

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	MA
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	MA in Classics
<b>5</b>	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	4035
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	Classics (N/A)
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	M
<b>9</b>	<b>Date written/revised</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2007

**10 Programme Aims**

- 1 to promote an advanced understanding of selected areas of classical culture, the range of evidence available and the methodologies for studying them
- 2 to promote an awareness of the historical development of scholarship on the classical world.
- 3 to provide additional training in Greek or Latin, where appropriate and promote the use of the languages in classical scholarship
- 4 to provide training in generic and subject-specific study and research skills
- 5 to promote the ability to conduct an extended piece of independent research

**11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Classics.

**Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1 acquired an advanced understanding of the selected areas of classical culture, the range of evidence available and the methodologies for studying them
- A2 acquired an awareness of the historical development of scholarship in this field
- A3 understood the importance for study of the classical world of engaging with classical texts in the original.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

These goals shall be achieved through post-graduate course modules containing a substantial element of supported self-study. Students will receive hands-on training by producing essays and/or a dissertation, or in the case of language modules, through exercises and exams.

**Assessment Strategy**

The vast majority of the MA modules are examined by assessed essays and by dissertation. The main exceptions to this rule are the language modules, some of which are examined by formal examination.

**Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 acquire and/or utilise linguistic knowledge of Latin and/or Greek in an appropriate context
- B2 apply an appropriate range of research and study skills, both general and subject-specific.
- B3 handle specific types of evidence within Classics and Ancient History - e.g. epigraphy, use of commentaries, use of manuscripts, archaeological evidence etc

<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
These goals shall be achieved through post-graduate course modules containing a substantial element of supported self-study. Students will receive hands-on training by producing essays and/or a dissertation, or in the case of language modules, through exercises and exams.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
The vast majority of the MA modules are examined by assessed essays and by dissertation. The main exceptions to this rule are the language modules, some of which are examined by formal examination.
<b>Practical Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to: C1 carry out an extended piece of independent research C2 discuss and present on a topic in a critical manner in either oral or written form
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
These goals shall be achieved through post-graduate course modules containing a substantial element of supported self-study. Students will receive hands-on training by producing essays and/or a dissertation, or in the case of language modules, through exercises and exams.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
The vast majority of the MA modules are examined by assessed essays and by dissertation. The main exceptions to this rule are the language modules, some of which are examined by formal examination.
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 carry out an extended piece of independent research D2 present the results of study in a scholarly manner
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
These goals shall be achieved through post-graduate course modules containing a substantial element of supported self-study. Students will receive hands-on training by producing essays and/or a dissertation, or in the case of language modules, through exercises and exams.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
The vast majority of the MA modules are examined by assessed essays and by dissertation. The main exceptions to this rule are the language modules, some of which are examined by formal examination.

<b>12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features</b>
<b>Basic structure of the programme</b>
The MA in Classics is a one-year taught postgraduate course containing a substantial element of supported self-study, offering a wide range of options within the area of Classical languages, literature and culture.
<b>Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)</b>
Students successfully completing the course will have studied two or three Classics-related topics in depth, acquired or further developed linguistic skills in Greek and/or Latin, become familiar with a range of methods and approaches in scholarship and research, and completed a substantial dissertation on a topic of their own choice. Students will have had the opportunity to work with members of staff on topics related to current research in the School, and to study topics outside the normal undergraduate range, and will be well prepared to undertake doctoral research in classics, or to embark on teacher training with classics as a

major subject

**Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2007-2008/programme/4035.php>

**13 Criteria for admission**

*Entry qualifications*

Students will normally be required to hold a good degree (2:1 or above) in Classics, Classical Studies or a related subject.

*Admissions policy/selection tools*

*Non-standard Entry Requirements*

Exceptions to the requirements are possible, at the discretion of the Degree Programme Director

*Additional Requirements*

Previous knowledge of Greek or Latin is not required

*Level of English Language capability*

Students will normally be required to be proficient in English.

**14 Support for Student Learning**

*Induction*

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

*Study skills support*

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid.

Help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre.

*Academic support*

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

*Pastoral support*

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. In addition the University offers a range of support services, including one-to-one counselling and guidance or group sessions/workshops on a range of topics, such as emotional issues eg. Stress and anxiety, student finance and budgeting, disability matters etc. There is specialist support available for students with dyslexia and mental health issues. Furthermore, the Union Society operates a Student Advice Centre, which can provide advocacy and support to students on a range of topics including housing, debt, legal issues etc.

*Support for students with disabilities*

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

#### *Learning resources*

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange.

### **15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

#### *Module reviews*

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *Programme reviews*

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *External Examiner reports*

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

#### *Student evaluations*

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking the students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching in their HEIs. With reference to the outcomes of the NSS and institutional student satisfaction surveys actions are taken at all appropriate levels by the institution.

#### *Mechanisms for gaining student feedback*

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

#### *Faculty and University Review Mechanisms*

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process. Every five years degree programmes in each subject area are subject to periodic review. This involves both the detailed consideration of a range of documentation, and a two-day review visit by a review team which includes an external subject specialist in addition to University and Faculty representatives. Following the review a report is produced, which forms the basis for a decision by University Teaching and Learning Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further five year period.

#### *Accreditation reports*

*Additional mechanisms*

## **16 Regulation of assessment**

### *Pass mark*

The pass mark is 40 (Undergraduate programmes)

The pass mark is 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

### *Course requirements*

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Undergraduate Examination Conventions. In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35 is possible at each Stage and there are resit opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees. Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

### *Weighting of stages*

The marks from Stages ??? will contribute to the final classification of the degree

The weighting of marks contributing to the degree for Stages ??? is ??:?

### *Common Marking Scheme*

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions, namely

	<b>Modules used for degree classification (DC)</b>	<b>Modules not used for degree classification</b>
<40	Fail	Failing
40-49	Third Class	Basic
50-59	Second Class, Second Division	Good
60-69	Second Class, First Division	Very Good
70+	First Class	Excellent

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

### **Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes**

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

### **Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes**

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

### *Role of the External Examiner*

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies.

The External Examiner is expected to:

See and approve examination papers

Moderate examination and coursework marking

Attend the Board of Examiners

Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/> or <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>)

The School Brochure (contact [enquiries@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncl.ac.uk))

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

## Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Either

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Compulsory in Bold)
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	

Or

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
ART 8000	Compulsory		2	2	2
CAC 8000	Compulsory	1,2	2,3	2	2
CAC 8093		3	1		
CAC 8094		1,2	2,3	1,2	1,2
CAC 8095		1,2	2,3	1,2	1,2
CAC 8096		1,2	2,3	1,2	1,2
CAC 8097		3	1		
CAC 8098		3	1		