



Durham
University

Classics & Ancient History

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

Ranked 3rd

for internationally excellent research*

*Joint third, as ranked in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

Third
in *The Independent's Complete
University Guide 2012.*

Classics & Ancient History

The Department of Classics and Ancient History, one of the largest in the UK, is home to an international body of staff and student researchers working at the forefront of a diverse range of fields.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise we were ranked tied third for internationally excellent research: 65% of our research has been rated as 4* ('world-leading', 25%) and 3* ('internationally excellent', 40%). Our 18 full-time members of staff are engaged in international-level research in most of the core disciplines of Classics, including the study of ancient literature, philosophy, history and epigraphy. This wealth of expertise has allowed us to develop some major interdisciplinary research groupings along with more distinctive lines as well. These include two major areas in which we host interdisciplinary research centres: the Centre for the Study of the Classical Tradition, and the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East.

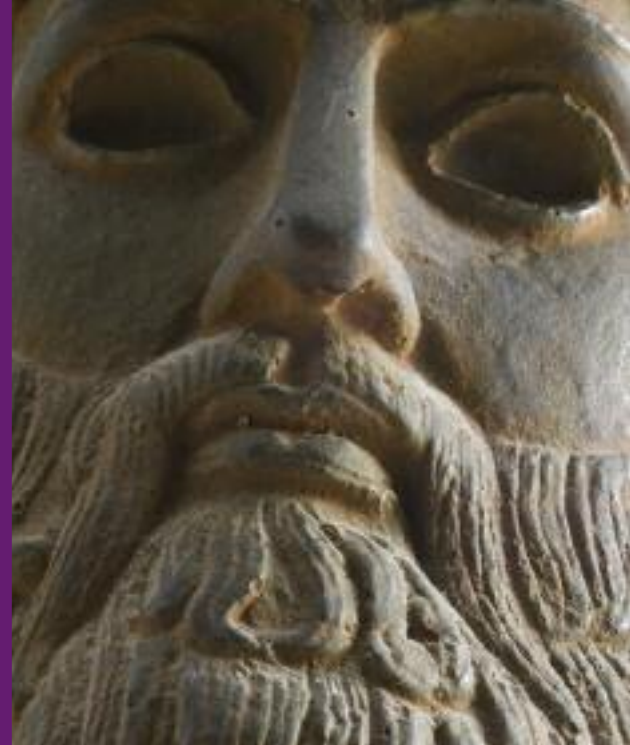
Key figures:

- Postgraduate research students: currently 28
- Postgraduate taught students: ca. 20 per annum (for a one-year MA)
- Undergraduate students: ca. 65 per annum (for a three-year BA)
- Number of academic staff: 18 full-time and 3 part-time +3 postdoctoral Research Fellows.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

The PhD is central to our postgraduate research programme. It requires three years of full-time study, and is assessed by a thesis of up to 100,000 words. We also offer shorter research programmes for the degree of MA by Thesis (one year of full-time study) or MLitt (two years of full-time study).

Our taught Masters programmes (MA) offer research training in Classics and its subdisciplines to the highest specifications. They have also proved to be a very successful route into our doctoral programme, especially through our success in scholarship competitions. Postgraduate students are at the heart of our research culture, and actively involved in departmental seminars, research projects, conferences, workshops, and publications.





MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

We offer research supervision in all the major areas of Classical studies, including literature, philosophy, history and epigraphy, as well as interdisciplinary research involving the Classical Tradition and the Near East. Details of current staff research interests and publications are available at www.durham.ac.uk/classics/staff

Literature:

In the field of literature, our specialisms include Greek and Roman epic, Greek and Roman historiography, Hellenistic poetry, Latin poetry, Near Eastern literature and its influence on the early Greek tradition, and ancient biographical literature.

Some of the PhD projects currently underway here include:

- “The Lives of Homer: Introduction, Critical Edition and Commentary”
- “Constructions of the Poet Virgil”
- “Magic in Augustan Love Elegy”
- “Myth, Genre and Authorial Self-Referentiality in Ovid’s *Tristia* and *Ex Ponto*”.

Ancient history:

Specialisms in the field of ancient history include ancient Greek law and economy, Greek epigraphy, ancient Greek magic and religion, and Roman architecture and its social context.

Current PhD thesis topics include:

- “The Religious Life of Nabataea”
- “Greek Slavery: A Comparative Perspective”
- “Egyptian Cultural Identity in the Architectural forms of Egyptian Cities in the Roman Period”
- “The Legacies of Darius”.

Ancient philosophy:

Specialisms in ancient philosophy include Plato and the circle of Socrates, Hellenistic philosophy, especially Stoicism and the Sceptical tradition, post-Hellenistic Platonism, ancient logic, psychology, and metaphysics.

Current PhD thesis topics include:

- “A (Re-)Construction of Protagoras’ Philosophy”
- “Plato’s Charmides”
- “Images of Demiurgy in Plato and his Predecessors”
- “Hieroglyphic and Natural Signs in the Hieroglyphica of Horapollo”.

POSTGRADUATE FACILITIES

In addition to the excellent University library and IT facilities, we can offer:

- Departmental computer room
- Departmental library, with study space and working collection of research material
- Research postgraduate study room and MA student room with networked computers and kitchen area (doctoral students have 24-hour access)
- Weekly Research Seminars (for external speakers from the UK and abroad) and Work-in-Progress Seminars (for departmental speakers)
- Weekly Junior Work-in-Progress Seminar (graduates-only)
- Major annual departmental research project.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMMES For Research Programmes (PhD, MLitt, MA by Thesis):

- For a PhD and MLitt, we normally require a 2:1 in a first degree and an MA in a relevant subject
- For the MA by Thesis, we require a 2:1 in a relevant first degree
- English language requirements for foreign applicants: IELTS of 7.0 or equivalent (with 6.5 in the written section).



For Taught Programmes (MA):

- 2:1 or equivalent in a relevant first degree
- English language requirements for foreign applicants: IELTS of 7.0 or equivalent (with 6.5 in the written section).

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit the relevant website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Durham Doctoral Studentship (DDS) (for PhD students only)
- Faculty MA Scholarship (for MA students only)
- Ralph Lindsay Scholarship
- Funding opportunities offered by private charities, e.g. Wingate Scholarships
- Commonwealth Scholarships (for PhD students only).

For further information on department specific funding opportunities, see www.durham.ac.uk/classics/postgraduate/funding. The University also has a range of other funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive, see www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

TAUGHT MA PROGRAMMES MA in Classics

The MA in Classics is our core research training degree, suitable for anyone wishing to pursue doctoral work in a branch of Classics. The programme places a strong emphasis on language training, on theoretically informed approaches to Classical texts, and on practical engagement with your chosen specialism. The course is composed of a core research training module, a module in a relevant language (ancient or modern), a 15,000 word dissertation, and two elective modules, which are offered in the areas of current research interests of members of staff.

In addition to this programme, we offer a number of specialist MA tracks which reflect particular research strengths in the Department:



MA in Ancient Epic

This is a specialist programme geared towards preparing students for higher research in Ancient Epic – partly through direct research training, and partly through modules taught by experts in their field in small-group seminars. Our Department is internationally renowned for the study of Ancient Epic and is the only Classics department in the UK where students can study Near-Eastern epic and South-Slavic epic from a comparative perspective.

The programme lasts for one year (two years part-time), and centres around a core module in Ancient Epic. Other key elements of the course include a core research training module, a 15,000 word dissertation, and one elective module, which is offered in the areas of current research interests of members of staff.

MA in Ancient Historiography

This is a programme geared towards preparing students for higher research in Ancient Historiography – partly through direct research training, and partly through modules taught by experts in their field in small-group seminars. We have a distinctive strength in Ancient Historiography, with no fewer than four full-time members of staff currently conducting research in relevant areas.

The programme lasts for one year (two years part-time), and centres around a core module on a historiographical topic. Other key elements of the course include a core research training module, a 15,000 word dissertation, and one elective module, which is offered in the areas of current research interests of members of staff.

MA in Ancient Philosophy

This is a specialist programme geared towards preparing students for higher research in Ancient Philosophy – partly through direct research training, and partly through modules taught by experts in their field in small-group seminars. Durham has a longstanding tradition of international excellence in the field of Ancient Philosophy, with four Ancient Philosophy specialists and a number of other members of staff with philosophical interests. The programme lasts for one year (two years part-time), and centres around a core module on a topic in Ancient Philosophy.

Other key elements of the course include a core research training module, a 15,000 word dissertation, and one elective module, which is offered in the areas of current research interests of members of staff.





MA in the Classical Tradition

This is a programme geared towards preparing students for higher research in the Classical Tradition – partly through direct research training, and partly through modules taught by experts in their field in small-group seminars. The reception of classical culture in later times is among the most important and most rapidly expanding areas of classical scholarship, and we have particular strength in this field, with no fewer than six full-time members of staff currently conducting research in relevant areas. We can also draw on the expertise pooled in the recently inaugurated Centre for the Study of the Classical Tradition.

The programme lasts for one year (two years part-time), and centres around a core module on the Classical Tradition. Other key elements of the course include a core research training module, a 15,000 word dissertation, and one elective module, which is offered in areas of current research interests of members of staff within the Department of Classics and Ancient History or related disciplines, such as History or Modern Languages and Cultures.

MA in Greece, Rome and the Near East

This is a programme geared towards preparing students for higher research into the interaction of the classical world with the Near East – partly through direct research training, and partly through modules taught by experts in their field in small-group seminars.

The relationship between the classical world and neighbouring civilisations is among the most important and most rapidly expanding areas of classical scholarship, and we have particular strength in this field: we offer tuition in Akkadian, and can draw on the resources of the Oriental Museum in Durham and the expertise pooled in the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East. The programme lasts for one year (two years part-time), and centres around a core module on cultural contact in the Ancient World.

Other key elements of the course include a core research training module, a 15,000 word dissertation, and one elective module, which is offered in the areas of current research interests of members of staff.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/classics/postgraduate/employability



Name:
Mirko Canevaro

Home Country:
Italy

Postgraduate Course:
PhD Classics and Ancient History

I first heard about the Durham Department of Classics & Ancient History while writing my BA dissertation in Greek History in Italy. It often appeared at the bottom of important academic articles, together with the names of, in particular, two Greek historians. Those names kept appearing and I eventually decided to write an email to enquire about a doctorate. I received an answer in less than one hour; now one of the two names that I found at the bottom of my articles is that of my supervisor.

Since I have been in Durham, the constant support from every member of the Department, in a very friendly environment, gave me a range of insights into my work. An article that I have written jointly with my supervisor was published in one of the top journals in my field – a very rewarding experience for me. I have also had the chance to attend seminars, widening my disciplinary horizons and giving me the opportunity to talk and exchange ideas with top academics in my field from all around the world.

I have taught undergraduate seminars on a variety of topics, enhancing my confidence, my skills and my English. The Faculty has funded my trips to attend and give papers at workshops and conferences.

There are many great aspects of being a postgraduate at Durham University. The college system allowed me to meet many interesting people with many different competences. It is incredible how many people you find yourself greeting in the street after only a few months.

The Department of Classics & Ancient History is very diverse. Many nationalities are represented, and the range of disciplines covered is impressive. The experience has been great for me, and I am very grateful that the University, through its Durham Doctoral Studentships programme, gave me the chance to be here.



Contact details

For further information on research programmes (PhD, MLitt), please contact:

Dr Johannes H. Haubold
(Director of Postgraduate Research)

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1678

Email: classics.postgraduate@durham.ac.uk

For further information on taught MA programmes, please contact:

Dr Luca Castagnoli (MA Director)

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1669

Email: luca.castagnoli@durham.ac.uk

Department of Classics & Ancient History
Durham University
38 North Bailey
Durham DH1 3EU
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1670

Fax: +44 (0)191 334 1671

www.durham.ac.uk/classics

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