Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MA Classics (1054)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found here. Further information on the University's Admissions Policy can be found here.

The Masters course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). On successful completion of the course you should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

The MA in Classics is an intercollegiate degree course of the University of London, taught by the Departments of Classics, Greek and Latin, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, and History in King's College London, Royal Holloway, University of London, and University College London. Teaching is divided between the individual colleges and the Institute of Classical Studies.

You must take at least 30 credits from a list of dedicated modules, at least 30 credits which test knowledge of Greek or Latin in the original language or one language acquisition module, a further 30 credits from a list of available MA modules and a dissertation (60 credits). You also take Research Training in Classics (30 credits). You may include, subject to the approval of the Course Director, an appropriate module from any other MA course within the University of London.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.
Module – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	May 2024	Location of study	Egham Campus/London RHUL buildings
Course award and title	MA Classics	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	1054	Year of entry	2024/25
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Department of Classics School of Humanities	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time / Part-time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - 260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/		

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information **The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study**				
Module code	**Module title**	**Credits**	**FHEQ level**	**Module status (see section 6)**
CL5090	Research Training in Classics	30	7	MC
CL5000	Dissertation in the field of Classical Language, Literature or Thought, or the Classical Tradition	60	7	MNC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see Academic Regulations on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Royal Holloway operates in agreement with King's College London and University College London to provide an extensive list of modules within the field of Classical Studies, including modules in history, archaeology and literature. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision.There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can normally access via Moodle.

3.3 Optional module requirements

The choice of modules a student can take is subject to the following rules:

- An optional module or modules to the value of at least 30 credits to be chosen from the current list of modules for the MA in Classics.
- An optional module or modules to the value of at least 30 credits which test knowledge of Greek or Latin in the original language, or one language-acquisition module.
- An optional module or modules to the value of 30 credits to be chosen (subject to the approval of the Course Director) from a list of modules offered by the Department or by other London institutions as part of the Intercollegiate MA programmes in Ancient History, Classics, Classical Art and Archaeology, or Late Antique and Byzantine Studies.
- Please note that not all modules run each year. A full list of modules including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Department.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations.

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the Academic Taught Regulations but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

Part-time programme structure
The programme can be taken over two to five years beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take CL5090 and a selection of options including Greek or Latin in their first year, and CL5000 and a selection of options in their second year.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- enable students to explore the diverse range of ancient world studies and to specialise in relevant disciplinary areas within the field of Classics;
- deliver a programme which is informed by the research expertise of staff, which is suited to the needs of students, which provides opportunities for students to develop academically, and which, prepares students for further study;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Classics and of the research associated with it, and to prepare students to undertake their own research under appropriate levels of supervision;
- support the development of a range of transferable skills suitable both for further academic study and for a range of future careers.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))*

Theme	Course learning outcome
K	1. Demonstrate and apply an advanced critical understanding of the key and latest concepts, theories, methodologies, and debates that currently inform scholarship and in the discipline of Classics, including the limitations of these approaches.
K	2. Understand, assess and critically engage with the multiplicity of material available for the study of the ancient world, and the strengths and weaknesses of the various forms of historical information.
K, S	3. Evaluate and interpret literary sources from the ancient world, offering critical awareness of the main forms of material available to those studying the Greek and Roman world, broadly defined.
S	4. Apply appropriate literary-critical techniques to interpret and analyse the style of ancient authors.
K, S	5. Evaluate and interpret a range of other available sources from the ancient world, including some of philosophical, archaeology, documentary and legal materials, and make informed judgements and when the use of this material is appropriate to support their argument.
S, *	6. Critically analyse a range of modern scholarship on ancient sources and integrate this scholarship into their own work.
S, *	7. Develop, plan and write an advanced piece of research that draws on appropriate skills to advance their study of, and debates about, a topic within Classics.

K, S, *	8. Create and communicate new theoretical interpretations of ancient sources independently, with appropriate supervisorial support.
K, S	9. Engage with primary sources using Latin and/or Greek in order to support and enrich their interpretation and argument.
S, *	10. Adopt a positive response to constructive criticism and feedback and make creative use of data, information and suggestions offered to them by persons with expertise and in position of authority.
S, *	11. Understand and apply time management and organisational skills for a large independent project, including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, and organising work-time.

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
Teaching and learning in the courses are closely informed by the active research of staff. Teaching and learning are mostly by means of lectures, seminar discussions, oral presentations, site and museum visits, group work, problem solving study groups, practical project work, guided independent research and guided independent study. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research cognitive, intellectual and general skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by coursework essays, group work, oral presentations, reports and exercises and an independent dissertation. Details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Department.

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module, you will gain the credits listed.

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Module Catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Section 8 – Additional costs
There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme. However, should you decide to take modules in London, travel may be required.
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements)	
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	