



Durham  
University

# Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Professor Neil Cartlidge  
Deputy Executive Dean

# Departments in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities



## Classics and Ancient History

Our degrees offer both academic rigour and an outstanding student experience with a diverse and exciting intellectual community.



## English Studies

One of the few university English departments in the world who teach and research in literature from the early medieval period to the present day.



## History

Staff and students are part of a vibrant learning community, set within the magnificent location of Durham's World Heritage Site.



## Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts gives you the opportunity to design your own degree. You can study two, three, or four subjects, in and beyond the Arts and Humanities.



## Modern Languages and Cultures

Our Department consists of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and the Centre for Foreign Language Study.



## Music

We strive to provide innovative, research-led teaching to help our students achieve their full potential as creative musicians and scholars.



## Philosophy

For us, philosophy is a joint enterprise, a subject that one makes progress in through conversation, collaboration, and community.



## Theology and Religion

The Department of Theology and Religion at Durham was founded in 1832 and has established an international reputation.

# Faculty of Arts and Humanities: World Rankings

**Times Higher World  
Ranking 2023:**

Durham Top 40 (39<sup>th</sup>)

**QS World Rankings 2023:**

Durham Top 40 (32<sup>nd</sup>)



# Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Departmental Rankings



*Complete University  
Guide 2023 (UK)*

2nd

**Classics & Ancient History**

4th

**English Studies**

4th

**History**

4th–8th

**Modern Languages & Cultures**

6th

**Music**

8th

**Philosophy**

6th

**Theology & Religion**

# Where the Humanities Need No Defense

By Ted Gup | SEPTEMBER 3, 2017



*Chronicle of  
Higher  
Education:*

Review by  
IAS Fellow,  
Ted Gup



Here the humanities thrive, and a pure unadulterated passion for literature, history, philosophy, and the classics persists almost oblivious to the siege endured by counterparts across the sea...

Although Durham enjoys a place on the World Heritage List, it is neither backward nor resistant to change. For several days the rainbow flag of gay pride fluttered over the castle parapets where once the Prince Bishop presided, and the sciences don't seem to be in the least put off by the humanities' success.

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# Faculty of Arts & Humanities: Vision and Mission

**Our mission** is to nurture thoughtful, critical and engaged citizens for a rapidly changing and complex world.

- We provide tools for analysis, interpretation and expression, tools to discuss and compare models of human life and flourishing, tools for imagining the future.
- We do this through engaging in the study of the languages, arts, cultures, philosophies and texts that have shaped our world.
- Crucially, we open up new perspectives through attending to difference – to different times and places, to different cultures, and to different ways of thinking and seeing.
- We do this in order to ask difficult questions of the past and present alike and to enable productive and innovative ways of imagining the future.

# Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Transformative Humanities and Interdisciplinarity



## Medical Humanities

- Hearing the Voice (English)
- Performing Cancer in the Middle East



## Digital Humanities

- Opening Up the Classics to the Digital World (Classics)



## Environmental Humanities

- Medieval Responses to Climate Change (History)



## CCH

- Making Durham a Centre for Spanish Art / Cultural Regeneration (MLaC)



## Policy

- Influencing Elections and Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa (History)
- Advising NASA (Philosophy)



## Other

- Influencing Church Debates on Same Sex Relationships (Theology)





# How does this relate to Learning and Teaching (1)?



## Research-led Education

- Our education is engaging and challenging, and underpinned throughout by research.
- Our students are **active researchers**, working side-by-side with world-leading academics and educators in small-group classroom and other settings.

## But how does it actually work?

120 credits per year = 6 x 20 credit modules per year

Each degree programme has its own regulations –  
mixture of core modules and optional modules

Flexibility across disciplines: All students can take one 20  
credit module from another programme per year

# Research-led education

## All programmes emphasise

- Research-led teaching
- Research-led learning
- Critical thinking
- Communication skills
- Independent study



# UG Programme Types

- study *one subject*
- students can take modules in other subjects, but normally only one or two modules in the first year and only one or two modules over the other years

## Joint Honours

- study *two subjects*
- students take modules in these two subjects, and cannot usually take modules in any other subjects

## Combined Honours

- study *two to four subjects*
- students design an individual programme of study, taking modules in subjects from their own faculty and often from subjects in another faculty

# Study Abroad or Placement

Single, Joint or Combined Honours can be a 4-year programme, with the 3rd year spent studying abroad or on a work placement



- Take relevant courses at an overseas university
- Assessment must be passed but does not count towards your Durham degree

## Placement Year

- Professional-level work experience with a UK or overseas organization
- Assessment must be passed but does not count towards your Durham degree

## Modern Languages Year Abroad

- Compulsory for Modern Languages & Cultures and for Chinese and Japanese Studies
- Study abroad or complete a work placement

# Single Honours Programmes

Classics ~ Classical Civilisation ~ Ancient History

English Literature

History

Modern Languages & Cultures ~ Chinese Studies ~ Japanese Studies

Visual Arts & Film

Music

Philosophy

Theology & Religion ~ Religion, Society & Culture



## **Joint Honours Programmes**

Ancient History & Archaeology  
Ancient, Medieval & Modern History

English & History  
English & Philosophy

Modern European Languages & History

Music & Philosophy

Philosophy & Politics  
Philosophy & Psychology  
Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE)

Philosophy & Theology

# Combined Honours Programmes

## Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts	3 years	LA01
Liberal Arts (with Year Abroad)	4 years	LA02
Liberal Arts (with Placement Year)	4 years	LA03

## Combined Honours in Social Sciences

Allows subjects in the Arts and Humanities to be taken alongside one or more subjects in the Social Sciences

# Liberal Arts – our flexible Humanities programme

- The programme makes it possible for students interested in the Humanities to design their own degree, combining up to four subjects in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Liberal Arts students study alongside Single Honours and Joint Honours students – working on the same topics, taking part in the same classes, and undergoing assessment in the same ways

**Table 1. 2024 and 2023 Durham University Department Graduate Prospects Score and Rankings**

NB scores and associated ranks are based on GO data for full-time, first degree, UK domiciled leavers only. If you have an = symbol after your score, it means that you're joint with another institution.

Durham Departments/Programmes	2024	2023
<b>Faculty of Arts and Humanities</b>		
Classics & Ancient History	88.3% - 3/22	85.3% - 2/23
English	85.4% - 6/88	85.7% - 3/92
History	85.6% - 5/83	84.5% - 5/87
Modern European Languages (French)	91.2% - 1/26	86.1% - 3/24
Modern European Languages (German)	91.2% - 1/12	86.1% - 1/14
Modern European Languages (Iberian)	91.2% - 1/25	86.1% - 2/25
Modern European Languages (Italian)	91.2% - 1/8	86.1% - 1/8
Modern European Languages (Russian)	91.2% - 2/6	86.1% - 1/6
Music	84.4% - 11/67	74.1% - 19/68
Philosophy	87.8% - 5/36	85% - 4/36
Theology	85.3% - 4/18	82.7% - 5/19

Listen to one of our students talking about the English Studies programme in Durham:



# How do I find out more about courses at Durham?

Search our [course database](#)

Check out the information provided by [Departments](#) on our website

[Our Faculty Handbook](#) – provides detailed information on course structure and modules running this year.

- N.B. we regularly review and update our course offer and course content, so there will be a new version published for 2023/24.

Keep in touch and ask questions!