



Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

2025/2026

Classics and Ancient History

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is located in eighteenth-century town houses on the wooded peninsula in the River Wear, close to the Norman cathedral and castle which together form a World Heritage Site. The main University lecture halls are a short walk away, and the main University Library is ten to fifteen minutes away.

The Department is one of the largest in the UK, and enjoys a high reputation in this country and internationally. Durham Classics is consistently ranked as one of the top Classics and Ancient History Departments in the UK: we are ranked third in the Complete University Guide's Subject League Table 2022; fourth in the 2021 Guardian University League Tables; fourth in the Times Good University Guide for 2020. We were also ranked 13th in the 2022 QS World Rankings (one of only 5 Classics Departments in the UK to be placed in the top 20 rankings). In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 evaluation of research quality, the Department was ranked fourth in the UK, maintaining our position at the top of the table (we were 2nd in REF 2014).

We have a large number of academic staff (currently 31 full-/part-time staff engaged primarily in teaching and/or research), who between them specialise in the languages, literature, history, culture and philosophy of the Greco-Roman world, as well as its impact on later centuries up to the present day (a full list of Research track staff interests can be found here: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/classics-ancient-history/research/selected-research-areas/staff-research-interests/>). The Department has a strong international profile and flavour, with many of our teaching staff coming from Europe or the USA.

The department also has four research centres based in Classics and Ancient History (but with interdisciplinary connections across the university): The Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East (CAMNE); The Durham Centre for Classical Reception (DCCR); The Durham Centre for Ancient and Medieval Philosopher (DCAMP); and The Centre for Language and Writing Systems (CLAWS).

A1: Exchange Coordinator

(Note: there may be a new coordinator from Sept. 1, 2025: please consult the departmental website or office staff for the new contact)

Dr Konstantinos Lygouris
Department of Classics and Ancient History
37 North Bailey
Durham DH1 3ET
Email: konstantinos.lygouris@durham.ac.uk

B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for three years. Modules are studied over all three terms of the teaching year (Michaelmas: October to December; Epiphany: January to March; and Easter: April to June). All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this

means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Department of Classics and Ancient History does not have any internal restrictions on courses that European students can take while they are here, other than the prerequisites listed for each module individually on the website. You should read these prerequisites

carefully; if you can prove that you have comparable prior experience to that demanded by the prerequisites, you should receive a concession to pursue the module. Please talk to the Exchange Coordinator about this. If you wish to take an ancient language module (Latin or Greek), then you will need to contact the departmental Language Teaching Coordinator (currently: Justine Wolfenden - j.t.wolfenden@durham.ac.uk) in order to ascertain the correct level of language study.

All Lectures, Seminars, and Assessments are conducted in English (save for certain sections of specific language modules, which may require composition in Ancient Greek/Latin). Assessment of European students is usually carried out in the normal manner for other Durham students; however, there is the possibility that special arrangements can be made with individual module convenors. **Alternative assessments are usually granted for modules, but this is at the module convenor's discretion. Please contact the Departmental Coordinator with any queries about this.**

NOTE: We prefer to accept only those students coming to study for a full teaching year (9 months – October to June) as this provides the best possible learning experience.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in section D1 in the Module Handbooks for each subject.

The Module Handbook (via the link below) provides further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.). **Please note that some modules will not run every year and will depend on staff availability. If you are unsure if your module is running, please do get in touch with the Exchange Coordinator.**

D1: Modules available to all European students

All Classics modules are open to students if they can prove that they have the prior knowledge to attempt them where required.

Modules offered by the Department of Classics and Ancient History can be found in the Faculty Handbook online. They are listed here:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2024/UG/department/Classics%20and%20Ancient%20History>

You can also search the Faculty Handbook: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

MA modules are also available to European students, if they can prove they have the right prerequisites. MA modules are offered according to the current research interests of members of staff.