

Programme Specification¹ (Date 2026 – 27)

Advanced Diploma in Classics

Programme title	<i>Classics</i>
Name of final award	<i>Advanced Diploma</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Cambridge</i>
Teaching institution	<i>University of Cambridge Faculty of Classics</i>
PSRB/Accreditation details and date the course was last accredited	<i>None</i>
UCAS code	<i>None</i>
HECoS code(s)	<i>100300 (classical studies)</i>
ATAS code	
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	<i>Classics and Ancient History 2022</i>
Qualification framework level	<i>Level 6</i>
Date specification approved	<i>18.12.25</i>
Linked course	

Brief overview of the course

(Please explain the purpose of the programme in a brief paragraph of no more than 5-6 sentences.)

The Cambridge Advanced Diploma in Classics is a nine-month taught postgraduate degree. It is open to UK and international students who have had limited or no experience in ancient Greek and/or Latin and who wish to develop the skills to become independent learners and readers in one or both languages. Alongside this focus on language learning comes the chance to explore an aspect of Classical culture in depth, the opportunity to attend lectures and research seminars in the Faculty of Classics and integration in Cambridge collegiate life. The course may serve as an end in itself or as a gateway to the

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Cambridge MPhil, a PhD, postgraduate research in another discipline or study for a PGCE in Classics.

Educational Aims

What are the educational aims of the programme?

The course aims:

- for students to acquire a sound understanding of Ancient Greek and/or Latin: their syntax, vocabulary, and the styles of some major authors.
- to allow students to broaden their general knowledge of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds through teaching informed by current developments in scholarship and research.
- to introduce students to tools and resources for further study and research and equip them to use them effectively.
- to provide opportunities for successful students to apply for research degrees, including our own MPhil and PhD degrees for which there is a requirement to be able to work confidently with evidence in the original ancient languages.
- to bridge a gap between undergraduate degrees in cognate disciplines (History, Philosophy, English, Classical Civilisation) and postgraduate research degrees in Classics.
- to lead to careers in secondary education, usually via a PGCE, that may involve teaching Greek and/or Latin.

Learning Outcomes - *What is a student expected to learn from the programme? These should have been included on the new course proposal when the course was first approved.*

(Please refer to the guidance on [Learning Aims and Outcomes](#) and the [Office for Students](#) sector-recognised standards for sector expectations of the graduates of higher education qualifications)

By the end of the programme, students will have:

Knowledge and Understanding

- KU1 Knowledge, abilities and skills in reading Greek and/or Latin to a point where students can tackle independently and with confidence authors of whom they have prior experience.

- KU 2 Enhanced understanding of the structure and functioning of the Greek and/or Latin languages.
- KU 3 A command of Greek and/or Latin vocabulary.
- KU 4 Familiarity with a range of different kinds of Greek and/or Latin.
- KU 5 Experience in reading particular texts and authors that will better equip them for independent reading and research.
- KU 6 Understanding of an aspect of Classics in depth and skills of literary, historical, philosophical, art historical, archaeological or philological analysis.

Skills and other attributes

Critical skills

- S1 Knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.
- S2 Intellectual skills: intellectual initiative, critical reflection, the ability to identify and solve problems, the ability to assess the meaning and significance of information, analytical and evaluative thinking, estimation of the relevance of information, discriminating between opposing claims, forming judgements on the basis of evidence, the ability to engage in lateral thinking, openness to creative thinking, the ability to marshal information lucidly, coherently and concisely. By the end of the course students should have completed a course of study which could equip them for postgraduate research in Classics.
- S3 Communication skills: the ability to marshal arguments lucidly, coherently and concisely, the ability to present material orally in a clear and effective way, including sensitivity to the listener's perspective, the ability to present written material clearly and appropriately, in good English, and with attention to detail; the ability to discuss linguistic evidence in a way that matches academic standards.

Practical Skills

- S4 Organisational skills: self-direction, self-discipline, the ability to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines, management of time and resources.
- S5 Interpersonal skills: working creatively, flexibly and adaptably with others, formulating and meeting objectives, interacting successfully on a one-to-one basis.
- S6 Research skills: bibliographic and lexicographic skills, observational skills, practical skills, writing, note-taking and presentation skills.
- S7 Computer literacy: use of word-processing, use of the internet and e-mail, use of online materials for language-learning, searching ancient texts, and analysing morphology.

Programme structure

Please give a brief outline of the course structure and how it supports progress. Please note details of individual papers/modules are not needed. What elements does the programme contain? If you have a part-time route show how this is aligned with the full-time course.

Students take three papers, one per term.

Papers 1 and 2 are language papers, to be chosen from four possibilities: Greek A, Greek B, Latin A, Latin B, where A is ab initio and B can follow on from A.

Paper 3 is chosen from a selection of the papers available for examination for Part II of the Classical Tripos (the final year of the undergraduate degree). Offer-holders for the Diploma will receive information before the start of the course about which papers are available.

The course is structured to support progress for students starting from a variety of levels of knowledge of Latin and/or Ancient Greek, as reflected in the choice of language papers. The final paper is designed to offer the opportunity to explore an aspect of the ancient world, which may be relevant to each student's career progression.

Teaching and Learning

Please indicate which methods are used, i.e., lectures, seminars, practical sessions etc. Include any activity that does not lead to summative assessment. How is the programme taught? How do students learn?

The course will begin with a mandatory induction day including introduction and guidance to both subject specific and generic research and study skills. Teaching and learning on the course will then be delivered through small-group language classes, totalling 6-8 hours per week and including language labs targeted specifically at Diploma students, and lectures and supervisions connected to preparation for one of the available Part II papers from the Classical Tripos. Bespoke arrangements for guided self-study may be available in some cases, for instance to enable more advanced intermediate work. The language labs will involve more hands-on practical work on a range of topics including digital tools for linguistic analysis and subdiscipline-specific approaches and interests (e.g. translating epigraphical texts, dialects and registers for documentary material, etc.).

Students are expected to attend all classes and supervisions.

Assessment

Please list below summative assessments for the course and how they meet the learning outcomes listed above. Ensure these are aligned with your course regulations ([Statutes and Ordinances](#)).

Assessment	Learning Outcome
<p>The learning outcomes for the course are met through completion of three compulsory units of summative assessment. One language paper will be examined at the beginning of the Lent Term and the other language paper and the additional Part II paper will be examined in the Easter Term.</p> <p>Each language paper is tested by an examination in seen and unseen translation.</p> <p>Students will also submit one piece of coursework comprising a translation into English of a short passage of ancient Greek or Latin of their choice, accompanied by a commentary of up to 2,500 words explaining the decisions taken in the course of the translation.</p> <p>Skills learning outcomes S1-S7 are developed throughout the course.</p> <p>Throughout the year there will be regular in-class diagnostic testing which will serve as formative assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KU1 Knowledge, abilities and skills in reading Greek and/or Latin to a point where students can tackle independently and with confidence authors of whom they have prior experience.• KU2 Enhanced understanding of the structure and functioning of the Greek and/or Latin languages.• KU3 A command of Greek and/or Latin vocabulary.• KU4 Familiarity with a range of different kinds of Greek and/or Latin.• KU 5 Experience in reading particular texts and authors that will better equip them for independent reading and research.• KU 6 Understanding of an aspect of Classics in depth and skills of literary, historical, philosophical, art historical, archaeological or philological analysis.

Progression and Career Destinations

Please describe the opportunities for the students' personal and professional development (including transferable and employability skills). Please include information relating to successful graduates' prospects for employment.

Preparation for employment is provided in the opportunities for the acquisition for transferable skills outlined in this programme specification.

Students completing the Advanced Diploma will have demonstrated high levels of motivation and personal commitment. While the programme is specifically targeted to students who wish to pursue further work in which Latin and/or Ancient Greek are relevant, the practical and transferable skills developed on this programme will suit various skill sets within research, teaching and any field in which good linguistic skills are valued.

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