

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Honours Degree Programmes in Ancient History**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). The specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2009**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Ancient History are:

- to enable students to explore the diverse range of ancient historical studies and to specialise in relevant disciplinary areas;
- to deliver a syllabus informed by the research expertise of staff and which is suited to the needs of the students;
- to develop knowledge and understanding of the chosen fields of study, of the research associated with them and to prepare students to undertake their own research under appropriate levels of supervision;
- to promote personal and academic development and provide a sound basis for further study, post-graduate research and employment;
- to develop skills that will enable students to study in other Classical disciplines and support their developing interests and objectives, including skills in language acquisition;
- to support the development of a range of transferable skills suitable for both further academic study and a range of future careers.

The programme is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units made up of an equivalent number of whole (1.0) and half (0.5) units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programmes provide progressive structures in which students are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- a critical awareness of the multiplicity of material available, plus the strengths and weaknesses of the various forms of historical information;
- critical knowledge of different methodologies and approaches to ancient history;
- a general appreciation of the varied and interlinked methodologies for understanding antiquity;
- an understanding of ancient cultural and social forms from a range of different source material;
- a critical awareness of the main forms of material available to those studying Classical antiquity.
- the opportunity to gain knowledge of methodologies deployed in the study of ancient literature;
- the opportunity to gain some knowledge of at least one of the Classical languages, including an understanding of grammatical forms and vocabulary;
- the opportunity to gain knowledge of methodologies drawn from a variety of sub-areas of Classical Studies.

Skills and other attributes

- an ability to compare ancient institutions and societies;
- skills necessary to study the structure and evolution of institutions and societies;
- interpretative and analytical skills in dealing with a variety of primary and secondary source material including some of literary and/or archaeological, documentary and legal material;
- a range of skills drawn from a variety of sub-areas of Classical Studies;
- skills necessary for the written and oral presentation of arguments and debate;*
- discipline to meet deadlines;*
- research skills;*
- the capacity for independent thought and study.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is by means of lectures, large and small seminar groups and one-to-one tutorials. Lectures are used primarily to provide a conceptual map of an area, expand students' knowledge base, to model relevant approaches to presentation skills and scholarly thinking. Language and oral presentation skills are developed in small to medium sized groups and students have opportunities to study authors in translation or in the original. Research skills are developed through private study and specific projects culminating in a dissertation, while writing skills are developed through set assignments with feedback from tutors. Other learning activities include museum trips and opportunities to handle source material. The range of courses offered means that students are required to study societies in transition and societies over long periods, giving opportunities for comparison of institutions and societies. Interdisciplinary courses especially lead to the achievement of the knowledge and understanding outcomes. Students are also introduced to a range of methodologies for studying ancient history and have the opportunity to take up to six courses from other disciplinary areas.

All course units include formative assessment (to provide students with feedback which helps to develop knowledge, understanding and skills) and summative assessment, which counts towards the final marks for the unit. Assessment methods include translations, commentaries, essays, projects and dissertations. Full details of the assessment for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

For Single Honours and Combined Honours programmes in Ancient History at least six units designated as Ancient History units must be taken over the duration of the degree. For Joint Honours programmes in Ancient History at least four units designated as Ancient History units must be taken over the duration of the degree. Students may additionally take courses in other aspects of Classics and Classical Studies, from the Departmental list of available units. Students may take course units in Ancient History offered by the History Department, not more than the equivalent of one course unit (as agreed by the Classics

Department) from another RHUL department and/or up to the equivalent of two course units (as agreed by the Classics Department) at UCL or KCL.

Single Honours degree programme

Stage One

Students must take, from the Departmental list of available courses,
either **eight** Introductory Courses (half units)
or **six** Introductory Courses (half units) plus **one** Latin or Classical Greek language unit.

Stage Two

Students must take **CL2201 Second Year Projects** and choose options equal to the value of **three** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Two courses.

Stage Three

Students must take the **Extended Essay unit** (CL3200) and choose options equal to the value of **three** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Three courses.

Joint Honours degree programme with Ancient History as an equal component

Stage One

Students must take
either **one** Classical Language unit plus **two** introductory courses (half units) in ancient history, e.g. CL1550 and CL1560
or **four** introductory courses (half units) as specified in the Departmental list of available courses, including two introductory courses (half units) in ancient history, e.g. CL1550 and CL1560
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Two

Students must take options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Two courses
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Three

Students must take options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Three courses
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Combined Honours degree programme with Ancient History as a major component

Stage One

Students must take, from the Departmental list of available courses,
either **six** introductory courses (half units)
or **one** Latin or Classical Greek language unit and **four** introductory courses (half units).
plus specified courses in the other subject

Stage Two

Students must take **CL2201 Second Year Projects** and choose options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Two courses
plus specified courses in the other subject

Stage Three

Students must take the **Extended Essay unit** (CL3200) and choose options equal to the value of **two** units from the Departmental list of available Stage Three courses
plus specified courses in the other subject

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. On some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage, or to qualify for a particular degree title. Students are considered for the

award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in Stages Two and Three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in Stage Three.

In order to qualify for the Single, Joint or Combined Honours award, a student must gain a final weighted average of at least 35%, and must successfully complete:

- six units designated as Ancient History over the three Stages, for Single or Combined Honours or four units designated as Ancient History over the three Stages, for Joint Honours;
- CL3200 Extended Essay element in Stage Three (except for Joint Honours);
- CL2201 Second Year Projects in Stage Two (except for Joint Honours).

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Student support and guidance

- All students are allocated a personal advisor who meets with them regularly throughout the programme. The advisor's role is to provide guidance on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All teaching staff, course co-ordinators, seminar leaders and administrative staff provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff are available and accessible either through a dedicated office hours system or by appointment.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Students are able to make appointments to see the Head of Department by contacting the Senior Faculty Administrator.
- Detailed student handbooks and course resources.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

As well as providing a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and Classics-related careers, the programme will provide students with skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. In recent years, graduates have found employment in accountancy, banking, commodity broking, the wine trade, teaching, retail and personnel management, market research and advertising, computer programming, publishing and landscape design, the tourist industry, teaching, and the media. The College Careers Service provides tailor-made support for Classicists through a series of talks and events. The Department offers three Master's programmes: MA Ancient History; Classical Art and Archaeology; Classics; plus opportunities for research leading to M.Phil or Ph.D. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the

UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. 35% of the Classics Department's research profile is of 3* and 4* standard.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Ancient History are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Classics & Ancient History describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours degree programmes in Ancient History

BA Ancient History (V110)

Joint Honours degree programmes with Ancient History as an equal component

BA Ancient History and Philosophy (VV15)

Combined Honours degree programme with Ancient History as a major component

BA Ancient History with Philosophy (V1V5)

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