

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MA
4	Programme Title	Classics
5	UCAS/Programme Code	4035
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	
8	FHEQ Level	Masters
9	Date written/revised	17 April 2008

10 Programme Aims

- 1 To provide students with a range of learning opportunities (in relation to analytical, key, research and subject-specific skills) within the field of Classics;
- 2 To provide a programme which is responsive to the research training requirements of the AHRC;
- 3 To provide a programme where the focus is on advanced study and training, where students are expected to gain the research skills and knowledge to enable them to progress to academic research in Classics at PhD level, or to enter the workplace in a variety of professions, where high levels of skill such as literacy, research and project management are required;
- 4 To provide a programme which gives students the fullest possible access to the research strengths of the staff within the Classics section, through the vehicle of a series of overarching themes;
- 5 To provide access to Higher Education to students from a variety of educational backgrounds, and to provide a bridge to further postgraduate qualifications;
- 6 To provide a programme that meets the requirements of a Master's level qualification as defined by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications;
7. To provide a programme that conforms to University policies and to QAA codes of practice.

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.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 have acquired knowledge and understanding of one or more themes in Classics
- A2 have acquired knowledge and understanding of a range of methodologies for interpreting the evidence for one or more themes in Classics
- A3 have acquired a knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical and analytical approaches used by Classicists
- A4 have acquired the detailed knowledge and understanding which comes from undertaking a sustained piece of classics research (a dissertation)
- A5 have acquired or increased knowledge of either Latin or Greek or both

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary methods of imparting knowledge and understanding (A1-5) are lectures, group seminars, language classes, individual tutorials, and self-directed learning. A2 – 3 are the primary concern of the Skills of Scholarship module and of the Themed Study modules. A4 is imparted by work for the Dissertation module, for which the Themed Study modules are training and preparation. A5 is taught in language classes in the Latin/Greek Application or

(according to candidates' competences and choices) in the other language modules.

Assessment Strategy

A1-3 are assessed through one extended written paper for each of the Themed Study modules and by a written paper for the Skills of Scholarship module. A4 is assessed in the Dissertation. The language (A5) is assessed by examination with numerous formative tests as preparation.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 evaluate, analyse and interpret a range of different types of evidence in the field of Classics;
- B2 practise a wide range of subject-specific skills, such as the marshalling of evidence, the presentation of balanced written argument and the critical analysis of texts;
- B3 display knowledge and understanding at a high level of their chosen themes in Classics;
- B4 apply a range of concepts and theoretical and analytical approaches to a body of evidence
- B5 display empathy for the experiences of other people of a period other than our own

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1-5 are imparted in lectures, seminars and tutorials

Assessment Strategy

B1-5 are assessed summatively in the written papers for the Themed Study modules. These papers will also play a formative role in preparation for the Dissertation, which represents the summative task in the detailed practice of all these skills.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 demonstrate the ability to carry out independent research
- C2 gather and use information from a range of types of sources effectively
- C3 evaluate, analyse, and interpret evidence
- C4 present material in a written form to the standard expected of submissions to professional journals

Teaching and Learning Methods

In all the taught modules, including the Faculty Research training Module students will be introduced through lectures, seminars and tutorials to all these practical skills (C1-4)

Assessment Strategy

C1-4 are assessed by the written papers for the Themed Study modules and by the Dissertation in which students are expected to demonstrate all these skills to a high level.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Communicate ideas and argument effectively in writing
- D2 Present ideas and argue cases effectively in oral communication and in discussion and debate
- D3 plan and organise work effectively
- D4 be computer literate and be able to make effective use of on-line resources for Classics

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1-4 are imparted in the lectures, seminars and tutorials. D2 is specifically imparted by the training in the seminars. D4 is practised and developed throughout the programme through the preparation of the papers and of the Dissertation

Assessment Strategy

D1 is assessed by the written papers for the Themed Study modules and the Dissertation. D2, while an important part of the formative training in the seminars and tutorials, is not

separately assessed. D3 and 4 are assessed by the written papers and the Dissertation

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

DEGREE REGULATIONS FOR MA IN CLASSICS

These regulations for the degree of Master of Arts in Classics should be read in conjunction with the University Taught Postgraduate Master's Degree Entrance and Progress Regulations and the Examining Conventions for Taught Postgraduate Programmes. In addition, the following regulations apply:

Programme Structure

Candidates may opt for a full or part-time route through the programme. The part-time route must be agreed in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Degree Programme Director.

All candidates must choose at the beginning of their programme a **study theme** or **study themes** which must be selected from the themes available that year (the list of themes may change from year to year).

All candidates shall take the following modules:

(a) all of the following modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Descriptive Title</i>
HSS8000	(10)	Faculty Research Training Module
CAC8000	(10)	Skills of Scholarship
CAC8093	(10)	Latin/Greek Application
CAC8099	(60)	Dissertation (14,000 words)

And (b) one pair of the following Themed Study Modules (both modules *must* belong to the same theme):

CAC8020	(30)	Ancient Concepts of Divinity 1
CAC8021	(30)	Ancient Concepts of Divinity 2
CAC8022	(30)	Philosophy, Science and Medicine 1
CAC8023	(30)	Philosophy, Science and Medicine 2
CAC8024	(30)	Rhetoric and Historiography: The Ancient Arts of Description and Formation 1
CAC8025	(30)	Rhetoric and Historiography: The Ancient Arts of Description and Formation 2
CAC8026	(30)	The Reception and Recreation of Ancient Texts 1
CAC8027	(30)	The Reception and Recreation of Ancient Texts 2

And (c) one of the following:

CAC8097	(30)	Greek for MA candidates
CAC8098	(30)	Latin for MA candidates

Students without previous recognized qualifications in either Greek or Latin are required to take either CAC8097 or CAC8098, but may not take both. Students with demonstrated excellent abilities in both Greek and Latin may, pending the approval of the DPD, take an additional module listed under (b) in Semester 1 in lieu of the language module.

In Semester 1 Candidates take the Faculty Research Training Module, Skills of Scholarship, and the first of two themed study modules.

In Semester 2 Candidates take the second component of the themed study module.

CAC8097 and 8098 are taught over Semesters 1 and 2.

Candidates are normally expected to pass the taught modules before proceeding to the Dissertation in Semester 3.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The programme concentrates on training in a range of research techniques. Study centres on a theme, or themes, which reflect/s the distinctive research interests and publications of the staff of the Classics section. Study of a Classical language is a required element of the programme. The proportion of language within the whole may vary according to candidates' competences and interest.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/>

13 Criteria for admission

Entry qualifications

2.1 or better in an undergraduate degree, in which the study of Classics or Classical subjects forms a significant part

Admissions policy/selection tools

We encourage applications both from domestic and overseas students. All applications are considered by the DPD and, where appropriate, another member of staff. Candidates are offered an interview and a chance to meet staff. Where this is not possible, candidates are asked to complete a questionnaire in order to secure an appropriate match between candidates' interests, choices and competences (including their knowledge of Latin and/or Greek) and specialist staff input.

Non-standard Entry Requirements

Candidates whose qualifications are the equivalent of 2.1 in an undergraduate degree, but who have not concentrated on the study of the Classical world (e.g. students of archaeology, history etc.), will be considered, provided they can demonstrate a broad general knowledge of the history of the Classical world and show that they are capable of benefiting from the programme.

Additional Requirements

None

Level of English Language capability

All overseas candidates have to satisfy the University's language requirements and obtain a minimum of 7.0 IELTS or equivalent

14 Support for Student Learning
<i>Induction</i> <p>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 principal support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.</p> <i>Study skills support</i> <p>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.</p> <p>Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid.</p> <p>Help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre.</p> <i>Academic support</i> <p>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.</p> <i>Pastoral support</i> <p>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, e.g. 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.</p> <i>Support for students with disabilities</i> <p>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.</p> <i>Learning resources</i> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning
<i>Module reviews</i> <p>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</p>

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 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

Course requirements

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.

Common Marking Scheme

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

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes

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

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)

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	CAC8000 CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7
A2	CAC8000 CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7
A3	CAC8000 CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7
A4	CAC8099
B1	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
B2	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
B3	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
B4	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
C1	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
C2	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
C3	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
C4	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
D1	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
D2	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
D3	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099
D4	CAC8020-7 CAC8096-7 CAC8099

Or

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D