

MA

Classics and Ancient History

Study modeFull-time
Part-time**Duration**12 months
24 monthsApply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Classics and Ancient History MA explores the literature, cultures, history and societies of ancient Greece and Rome and their later reception, whilst delivering transferable skills and training that employers value.

Introduction

The programme's modules help you to develop thematic perspectives on the ancient world and understand ideas that inform contemporary research. They build your skills in research and communication, encouraging you to adopt strategies for gathering and organising information, analysing complex evidence, evaluating propositions and articulating arguments for different audiences. As well as pursuing independent research, you will work with fellow students to coordinate and participate in a research colloquium.

You will choose from optional modules focused around the literary, documentary, visual and material culture of ancient Greece and Rome. These modules shed light on the lived experiences of people in Classical antiquity.

Additional options in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology allow you to expand beyond Greece and Rome to the Mediterranean and the Near East, and to work with objects in our Garstang Museum collection. You can develop skills in ancient Greek or Latin language. You

may also apply to study abroad at the British School of Athens or the British School of Rome as an accredited part of your degree.

This variety allows you to tailor the MA to suit your interests, and prepares you for completing a dissertation on the agreed topic of your choice.

Who is this course for?

The programme is designed for graduates in Classics, Classical Studies, Classical Civilisation, Ancient History and other relevant disciplines who wish to broaden and deepen their understanding of the Classical Greco-Roman world and its legacy.

What you'll learn

- To demonstrate understanding of the literature and culture of the Greeks and Romans and of the historical experience of antiquity in its diversity and communicate that understanding in writing and orally
- Knowledge of topics in Classics and Ancient History and how to deploy that knowledge in the evaluation and production of arguments
- To identify and resolve problems relating to the literature, culture, and history of ancient Greece and Rome, utilizing linguistic, conceptual and theoretical approaches
- To become familiar with a diverse range of written texts, visual images and material remains from the ancient world; to understand their characteristics and problems and be able to undertake advanced analysis as a result
- To be conscious of research methodologies and be self-reflective in their application when formulating and testing hypotheses, analysing and evaluating information, and making reasoned synthesis of diverse and sometimes incomplete material
- To learn and work independently by planning, conducting and reporting on an extended programme of original research and by responding constructively to feedback.

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

On the Classics and Ancient History MA full-time programme you take 30 credits of required modules and two optional modules totalling 30 credits in each semester.

Registration onto language modules is determined by ability level.

Not all combinations of optional modules are possible. For example, you are only permitted to take one of **HLAC711**, **HLAC712** or **HLAC713**. Therefore for further details on optional module combinations please contact the Programme Lead.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
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RESEARCH SKILLS FOR ACE M-LEVEL STUDENTS (ALGY601)	30
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Optional modules	Credits
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TRUTH AND LIES (CLAH851)	15
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SPACES AND PLACES (CLAH853)	15
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ISSUES IN EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY676)	15
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REGIONALISM IN ARCHAIC GREEK WORLD (ALGY689)	15
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CRITICAL MEDICAL HUMANITIES (HLAC711)	15
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Optional modules	Credits
LATIN 1A (CLAH641)	15
LATIN 2A (CLAH643)	15
LATIN 3A (CLAH645)	15
LATIN 4A (CLAH663)	15
ANCIENT GREEK 1A (CLAH651)	15
GREEK 2A (CLAH653)	15
ANCIENT GREEK 4A (CLAH673)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

On the Classics and Ancient History MA full-time programme you take 30 credits of required modules and two optional modules totalling 30 credits in each semester.

Registration onto language modules is determined by ability level.

Not all combinations of optional modules are possible. For example, you are only permitted to take one of HLAC711, HLAC712 or HLAC713. Therefore for further details on optional module combinations please contact the Programme Lead.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONCEPTS AND CONTROVERSIES (CLAH856)	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH EVENT (CLAH854)	15
Optional modules	Credits
ROMAN FRONTIER SYSTEMS: FROM THE LATE REPUBLIC TO THE END OF THE FOURTH CENTURY AD (ALGY698)	15
THE BODY (CLAH852)	15
PRAISE AND BLAME (CLAH858)	15
THEMES IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN (ALGY634)	15
SOCIAL LIFE IN EGYPT (ALGY677)	15
RESEARCHING URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE NEAR EAST, 5000-500 B.C (ALGY646)	15
ARTEFACTS AND ANALYSIS (ALGY737)	15
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES (HLAC712)	15
ARTS, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING (HLAC713)	15
LATIN 1B (CLAH642)	15
LATIN 2B (CLAH644)	15
LATIN 3B (CLAH646)	15
LATIN 4B (CLAH664)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ANCIENT GREEK 1B (CLAH652)	15
ANCIENT GREEK 2B (CLAH654)	15
ANCIENT GREEK 3B (CLAH656)	15
BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME (CLAH899)	30
ANCIENT GREEK 4B (CLAH674)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your dissertation will be completed over the summer period.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ACE MA AND MSC DISSERTATION (ALGY600)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The majority of teaching is delivered in seminar format with fellow students, combined with one to one session support from your dissertation supervisor.

Within the core module 'Research Event' (CLAH854) you will work together with fellow students to articulate a research question and pursue it through organizing, participating in

and reflecting on a research event, or colloquium. Independent study is carried out alongside this via producing a written portfolio. This work enables you to strengthen your research skills and topic-specific knowledge, whilst building key employability skills associated with team work and developing practice-based understanding of event organization.

Optional modules in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology offer sessions in handling and evaluating archaeological remains.

In years when they are running, full-time students may apply to attend a residential postgraduate course at the British Schools of Athens (CLAH898) or Rome (CLAH899). Places on the courses are awarded by the schools on academic merit. Successful applicants receive practical skills training and develop knowledge and understanding of an aspect of ancient Greece or Rome, and benefit from the expertise, resources and facilities available at an international institute for advanced research.

Optional ancient Greek or Latin language modules involve frequent contact sessions (two or three per week). The different language modules available cater for different levels of prior knowledge, therefore those at complete beginner to advanced levels will be supported in language learning.

You are continually supported in your dissertation work by a dissertation supervisor, who will discuss progress and offer feedback on draft writing.

How you're assessed

Assessments are fundamentally research-based; they require students to identify and marshal resources, evaluate and analyse evidence from critically informed perspectives, and to develop robust arguments. This is achieved through a varied portfolio of assessment activities depending on the module.

The optional modules: 'Truth and Lies' (CLAH851), 'Spaces and Places' (CLAH853), 'The Body' (CLAH852) and 'Praise and Blame' (CLAH858) require you to complete a 5,000 word essay on a research project. This assessment assists in building towards the longer 15-20,000 word required Dissertation. Optional modules in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology involve similar essay assessments, plus other assessment tasks such as archaeological reports and catalogues.

Optional ancient languages modules involve unseen exams (with a dictionary) to assess linguistic competence and comprehension. From intermediate language level onwards, these are balanced with critical exercises and commentaries to assess interpretation and translation, which include a research component. The language modules are the only modules on the course to assess via exam.

Required modules in Research Skills and Methodologies introduce a range of other activities through which research can be presented and reflected upon in other formats, including blogs, journals, posters, and oral presentations. These varied assessments engage you with the techniques of research appropriate to your subject specialisms whilst familiarising you with different communication strategies and technologies. Through the diverse assessment approach of the programme you are therefore provided with preparation for further research and enhanced employability.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

The programme provides academic training for those seeking a career in the HE sector. It also forms a good background for careers elsewhere in education and in the heritage industry. Graduates will have enhanced skills suitable to a wide range of employment, especially where communication, critical thinking and research are key components of the role. The required module 'Research Event' (CLAH854) fosters skills such as event organization, teamwork, leadership and management, which will be transferrable to many future work environments.

With the Classics and Ancient History MA you are well equipped for a wide variety of jobs in sectors such as:

- Higher Education
- Heritage industry
- Museums
- Archives management
- Travel and tourism
- Teaching
- Journalism
- Civil service
- Finance
- Marketing.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

^ [Back to top](#)

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/2027. MRes course tuition fees are for the academic year 2025/26 and will be updated soon.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs.

[Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

^ [Back to top](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Classics (or a closely related subject e.g. Classical Studies/Classical Civilisation, Ancient History).

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course

length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

^ [Back to top](#)

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