



Durham  
University

# Classics & Ancient History

Pre-Application Open Days:  
16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Boasting

8th in the world: 2023 QS World University Rankings

90.7% overall student satisfaction in NSS 2021

4th in the UK in REF2021 (overall research quality)

Gold ranking in TEF 2018

Athena Swan Bronze Award 2019





# Who are we?

- Large, international Department: 29 members of staff (incl. UK, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Greece, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands)
- Dedicated administrative and support team
- ca 360 undergraduates (on all our programmes)
- ca 40 MA students
- ca 40 PhD students



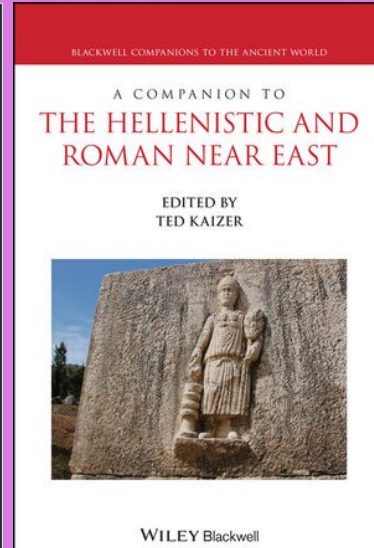
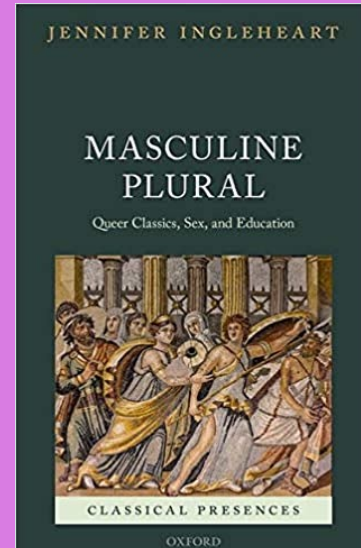
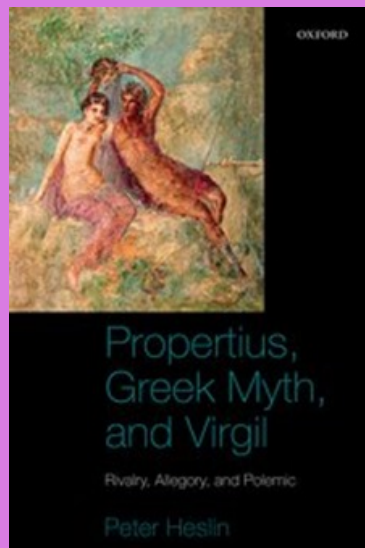
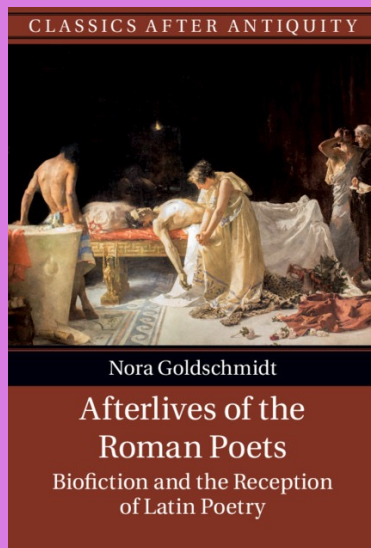
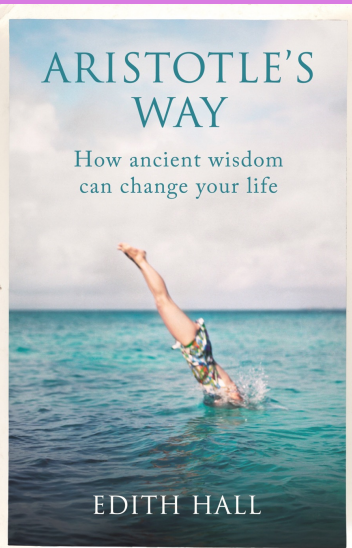
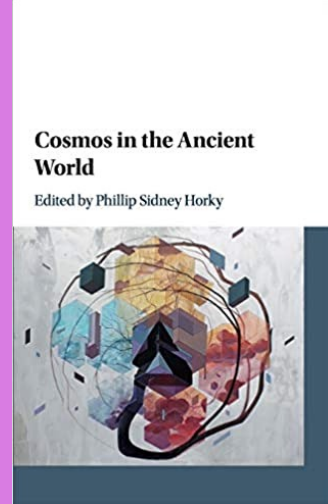
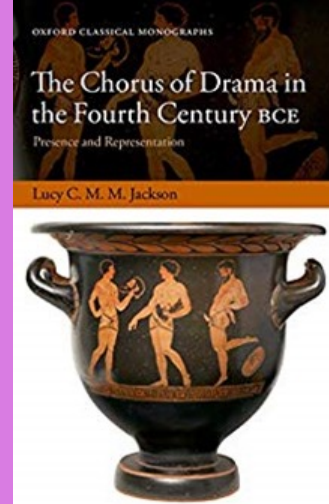
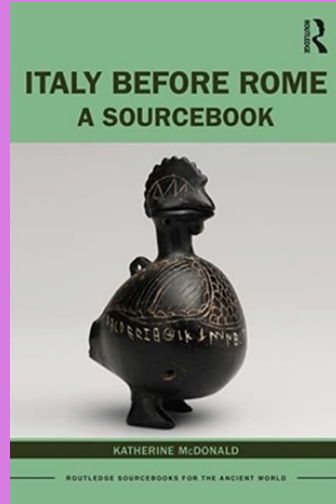
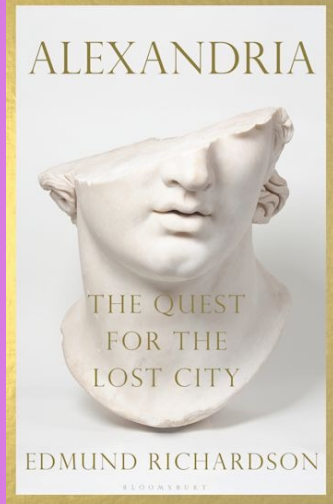
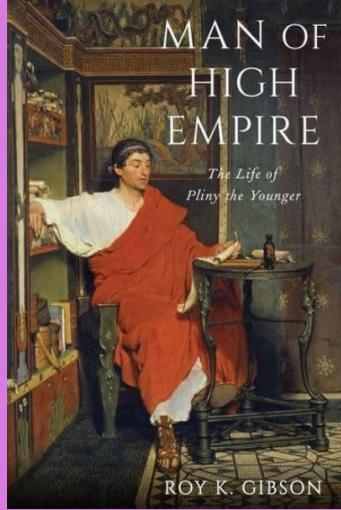




# What do we do?

- 'Traditional Classics': famous Latin and Greek authors & mainstream Greek and Roman history
- Latin Poetry
- Related subjects: Ancient Near East; Roman Near East; Syriac studies
- Gender studies, performance studies, history of sexuality
- Classical reception
- Ancient philosophy
- Art & architecture







# Location

- 38 North Bailey: 3 listed buildings (37-38 North Bailey & 1 Dun Cow Lane): Departmental Office, staff offices, Departmental library, computer room, 2 seminar rooms
- Lectures either on Palace Green (Pemberton building) or in Elvet Riverside



# Facilities

- Not only the main University Library: Bill Bryson Library
- But also our own Departmental Library



# Programmes

- 3 Single Honours:
  - Classics (Q801)
  - Classical Civilisation (Q820)
  - Ancient History (V110)
- 2 Joint Honours:
  - Ancient, Medieval & Modern History (V101)
  - Ancient History & Archaeology (VF14)
- All programmes last three years, and they all have an option to extend to four years (with year abroad or placement year).



# Single Hons Programme Structure

Year 1	Introduction to the Greek World	Monuments and Memory in the Age of Augustus	[Two specialist modules appropriate to your programme]	Two more modules of your choice (from Classics and Ancient or anywhere in the university)
Year 2	[4 specialist modules appropriate to your programme]			Two more modules of your choice, from Classics and Ancient History or anywhere in the university*
Year 3	Dissertation (double)		[Two specialist modules appropriate to your programme]	Two more modules of your choice or anywhere in the university*  [*There is a maximum quota of two modules outside the department in years 2 and 3 together]

# BA Classics

Year 1	Introduction to the Greek World	Monuments and Memory in the Age of Augustus	(At least) two modules in Latin and/or Greek	Two more modules of your choice (from Classics and Ancient or anywhere in the university)
Year 2	Core course in ancient literature (currently: 'Traditions of Epic')	A module of your choice in Classics & Ancient History	(At least) two modules in Latin and/or Greek)	Two more modules of your choice, from Classics and Ancient History or anywhere in the university*
Year 3	Dissertation (double)		(At least) two modules in Latin and/or Greek	Two more modules of your choice or anywhere in the university* [*There is a maximum quota of two modules outside the department in years 2 and 3 together]

# BA Classical Civilisation

Year 1	Introduction to the Greek World	Monuments & Memory in the Age of Augustus	A module in Ancient Philosophy (currently: Early Greek philosophy)	A module in Translation Theory (currently: Language, Translation, Interpretation)	Two more modules of your choice (from Classics and Ancient or anywhere in the university)
Year 2	Core course in ancient literature: 'Traditions of Epic'	Three modules of your choice in Classics & Ancient History		Two more modules of your choice, from Classics and Ancient History or anywhere in the university*	
Year 3	Dissertation (double)		Two modules of your choice in Classics & Ancient History		Two more modules of your choice or anywhere in the university* [*There is a maximum quota of two modules outside the department in years 2 and 3 together]



# BA Ancient History

Year 1	Introduction to the Greek World	Monuments & Memory in the Age of Augustus	Empire and Religion in the Age of Constantine	A module of your choice in Classics & Ancient History	Two more modules of your choice (from Classics and Ancient or anywhere in the university)
Year 2	Three modules in Ancient History (including the current core module Living in the Classical World, plus one Greek and one Roman module)			A module of your choice in Classics & Ancient History	Two more modules of your choice, from Classics and Ancient History or anywhere in the university*
Year 3	Dissertation (double)		Two modules of your choice in Classics & Ancient History		Two more modules of your choice or anywhere in the university* [*There is a maximum quota of two modules outside the department in years 2 and 3 together]

# Joint Hons Programme Structure

<b>Year 1</b>	Introduction to the Greek World	Monuments and Memory in the Age of Augustus	One module in Classics & Ancient History	Three modules from the other 'half' of your Programme
<b>Year 2</b>	Three modules in Classics & Ancient History			Three modules from the other 'half' of your Programme
<b>Year 3</b>	Dissertation (double) (from either 'half' of your programme)		Two modules in Classics & Ancient History	Two modules from the other 'half' of your Programme



# Module choices

- Year 1: focus on a smaller number of **core modules**, setting the foundation for further study
- Years 2 and 3: increased choice, increased specialization
- Modules cover: languages (Greek and Latin); literature; history; material culture; philosophy; reception studies
- Browse *all* our modules (NB not all modules are taught every year):

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG>



# Modules (not all offered every year)

Level 1:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/search?module=&keywords=&department=Classics+and+Ancient+History&type=&level=1&credits=>

Level 2:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/search?module=&keywords=&department=Classics+and+Ancient+History&type=&level=2&credits=>

Level 3:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/search?module=&keywords=&department=Classics+and+Ancient+History&type=&level=3&credits=>



# Placement Year

- Available to all students
- At least 40 weeks professional-level work experience, taken as an additional year of your degree (usually between the second and third years)
- UK or Overseas
- Any field which is relevant to your studies and/or career objectives
- Supported by the Durham University Careers and Enterprise Centre.



# Study Abroad (subject to ...)

1. Exchange scheme (replacing old Erasmus scheme, details tbc):
  - An additional year between Years 2 and 3
  - Partner universities in Europe: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain
  - No commitment until end of second year
  - Marks not counting towards Durham degree.
  
2. International exchange scheme:
  - Takes the place of your second year in Durham
  - Commitment made in the first term at Durham
  - Marks count towards the Durham degree
  - Previously connections with USA: Boston College; Canada: UBC, McMaster; New Zealand: Otago.



# Languages: Latin and Greek

- If you have **little/no previous experience**: start at **Beginners**; progress to **Intermediate & Advanced**.
- If you have **A-Level** (or equivalent): start at **Intermediate**; progress to **Advanced & Higher**.
- You can study **only Greek** or **only Latin** or **both languages**
- **You cannot study both Beginners' modules in the same year**
- Language study (Latin and/or Greek) is *compulsory* on BA Classics, and available as an *option* on all other programmes.



# What do language courses involve?

- At **Beginners' Level**: intensive introduction to the language, taking you to A-level standard in one year
- At **Intermediate Level**: consolidation of grammar; two short set texts (prose & verse)
- At **Advanced** and **Higher Levels**: reading & interpretation of Greek or Latin texts, prose or verse (or a combination). Assigned texts change regularly; we aim to offer a **choice** of texts.



# How are language modules taught & assessed?

- **Beginners:**
  - **Teaching:** 4 hours/week
  - **Assessment:** 2 x exams
- **Intermediate:**
  - **Teaching:** 3-4 hours/week (reading & grammar classes)
  - **Assessment:** coursework (essay) + exam
- **Advanced & Higher:**
  - **Teaching:** 2 hours/week (reading classes & seminars)
  - **Assessment:** coursework (essay) + exam



# Teaching





# Studying with us: teaching, learning, assessment

- Teaching is a mixture of **lectures**, **seminars** (small groups) and (where relevant) **language classes**
- Most students will have **eight-ten contact hours per week** (in **22 teaching weeks**, over **three terms**)
- All modules have **formative** assessment (with feedback, guidance, etc); **summative assessment** is by essays and commentaries; **examinations** (including 'open book' examinations); presentations; extended essays...



# Our Ethos

- Variety of theoretical & methodological perspectives: there is a strong sense of tradition, but also a commitment to innovation & new approaches
- Teaching & research are complementary at all levels
- Students are encouraged to discover own responses to material, ideas, questions encountered.



# Careers

**Matthew Hardcastle:** Investment Manager



**Alexandra Browne:** Desk Officer for Oman, Middle East and North Africa Directorate  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



**Joseph Bentley:** Solicitor, specialising in International Arbitration.



# Careers

**Imogen Jones:** Auctioneer (specialising in Manuscripts & Book Sales)



**Zenia Selby:** TV & Film Producer



**Annie Roberts:** Commercial Director, *Heavy Lift Magazine*



# Careers service

Study

Colleges & student experience

Research & business

Alumni

Global Durham

Careers & Enterprise Centre

You are in: [Durham University](#) → [Careers & Enterprise Centre](#) → [Supporting Students](#)

Careers & Enterprise Centre

## Supporting Students

Plan Your Future Career

Develop Employability Skills

Meet Employers on Campus

Explore New Business Ideas & Develop Enterprising Skills

Search and Apply for Jobs & Work Experience

Open Days / Visit Days

## Supporting Students



Plan Your Future Career



Develop Employability Skills



Meet Employers on Campus



Be Enterprising



Search and Apply for Jobs & Work Experience



Thinking About Coming to Durham

[Tweets by @careersatdurham](#)



Access the Student Services Portal

Find us on Facebook

[@careersatdurham](#)

## Related Links

[Information for Student Brand Ambassadors](#)

[Student Employability Fund](#)

[Competitions and Awards](#)

[Give Us Your Feedback](#)



# Activities

- Classics Society
- Various seminar series
- LGBT History Month Annual Public Lecture



Join us for the  
Department of Classics and Ancient History

## LGBT History Month Annual Public Lecture

Translating Sappho  
Straight

by Dr Georgina Barker  
(University College London)

In her exciting and thought-provoking talk, suitable for all audiences, Georgina Barker will explore the relationships between politics and lesbian identities in ancient and modern cultures.

Tuesday 11 February 2020  
6-7pm

Pemberton Lecture Rooms (PG21)  
Palace Green, Bailey Court, Durham DH1 3EP

For more information please visit:

 @Durham\_Classics

 @DurhamClassics

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/classics/>



ALL  
WELCOME!



# Support structures

- Weekly open 'student feedback office hours' so all lecturers are accessible
- Mentor system: every student has an Academic Advisor
- Each level has its own Level Tutor
- Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS): Welfare and Strategy
- College system with advisors, mentors, Senior Tutors



# Application process

- All applications are read *in full*.
- About 5% immediately accepted (mostly unconditional offers) and 5% immediately rejected
- Conditional offers made November-February (but some not until mid-March)
- Advice on Personal statement:
  - ask yourself: why do I want to apply for this particular programme?
  - make several drafts, and proofread.
  - We value quality above quantity.





# Admissions: What our selectors consider

- Prior and predicted grades
- Personal Statement
- Teachers/Academic Reference
- Contextual evidence of merit & potential
- Motivation for the degree programme
- Study & other skills

Find out more by attending 'Applying to Durham' session.



# College Allocation and Preferences

- We no longer ask you to make a college preference on your UCAS Application Form. The only option listed at UCAS is 'Durham City';
- Your college is NOT linked to your degree subject;
- Before we allocate your college, you will be invited to rank the colleges in the order of your preference;
- You will be allocated your college in or around May.

To find out more, visit the Colleges Hub on the top floor of the Teaching and Learning Centre.



# Standard offers

- For all three **Single Honours** Programmes AAA at A-level (or equivalent)
  - No subjects specified
  - General Studies and Critical Thinking not included
- For **Joint Honours** Programmes:
  - Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History: A\*AA; requires History A-level
  - Ancient History and Archaeology: AAB



Transforming the way we think



# For more information

- Our website: [durham.ac.uk/classics](https://durham.ac.uk/classics)
- Admissions website: [durham.ac.uk/study](https://durham.ac.uk/study)
- Follow us on twitter! @Durham\_Classics
- <https://www.facebook.com/DurhamClassics/>

