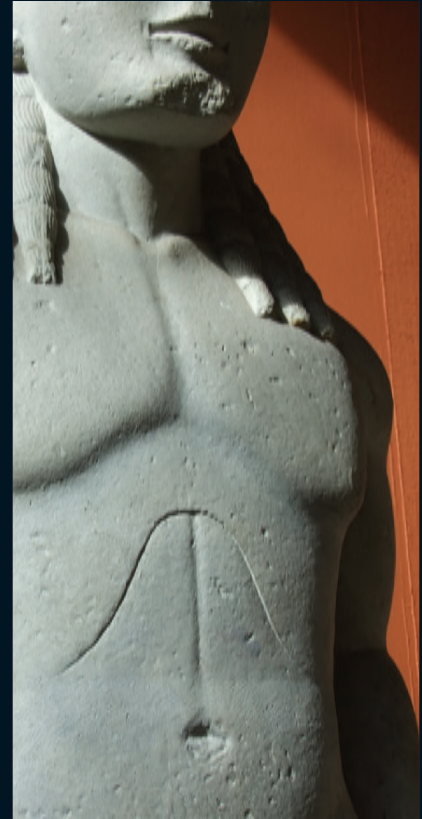




Classics at Cambridge



Studying Classics at Cambridge

Cambridge Classics is now open to a wider range of applicants than ever. Today we offer two undergraduate courses - one for those with an A-level or equivalent in Latin and/ or Greek, and the other for those without. Both courses provide a rich and stimulating programme of study, which reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject. The learning of Latin and Greek language and literature is central to each. You also choose from a range of options, including ancient history, art and archaeology, linguistics, philosophy and post-Renaissance responses to classical antiquity, to tailor your own curriculum.

If you prefer to do a degree which combines either Greek or Latin with a modern language, this is also possible through Cambridge's Modern and Medieval Languages course.



Four-year course



You used to need an A-level in Latin, if not Greek too, to study Classics at university. Not any longer. At Cambridge, we now offer an innovative four-year course, which assumes prior knowledge of neither.

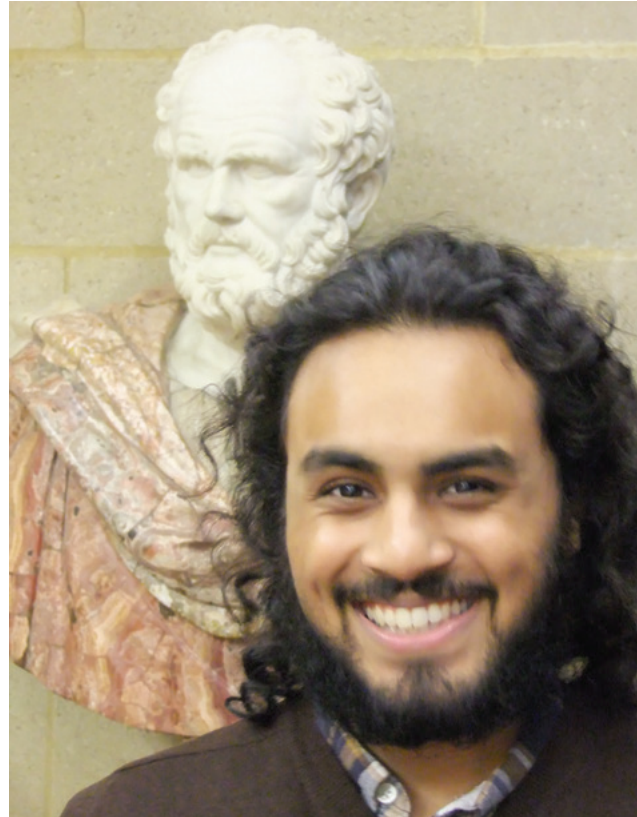
How does this work? Students without Latin and Greek do a preliminary year in which they focus on learning Latin. Teaching is intensive (it has to be!) but has been carefully designed for adult-learners. As your skills improve, you will move from course books to Latin texts by authors such as Cicero and Ovid. Crucially, learning the language is done within the context of learning about Roman culture more

broadly. In the second year, you'll be ready to join those who have newly arrived with A-level Latin or equivalent (see *Three-year course* over the page), fleshing out your study of Latin with a full and diverse programme of lectures and supervisions. You will continue to receive expert tuition in Latin and start, or continue with, learning ancient Greek.



Qasim Alli writes about the four-year course:

‘The four-year course gives me an amazing opportunity to get to grips with the classical world on its own terms. Engaging directly with ancient texts in the original languages was something I was really looking forward to before I came to university, and I haven’t been disappointed. Part of the attraction of the four-year course at Cambridge was that I could learn both ancient Greek and Latin from scratch - and the support here is unbelievable. You’re learning from world experts, and they lead you from basic grammar through to reading original texts, allowing you to learn the language and engage with the culture as you go. I’ve found Classics to be the broadest of degrees; my Classics ranges across literature, philosophy, art, and linguistics - lots of different and exciting areas to study. The languages are at the core of unpacking the ancient world, and the Cambridge Classics course has given me the toolbox to craft my own ideas and responses to this rich cultural history. It is also giving me opportunities to go out to schools, where, among other things, I teach some Latin. Hopefully I can inspire the next generation of Classicists.’





Emily Gray writes about the three-year course:

‘As I embarked on the three-year course, I didn’t quite realise the breadth of the programme here. The balance of lectures, classes and supervisions gives you the scope to be composing ancient Greek prose, reading Latin poetry, interpreting the images from a Greek vase, learning from globally-renowned scholars in ancient history, and battling with philosophical concepts, all in one day! Not only is there a time-frame extending over 3000 years, but you also have the opportunity to discover the ancient world from any perspective, which can be totally captivating. Having enjoyed the nuances of the ancient languages at school, I am excited to be pursuing philology, while also taking up philosophy, which I never imagined could be so fascinating, especially since, to my shame, I’d written it off as too elusive before coming to Cambridge. In this way, the course stretches your linguistic, analytical and writing abilities, and deepens your appreciation of the ancient texts, which are key in making sense of both the ancient world and the world in which we live today. The course certainly has something for every Classicist out there!’

Three-year course

If you have studied Latin at A-level or equivalent, then the exciting three-year course is for you. In the first year, you will develop your Latin and Greek reading skills through a selected schedule of ancient authors, and attend a wide range of lectures and supervisions on Greek and Roman literature, ancient history, art and archaeology, philosophy and linguistics. If you do not have A-level or equivalent Greek, you will do 'Intensive Greek', with its Faculty-run reading



and grammar classes. We will ask you to learn some Greek over the summer (usually at a specific summer-school) but continue to teach you at different levels so as to cater for individual needs.

By the time you reach the second year, you will be reading a wider range of ancient authors and choosing from a greater number of more detailed options. Current lecture courses include 'Mycenae: city of legend?', 'Greek and Roman epic', 'Seneca in poetry and prose', 'Law and life in Greece and Rome', 'Aristotle', and 'Greek and Roman Painting'.

The final year is truly unique. Here you can select from a rich menu of topics, such as 'Apollo and Dionysus', 'Virgil's *Aeneid*', 'Reason and reasoning', 'Plato', 'Textual

criticism', 'Elements of comparative linguistics', 'Constructing the worlds of archaic Greece', 'Popular culture in the Roman empire', 'Being human: ancient and modern perspectives', and the 'Poetics of classical art'. Or you can borrow a paper from another Faculty, such as English or History. You may also be writing a thesis on a classical subject of your choice, be on an archaeological dig or on a study trip to Greece or Italy, or acting in the triennial Cambridge Greek Play (a scene from *Agamemnon* is shown left).



Dr Rupert Thompson lecturing on classical philology

The A to X of the Classics Faculty

The Faculty and its teaching are divided into six components, labelled A–E and X

A Greek and Roman Literature

Richard Hunter, Professor of Greek: 'Greek and Latin literature have had many audiences between antiquity and today's students. At Cambridge we are interested in what is special about the intellectual and emotional reactions to this literature of all of these different audiences, for the greatest texts are worth studying precisely because they do speak to the concerns of many groups over great stretches of time. Reading ancient literature is learning about yourself through learning about how others have imagined themselves and their societies.'

B Ancient Philosophy

Gábor Betegh, Professor of Ancient Philosophy: 'Cambridge is one of the leading centres worldwide for the study of Greek and Roman philosophy. A distinctive feature is that it firmly locates the subject in Classics, and treats ancient philosophy as inseparable from other cultural and intellectual phenomena of the Graeco-Roman world. The course enables you to get acquainted with the foundational texts and ideas of the Western philosophical tradition, from Heraclitus through Plato and Aristotle to the Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics. Just as importantly, it encourages you to get critically engaged with these texts.'

C Ancient History

Robin Osborne, Professor of Ancient History: 'To study Greek and Roman history is to uncover how Greeks and Romans thought, not just what they did and what happened to them. You can't do any other branch of Classics without knowing some history, so we provide a broad introduction to the whole history of classical antiquity. More than this, how Greek and Roman authors chose to package history is also vital evidence. Studying the writing of history is, therefore, a central part of what we do throughout the course.'

For a more detailed description of the courses offered and the people teaching them go to www.classics.cam.ac.uk

D Art and Archaeology

Martin Millett, Professor of Classical Archaeology: 'In Cambridge, classical archaeology covers both art historical approaches and those based on 'dirt' archaeology - drawing on new methodologies as well as the best of the traditional. The art-historians among us have curated exhibitions of classical sculpture at the Royal Academy, the Henry Moore Institute and in Cambridge's own Fitzwilliam Museum and Museum of Classical Archaeology. The 'dirt' archaeologists are all active in the field so there are always opportunities for students to work on field-work and excavation projects.'

E Classical Philology and Linguistics

James Clackson, Professor of Comparative Philology: 'Cambridge is a world-class centre for the study of the classical languages as languages, and is unique in the UK in the emphasis we place on social, historical and cultural context as a key factor in language development. If you want to know more about how Greek and Latin 'work', about their dialects and varieties, about how they relate to each other and to other ancient languages, or how they were 'globalised' and dramatically changed by the acquisition of empire (giving them a status in the ancient world not unlike that of English today), we have a wide range of courses to stimulate and challenge.'

X Interdisciplinary Studies

Simon Goldhill, Professor of Greek Literature and Culture: 'The final year interdisciplinary studies courses are unique to Cambridge and a particularly distinctive aspect of our teaching programme - over the years many students have described them as the most memorable and transformative courses they have taken. Each course takes one of the really big questions that echoes throughout Classics, but rarely gets discussed in the narrower subject areas: e.g. 'Death', 'Cultural Identity', 'Classics in the Twentieth Century', 'Sexual Ethics'. Each is taught through lectures and discussion classes, where everyone gets to contribute: these often passionate arguments feed into essay work and are reflected in the exam scripts which have been singled out by the external examiners as one of the high points of Cambridge Classics. No surprise that these are among the most popular courses!'

How will I be taught?

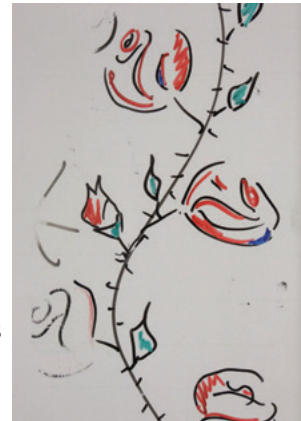
A supervision with Dr Carrie Vout



How we teach is as important as what we teach. All students in Classics benefit from tuition which is organised centrally by the Faculty and, on a more individual basis, by the College. Colleges also provide you with a Director of Studies in Classics, who will help you maximise your potential.

This variety of provision allows us to offer a unique level of care and flexibility. Lectures are offered on all parts of the course as well as in some areas that cut across disciplines, while classes (especially in the final year) allow you to debate issues and formulate your own arguments.

Likewise, throughout your degree course, college-teaching or 'supervision' offers you the chance to study the ancient world in depth, often emphasising a different angle from that in the lectures. The format of supervisions differs according to college. Often you will write



Discovered on a whiteboard in one of the Faculty's teaching-rooms



Students taking part in Dr Alessandro Launaro's excavation at Interamna Lirenas in Italy

an essay in advance and discuss it with your supervisor and one or two other students. There is a real opportunity to work on each individual's intellectual development.

Supervisions train you to think critically and independently.

In addition to lectures and seminars, the Classics Faculty also provides a number of 'site visits' both in the UK and abroad. Its Museum of Classical Archaeology on the first floor of the Faculty building houses one of the finest collections of casts of classical sculpture in the world, and is regularly used in art and archaeology teaching and for exhibitions of contemporary art. The Faculty also has an excellent collection of ancient potsherds. The library downstairs completes the picture. It is a wonderful resource for primary and secondary literature on open access, and is also comfortable, light and airy. Undergraduates, graduates and lecturing staff find it a friendly and productive place to study.

Being at the same college, Elishna O'Donovan and Isabella Luta are regularly supervised together.

Isabella writes:

'Supervisions give you the chance to be challenged by others and scrutinise yourself. The three-way conversation really enables your ideas to evolve. I expected supervisions to be competitive, but they are actually about collaboration. I enjoy the different dynamics with different supervision partners.'

Elishna writes:

'I am a joint-honours student studying French and Latin, and one of the great things about supervisions is that you are encouraged to bring in relevant, wider knowledge so that each part of my degree feeds into the other. In supervisions you really feel your knowledge building up, you gain confidence and authority, and become more assertive about your opinions. Cambridge simply would not be the experience it is without supervisions.'



What if I have never studied Greek or Latin before?

Don't worry if your school doesn't teach Greek or Latin. Classics is for everyone. Come and do our four-year course in which we will teach you both languages from scratch.

Aren't Latin and Greek difficult?

Yes, Latin and Greek are challenging to learn, but so are most rewarding things in life. In the Faculty of Classics we have the passion, expertise, resources and patience to help all of our students to reach a good standard in both languages. English translations are a great introduction to the classical world but it is so much more satisfying to read

ancient evidence in the original. Whether you are coming to us with some knowledge of the classical languages or none at all, we will help you reach that goal.

And Classics is about more than learning languages. It is a uniquely multi-disciplinary subject that encompasses not just the literature but also the history, philosophy, and material culture of ancient Greece and Rome.

If you don't want to limit your options, then Classics could be the degree for you.

OK, but what have dead languages got to do with the real world?

Classics has everything to do with the modern world. Where does democracy come from? Or our ideas about law, justice, beauty, death? What provided the main intellectual

inspiration and justification for the British empire? The answer in each case is the classical world.



Any questions?

Finalists on the steps of the British Museum



Will I be employable afterwards?

Classics is a challenging degree, undertaken by intelligent and adventurous people. Those who study it are highly sought after by employers. Our students go into a diverse range of stimulating careers from law, banking and the civil service to journalism, marketing, school teaching and academia.

How to apply

For more information and for how to apply, see www.greeksromanus.classics.cam.ac.uk



FACULTY OF CLASSICS
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
SIDGWICK AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 9DA

tel: 01223 335151 or 335960
e-mail: schools.liaison@classics.cam.ac.uk
web: <http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk>

To find out more about Classics, go to
www.greeksromanus.classics.cam.ac.uk

