

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MA
4	Programme Title	Classics and Ancient History
5	Programme Code	4035 F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

1. To provide students with a range of learning opportunities (in relation to analytical, key, research and subject-specific skills) within the field of Classics and Ancient History;
2. To provide a programme which is responsive to the research training requirements of the AHRC;
3. To provide a programme where the focus is on advanced study and training, where students are expected to gain the research skills and knowledge to enable them to progress to academic research in Classics and Ancient History at PhD level, or to enter the workplace in a variety of professions, where high levels of skill such as literacy, research and project management are required;
4. To expose students to the active research culture of the Classics and Ancient History section but also the School of History, Classics and Archaeology more broadly (particularly via the pathway-specific specialisms CAC8009 and CAC8011), including structured opportunities for student participation in that culture;
5. To provide access to Higher Education to students from a variety of educational backgrounds, and to provide a bridge to further postgraduate qualifications;
6. To provide a programme that meets the requirements of a level 7 qualification as defined by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications;
7. To provide a programme that conforms to University policies and to QAA codes of practice.
8. To enable students to develop skills and knowledge in a specific field of Classical research through providing specialized pathways (Classics or Ancient History, as detailed in the Degree Programme Regulations) designed to support student practice in these fields.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes..
These outcomes build on those typically expected of graduates from undergraduate programmes in Classics and Ancient History (QAA Subject Benchmark Statement, Classics and Ancient History, 2014), though they remain open to and cognate with those from related fields and equivalent degrees.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme, students should have acquired critical knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. sources and methodologies for Classics and Ancient History
- A2. interpretative and theoretical approaches for Classics and Ancient History
- A3. the research practice of Classicists and Ancient Historians;
- A4. undertaking a sustained piece of research in Classics and Ancient History (a dissertation)
- A5. either Latin or Greek or both, as appropriate to pathway and level.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary methods of imparting knowledge and understanding (A1-5) are (small-group) lectures, group seminars, language classes, individual tutorials, and self-directed learning.

A1–3 are the primary concern of the two Semester 1 modules **CAC8000 (Research Skills and Development)** and **CAC8110 (Ancient Cultures in Context)**, which together seek to foster a broad, dynamic set of skills with respect to sources, models, and interpretation that will serve as a basis of knowledge and understanding throughout the duration of the programme. Teaching in these modules is research-led and collaborative, with the aim of ensuring that a plurality of expertise and viewpoints are incorporated in the students' skills uptake. These two modules are also compulsory for both the 'Classics' and 'Ancient History' pathways, with a view to ensuring cross-fertilisation of knowledge and understanding between these pathways.

The knowledge and understanding highlighted in A1-3 are also enhanced further in Semester 2 through the programme's two pathway-specific specialisms, namely **CAC8009 (Performance and Text)** and **CAC8011 (The Writing of History)**: CAC8009 is compulsory for the 'Classics' pathway, while CAC8011 is compulsory for 'Ancient History'. These involve student exposure to and participation in active research projects, presented as case studies, being undertaken in the School, particularly those connected to the strategic research strands '**Performance**' and '**The Writing of History**', and so are strongly research-led as well as collaborative. These two modules build on the foundations laid in CAC8000 and CAC8110, and constitute a specialization according to students' particular disciplinary interests.

Optional modules also sustain students acquisition of the knowledge and understanding signalled in A1-3, especially the **Independent Research Projects (CAC8106 and CAC8107)**, which more prioritise students' autonomous (though guided, and supervised) practicing of A1-3 in a way that is tailored to their interests and to the expertise of supervisory staff. **CAH8016 (Graduate Seminar in Greek Archaeology)** is an important discipline-specific option open to both programme pathways, which trains students in the use of Greek artefacts, particularly those from the Shefton Collection of antiquities, housed in the campus-adjacent Great North Museum with which the School of History, Classics and Archaeology has strong links.

Student achievement of A4 is evidenced principally by successful completion of the **Dissertation in Classics and Ancient History (CAC8090)**. Support and guidance in advance of the dissertation module is provided in the form of the Semester 1 skills-based modules CAC8000 and CAC8110.

Provision for A5 is in language classes at a level appropriate to the student's linguistic experience on enrolment (as determined by a diagnostic test and in consultation with the Degree Programme Director), which range from Beginners' through to advanced. If a student

takes 40 credits of language modules below FHEQ Level & A5 is provided in the independent study for Language module.

Assessment Strategy

A1-3 are assessed principally through extended written essays (either 3,500 or 4000 words, such as for CAC8000, CAC8110, CAC8009, CAC8011, CAC8106, CAC8107). For modules with this component, students are usually given the opportunity to present their preliminary findings to a seminar for discussion and peer-review (see further below) and to revise their work in the light of the discussion before submitting it as the final essay. This is an important formative process though in the modules CAC8009 and CAC8011 an extended presentation of 20-minutes, presented at a joint colloquium of the two modules, also constitutes a substantial component of the assessment.

With the commitment to aiding students in their planning for the year's assessments (particularly the dissertation) and for their achievement of A1-5, CAC8000 also includes as an assessment component (10%) a Personal Development Plan. This is also intended to encourage students to take ownership of their learning trajectories.

A4 is assessed by means of the dedicated dissertation module CAC8090.

Language knowledge and skills (A5) are assessed by in-class tests, by examination, and by written coursework submissions (where these knowledge and skills may be applied to specific texts).

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1. evaluate, analyse and interpret a range of different types of evidence in the field of Classics and Ancient History;
- B2. practise a wide range of subject-specific skills, such as the marshalling of evidence, the presentation of balanced written argument and the critical analysis of texts;
- B3. display analytical skills at a high level in the self-chosen areas of research in Classics and Ancient History;
- B4. apply a range of concepts and theoretical and analytical approaches to a body of evidence
- B5. display empathy for the experiences of other people of a period other than our own;
- B6. display (depending on entry level) a basic or more advanced knowledge of Latin or Ancient Greek or both, and an understanding of how to use that knowledge in the exploration of other areas of Classics and Ancient History.

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1-5 are developed in (small group) lectures, seminars and tutorials
B6 is imparted especially in the dedicated language modules, but also (where appropriate to the student's experience and to the content being introduced) in modules such as CAC8000, CAC8110, CAC8009, CAC8011.

Assessment Strategy

B1-5 are assessed summatively in the assessment components for the core modules (CAC8000, CAC8110, CAC8009, CAC8011), but also formatively through exercises such as

presentations and in-class discussions. These summative and formative activities also play a formative role in preparation for the Dissertation, which represents the summative task in the detailed practice of all these skills.
B6 is assessed (where appropriate to the level of the module) by examination, by in-class tests, and by written submissions (where these knowledge and skills may be applied to specific texts).

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 demonstrate the ability to carry out independent research on unexplored fields of classics and ancient history, testing new theories against the existing evidence of the ancient material;
- C2 gather and use information from a range of types of sources effectively, for instance by reconstructing the original form and meaning of fragmentary literary and documentary sources, and providing an appropriate historical contextualization of ancient monuments and artefacts;
- C3 evaluate, analyse, and interpret evidence, most specifically textual evidence, by identifying the sources, origin and addressees/audience of a literary, documentary or visual text;
- C4 present the result of independent work in written form to a scholarly standard, as well as in engaging, well-delivered oral formats.

Teaching and Learning Methods

In all the taught modules, students will be introduced through lectures, seminars and tutorials to all these practical skills (C1-4). Group activity, student presentations, and peer-discussion, in addition to teacher-led content, are important parts of the seminar process and underpin the practising of these skills. In addition, where appropriate students are encouraged to work on artefacts and use the facilities of the Great North Museum.

Assessment Strategy

C1-4 are assessed by the research essays and oral presentations in the programme's core modules (CAC8000, CAC8110, CAC8009, CAC8011) and in the range of optional modules (CAC8106, CAC8107, CAH8016), culminating in the dissertation module (CAC8090). Opportunities for formative feedback from staff and peers, in the form of in-class discussions and student-led presentations but also assessment-focused workshops, are a common feature across the programme.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1. communicate ideas and argument effectively in writing
- D2. present ideas and argue cases effectively in oral communication and in discussion and debate
- D3. plan and organise work effectively
- D4. be computer literate and be able to make effective use of on-line resources for Classics and Ancient History

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1-4 are imparted in the lectures, seminars and tutorials. D2 is specifically imparted by the training in the seminars. D3 is supported by assessment-focused workshops in Semester 1 in particular (CAC8000, CAC8110). D4 is practised and developed throughout the programme through the preparation of the papers and of the dissertation (CAC8090).

Assessment Strategy

D1 is assessed by the written papers for the core modules and the dissertation. D2 is formatively tested in certain modules, but is also formally assessed in the pathway-specific modules CAC8009 and CAC8011. D3 and 4 are assessed by the written papers for the Approaches modules as well as for the Skills module, and by the Dissertation.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

One year full time or two years part time.
190 credit programme, with two pathways:

Compulsory modules for both pathways:

CAC8000: Research Skills and Dissertation Training (20 credits)

CAC8110: Ancient Cultures in Context (20 credits)

CAC8090: Dissertation (60 credits)

Compulsory modules for Ancient History pathway:

CAC8011: The Writing of History (20 credits)

20 credits of language modules

Compulsory modules for Classics pathway:

CAC8009: Performance and Text (20 credits)

40 credits of language modules

Optional modules for both pathways:

CAC8106/8107: Independent Research Project 1/2

CAH8016: Graduate Seminar in Greek Archaeology

Plus a range of ARA-coded options (offered by Archaeology)

Plus other modules, subject to availability

NB. That the 10-credit School-wide module **HCA8000 (Independent Study with Language)** will also be undertaken by students enrolling in 40 credits of language modules at lower than FHEQ Level 7.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The MA in Classics and Ancient History offers an enhanced package of training and skills-development, particularly with respect to the dissertation project at the culmination of the year's study. The practising of core skills with respect to a wide variety of evidence and models of interpretation are foregrounded throughout the programme, preparing students for a variety of academic and professional pathways.

The MA in Classics and Ancient History is also distinctive in terms of how closely it is linked to the active research culture of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology. All taught content is collaborative and is based on the research agendas and disciplinary expertise of School staff. Of particular note is the fact that the content of two pathway-specific core modules, CAC8009 (Performance and Text) and CAC8011 (The Writing of History), is directly aligned with—and constituted by—research undertaken by School staff under the ambit of two school-wide strategic research themes, 'Performance'

(<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/classics/research/performance/>) and 'The Writing of History' (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/classics/research/writing/>). The research-led teaching offered in the programme is thus distinctive to Newcastle's unique research culture.

In line with a commitment to enhanced skills-development and to rooting programme content in active research projects in the School, the MA in Classics and Ancient History also offers students in the course of CAC8009 and CAC8011 the distinctive opportunity to organize and participate in their own themed (on an annual basis) research colloquium, at which students present their own research to an audience of peers, faculty, and invited guests. This also represents an exceptional opportunity for career development, especially for those candidates intending to progress into doctoral study.

The study of ancient languages (Greek and Latin) as part of the MA is open to all experiences, from those with no language experience at all to those with advanced capability. This teaching is undertaken by a range of staff employing a range of techniques, combining modern and traditional (methods may include translation of passages into English; translation from English into Latin/Greek; comparison of published translations; stylistic analysis; scansion of passages of verse; memorisation of short excerpts; recitation), and offers an important opportunity for training (for e.g. doctoral study) but also lifelong learning. Students will build up or further practise competence in reading texts in the original languages, ranging from poetry to prose in a way that reflects the diversity of staff expertise and interests at Newcastle.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4035 Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>
Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.