

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Undergraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	BA Hons
4	Programme Title	Classical Studies Classical Studies (with International Study Year)
5	UCAS/Programme Code	Q810 1617U
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Classics
8	FHEQ Level	Level 6
9	Last updated	April 2026
10	Programme Aims	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enable students to develop knowledge of and insight into the classical world, and the influence which that world has had on subsequent historical cultures. 2. To provide the opportunity of relating the study of the classical world to the study of other relevant fields. 3. To provide the opportunity of studying the classical languages and of applying that study to the understanding of other areas of the classical world. 4. To provide the opportunity of studying the material culture of the ancient world. 5. To foster students' intellectual and core skills and thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to equip them for further, independent, intellectual and personal development; • to enhance their employability. 6. To foster attitudes in students such that they can approach cultures, societies and viewpoints other than their own with open-mindedness, analytical enquiry and sympathetic understanding. 7. To provide a supportive learning environment. 8. To provide a programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in which teaching is informed by research, both existing research in the discipline and on-going research by members of staff; • which complies with prevailing University policies and meets the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmark statement and codes of practice for Classics degrees; • which fully meets the criteria for an honours degree laid down in the QAA's National Qualifications Framework and FHEQ for a level 6 award. <p><u>For Students Undertaking the International Study Year:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills, intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness. 	

2. Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.
3. Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Classics.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1 a broad knowledge of, and insight into, the classical world;
- A2 a thorough knowledge of, and insight into, the specific aspects of the classical world on which they have specialised;
- A3 a knowledge of the ways in which the ancient Greeks and Romans conceptualised and represented their world in literary texts and material culture;
- A4 a knowledge of a diverse range of genres and disciplines concerned with the classical world, and the opportunity to specialise.

For Students Undertaking the International Study Year:

- A5 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary method of imparting knowledge and understanding is through lectures supported by slides/handouts (accessed via the university's VLE, Canvas) and recommended reading. Knowledge and understanding are further developed by interactive sessions within lectures, classes, seminars and discussion and assignments. The proportion of sessions involving interactive learning remains roughly constant through the three Stages. In Stages 2 & 3 there is increasing emphasis on students' independent development of knowledge and understanding in the independent study projects and in the Stage 2 and 3 modules, where the assessment requirements involve an increased element of independent study.

Assessment Strategy

In order to assess the students' attainment in the objectives of the Classical Studies programme, a combination of types of assessment is employed:

- Examinations are used to assess retention of essential knowledge and grasp of a range of issues in the module, as well as skills of interpretation and analysis.
- Submitted assignments are used to assess students' understanding of and skills in collecting and assessing relevant information and evidence for themselves.
- Independent Study Projects assess understanding and skills similar to those assessed in submitted assignments, but also enable students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding which goes beyond that of other modules either qualitatively or quantitatively or both.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should:

- B1 have developed awareness of a range of different methodologies for approaching the subject, and the independence of judgement required critically to analyse various methodologies.
- B2 have the ability to approach the study of the classical world from a range of perspectives, including those of its material, philosophical and literary culture.

B3 have developed an open-minded, enquiring and sympathetic approach to the cultures of Classical Antiquity.
 B4 have skills in interpreting texts and aspects of material culture.
 B5 have had the opportunity to explore the significance of the Classical tradition in subsequent historical periods.
 B6 have had the opportunity to acquire a basic (or optionally a more advanced) knowledge of Latin or Ancient Greek or both, and a (basic) understanding of how to use that knowledge in the exploration of other areas of the classical world.

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1 and B3 are demonstrated and promoted in lectures, classes and seminars.
 B2 is promoted, and frequently tested, by assignments, seminar presentations and participation in discussion.
 B4 is promoted in lectures, classes, seminars and assignments.
 B5 and B6 are promoted in dedicated modules.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment methods employed are the same as those under (A):

- Examinations assess all of B1-6.
- Submitted assignments in particular assess B2, B4 and B6.
- Independent Study Projects in particular assess B1-4.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should have:

C1 acquired a range of applied intellectual skills, including skills of identifying and solving problems, and qualities of logical, critical, analytical and evaluative thought
 C2 developed an awareness of a range of different possible methodologies for approaching the subject, and of the independence of judgment required critically to analyse various methodologies.
 C3 acquired the ability to perceive connections between various aspects of, and approaches to, the classical world.

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1-2 are principally promoted by participation in interactive learning in lectures and classes and by preparation for and participation in seminars. Students also enhance their learning, skills of analysis and independence of judgement through independent reading and study and through the preparation of written assignments. C3 is promoted by all of these activities.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment methods employed are the same as those under (A) and (B):

- Examinations assess C1-3.
- Submitted assignments in particular assess C3.
- Independent Study Projects in particular assess C1-2.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should have acquired skills of:

D1 written communication
 D2 interpersonal communication
 D3 oral presentation
 D4 problem-solving

<p>D5 organisation & time management D6 initiative D7 use of information technology (word processing, information tools) D8 flexibility in applying skills learnt to new material and in different contexts.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>Key aspects of skills D1 and D4-7 are introduced to students through induction sessions, supported by the Student Handbooks accessible via the VLE. D1 is promoted in all three stages by lecture slides/handouts and through feedback on written assignments. D2 is promoted by all types of interactive learning. D3 is promoted by all seminars. D4. Skills of problem-solving (under which heading are comprised all varieties of logical, critical, evaluative and analytical thought) are presented and practised in all modules. D5 is promoted by class preparation and the assignment work-load; it is particularly developed by the independent study modules. D6 is promoted by all modules involving an assessed assignment, and particularly by independent study projects. D7 is promoted through the requirement for all submitted assignments to be word-processed. Certain modules include assessed elements which encourage use of the internet and of on-line technology (esp. Canvas and bibliographical databases). D8 is promoted by setting tasks (for discussion sessions, seminars and/or assignments) where students are required to apply skills and approaches learned elsewhere in their degree to passages, topics etc. not explicitly covered.</p> <p><u>For Students Undertaking the International Study Year:</u> D8 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment.</p>
<p>Assessment Strategy</p> <p>The assessment methods employed are the same as those under (A), (B) and (C):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examinations in particular assess D1, D4, D5 and D8. • Submitted assignments in particular assess D1, D4-8. • Independent Study Projects in particular assess D1, D4-8. <p>D2 and D3 are introduced and practised in many modules, but are not currently assessed.</p>
<p>12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features</p>
<p>Basic structure of the programme</p> <p>Duration: 3 years Stages: 3 Number of credits per stage: 120.</p> <p>Students have the option to take part in an International Study Year in-between Stage 2 and 3 of their programme. They will be transferred on to programme code 1617U.</p>
<p>Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth and diversity of offerings. • Strong links between teaching and research. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to study Beginners' and Intermediate language modules that employ the distinctive "Greek/Latin in Action" approach, teaching students through the use of translations to analyse linguistic and literary features of texts in the original. The opportunity to study ancient cultures other than Greece or Rome.
<p>Programme regulations (link to on-line version)</p>

[Programme Regulations 2627](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

Accreditation reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/>

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.