

- BA Ancient History
- BA Integrated Degree (Archaeology & Ancient History, Ancient History & Medieval History)
- BA Joint Schemes

School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University

## Undergraduate Ancient History Degrees



# Cardiff University and Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion

Cardiff University is one of the UK's major teaching and research universities and a member of the elite 'Russell Group'.

Located in the centre of the capital city of Wales, it has an international reputation for teaching and research, and attracts staff and students from around the world.



Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion is home to four Departments: Ancient History, Archaeology & Conservation, History & Welsh History and Religious Studies & Theology. The School brings together 60 academic staff and around 800 undergraduates and 200 postgraduates in the Humanities Building, next to the Arts and Social Studies Library, and just a short walk from the heart of the capital.

The Ancient History Department has an international reputation for its teaching and research. Its graduates regularly enter careers in the financial services, law, the Civil Service, journalism, teaching, the police, the armed forces and a wide range of other professions. The transferable skills provided by an Ancient History degree are increasingly sought after by employers and offer our graduates a wide choice of career opportunities. A good number of our students advance to postgraduate study in both Ancient History and a variety of other specialist and vocational subjects.

The School offers students its own computer lab with 24 pcs and a photographic lab within the Humanities Building. Wi-fi is available across the University. Within the School, the Department benefits from its own collection of books and journals in the Sheila White Library and from expertise in the Cardiff Centre for Late Antique Religion and Culture. The department has strong links with other Ancient History and Classics departments in the UK, and hosted the national 2010 Classical Association Conference.

Staff in Ancient History study the history, epigraphy and archaeology of Greece, Rome and their neighbours from the early Iron Age to the Byzantine Empire. Our teaching is augmented by lecturers with relevant specialities in Archaeology and Medieval History.

## What the papers say about us

*'Cardiff is long established as the front-runner in Welsh higher education and a leading player in the UK and beyond. It is a member of the Russell Group of 20 research-led universities and has two Nobel Laureates on its staff. Teaching quality is also highly rated ...the Quality Assurance Agency complimented the university on its 'powerful academic vision and well-developed and effectively articulated mission to achieve excellence in teaching and research'. Cardiff has done well in every edition of the National Student Survey, finishing just outside the top 30 in 2009.'*

Times Good University Guide, June 2011

*'Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside. The university is as confident and forward-looking as the city it's located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research. Almost 60% of its research is ranked as world-leading and it is a member of the Russell group of leading research universities. There are approximately 27,000 students, including more than 3,000 from over 100 countries outside the UK, helping to create a vibrant, cosmopolitan community.'*

The Guardian 8 June 2010

## Contacts

Information on Cardiff and the university for prospective students can be found at [www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/index.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/index.html)

For more information on our degrees contact the appropriate Admissions Tutor.

Email: [ancienthistoryugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ancienthistoryugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)

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## Which Degree is for Me?

### **BA Ancient History**

Ancient History at Cardiff offers a balance between historical period courses – focusing on political, institutional and military change – and thematic aspects: religion, economic, social and cultural history, by constructing historical arguments based on primary sources. You will learn directly from ancient historians working in the subject about the Greco-Roman world from the Late Bronze Age to the fall of the Roman Empire and the emergence of the Byzantine empire.

### **BA Ancient History & Medieval History (Integrated), V116**

This scheme provides students with the opportunity to study the development of the Mediterranean and European worlds from the Late Bronze Age to the medieval period, drawing on modules taught by historians actively researching a wide variety of aspects of this period, including relations between East and West, gender and sexuality, and warfare.

### **BA Archaeology & Ancient History (Integrated), VVC4**

This single honours scheme enables you to gain an understanding of the history and archaeology of the Classical World and draws on modules taught by both archaeologists and ancient historians. It places particular emphasis on studying aspects of the past from an inter-disciplinary perspective and includes 8 weeks of hands-on excavation experience. This is a vital and highly popular element of the degree scheme, and students have recently worked on excavations in Greece, Romania and Egypt as well as in the UK, most notably at the Roman legionary fortress in Caerleon.

### **BA Joint Schemes**

Through the flexible modular nature of the Cardiff degree schemes you can study Ancient History in combination with a range of other subjects, both within the School of History, Archaeology and Religion and outside it. Popular combinations to continue your passion for two subjects include Ancient History and English, Ancient History and Philosophy, and Ancient History with a modern language. Joint honours degree schemes require no greater workload than single honours. Many combinations are available and students interested in these should contact the Admissions Tutor for further information.

## Typical offers

BA Ancient History: ABB



# Teaching and Learning

Most Ancient History modules are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials. Seminars involve groups of 12-14 students discussing a range of topics related to the module under the guidance of a specialist tutor. Students attend around 8-12 hours of teaching a week, and this is supplemented by private study to make your total learning hours 35 or more each week.

All Ancient History students study *Introduction to Ancient Greek History* and *Introduction to Roman History* in Year One, and like all Humanities students at Cardiff, choose additional first year modules on a wide range of subjects offered by other departments and schools in the University. This provides a wonderful opportunity to continue with a subject you enjoyed at school or to try something completely different that you've never had a chance to study before.

In Year Two, all students take *Literary Evidence for Ancient History* and *Material Evidence for Ancient History* to provide them with specialist skills in using the different types of evidence available, as well as *Independent Study*. This module provides the preparation for your *Special Subject Dissertation* in the final year to develop advanced skills in research, project management and working independently.

Our Second and Third Years study their option modules together, and over these two years, you choose from a large range of subjects covering key periods and themes relating to the ancient world, and including interdisciplinary modules taught by specialists in Archaeology and Medieval History. The majority of these modules are taught by leading scholars in their fields. See opposite for a typical range of modules on offer.

Each student is assigned a Personal Tutor who provides pastoral care, and with whom students may discuss and reflect upon their overall academic progress. Ancient History staff have an 'open door' policy for their personal tutees and are widely available for consultation.

Teaching at Cardiff is research-led. This means that students are being taught by individuals whose research is shaping and re-defining the way we think about the past. Cardiff Ancient History students are therefore at the forefront of new research and are well placed to undertake postgraduate study in the future.

## Making the most of local and national heritage – Trips and Visits

Home to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cardiff is surrounded by important historical and archaeological landscapes and monuments, from Roman forts and towns to Medieval settlements and castles.

Ancient History students have the opportunity to take part in field trips to sites of interest such as Caerleon Roman legionary fortress, Bath, and to museums such as the Ashmolean in Oxford and the British Museum in London.

Ancient History students may also enhance their learning experience through the biennial week-long study tour to Rome, and some of our students attend the Summer Schools of The British School at Athens and The British School at Rome. Students studying Ancient History with a modern language spend their third year working on their language skills abroad, and take advantage of their location to visit relevant archaeological sites and museums.

## Bursaries and grants

Travel grants are available for students of Ancient History to visit museums and sites of interest in both the UK and abroad. Recently, students have organised independent visits to Rome, the Peloponnese and Provence. For the latest information on grants and bursaries follow the links from our web page: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/currentstudents/index.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/currentstudents/index.html)



# Frequently Asked Questions

Views from current and past students

If you have any questions about studying Ancient History at Cardiff, our website provides information on a wide range of topics, and to supplement this we offer the views of current and past students by asking them to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

## How big a change is university from school?

*Joanne from Cheltenham writes...*

"The change from School to Uni wasn't as big or scary as I first imagined. In the first year your tutors try to make you feel welcome and are very friendly, and in the second year you feel very settled. Making friends is easy as you are all in the same boat. There's a lot more freedom compared to school... There is plenty of work, but all tutors are happy to help in my experience."

## Why should I study Ancient History at Cardiff?

*Tom from Bridgend writes...*

"Ancient History at Cardiff is well taught by lecturers who know every inch of their subject and are excellent teachers. Cardiff's superb three subject Year One allows you to get used to uni life and work schedule whilst allowing you to see if other subjects, say Spanish or Philosophy had actually been your true calling."

*Tamara from Aylesbury writes...*

"The three subject Year One is great. It builds other skills and knowledge and allows you to meet more people too."

## Is there a wide choice of topics within ancient history?

*Tom from Bridgend writes...*

"The credit system and alternating subject years gives you access to a wide array of subject areas and periods or allows you to focus on one or two specific areas. I studied the Roman Republic, Post-Roman Celtic Britain, the Greek Army, Egypt, Carthage and the Anglo-Saxons but others have examined the Greek City States, Byzantium, Gender and Sexuality, Iron Age Britain and the Vikings. Some of these courses are Archaeology modules but the close links within the School allows students to take 20 credit modules from another subject area such as History, Conservation or Archaeology."

## How easy is it to adjust as an overseas student?

*Yiota from Greece writes...*

"Life in Cardiff as an undergraduate at SHARE is particularly exciting. As a first year, I had the chance to meet many other students from Britain and all around the world. This was a fascinating experience and was a great opportunity to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. There are various student societies to cover almost, if not all, personal and intellectual interests. These are lively hubs, which link people with shared interests together. Being the first time that I was living abroad, I had to adjust myself to a different approach to organisation and study. Especially at the beginning this can be difficult, however, the support that both Cardiff University and the Students Union provide, proved invaluable, not just of social nature, but for other issues (from personal to administrative). A sudden shower of rain has always been a good 'excuse' to visit the National Museum, which is just around the corner!"

## Will it help me find a career?

*Tom Hay, (BA Ancient History & MA Ancient History and Society). Current post: Student Recruitment and Events Manager...*

"My degree in Ancient History helped me develop and enhance a wide range of skills that I have been able to transfer and utilise

in my professional life, particularly my writing, research and analytical skills. From the start of the degree we were encouraged to contribute our thoughts and engage with staff and other students, helping me to improve my public speaking and all round confidence.

All of my roles to date have required a high level of communication and analytical skills. My first real experience of public speaking was in a seminar and I have carried this forward in to my career where I regularly deliver presentations. I frequently analyse a variety of complex data sets to help inform policy and strategy and without this skill I would not have been able to progress through my career as I have. When writing essays we learned the importance of evidencing our arguments and this approach has proved invaluable when presenting the results of my professional work. Knowing how to research this evidence has also been crucial."

*David Marvelley. (BA Ancient History & Archaeology). Current post: Police Officer, South Wales Police.*

## How has your subject at degree helped you in your career?

"The greatest thing the degree taught me was patience. It takes three years to attain a degree in ancient history and it taught me that with patience I can attain the things I want by working hard and by being patient. I'd wanted to be a police officer since I was eleven years old, but had failed numerous times to pass the initial recruitment test. After my degree, it gave me the confidence to try again, and trust in my abilities. I knew I was never going to be very good in maths for example, but the degree demonstrated how I could develop other skills ... to counterbalance the not so good ones."

## Brief career history since graduation:

Graduation 2006. Straight into the position of a Police Community Support Officer in South Wales Police for four years. My position is now as a Police Officer.

## About the Staff

There are eight Ancient Historians at Cardiff, some of whom also have strong links with the Archaeology department. We have particular strengths in the political, social, religious and military history of the ancient world from Archaic Greece to late antiquity.

The lecturing staff can be grouped according to their teaching and research specialisms:

The history and archaeology of archaic societies in Greece and Italy is researched by **Guy Bradley**, who has undertaken archaeological projects in Italy. Warfare in antiquity is the specialism of **Kate Gilliver** (Roman military history and archaeology) and **Louis Rawlings** (warrior societies and warfare in the Mediterranean).

The political, social and religious history of Greek city-states is of interest to various staff and the particular subject of **Stephen Lambert's** research through the evidence of inscriptions.

Gender and sexuality are explored in the work of **Shaun Tougher**, whose key interests also cover the history of the later Roman and Byzantine empires. Through the study of ancient medical and scientific texts **Laurence Totelin** explores questions relating to the social, economic and political history of the ancient world.

**Ruth Westgate** is concerned with Greek and Roman art and architecture, especially ancient houses. **Richard Evans'** work centres on the Roman Republic and early Principate, most recently: Syracuse in antiquity, the Roman conquest of Asia Minor, Syria and Armenia, and the history of Pergamum.

All computer applications are supported by the IT manager who provides this service for the whole School of History, Archaeology and Religion. The School has a number of administrative staff, one of them dedicated to the Ancient History Department.

The department also benefits from the presence in the School of specialists in Greek and Roman Archaeology, the religion and society of late antiquity and Medieval History to enhance the teaching and learning experience of students on different degrees. Together we provide a lively and dynamic environment in which our students enjoy their studies.



# Modules

## Modules typically available in even years (eg 2010/11, 2012/2013)

Advanced Greek Historical Texts  
Art & Archaeology of Archaic Greece  
Art & Power in Rome 211 BC - AD 138  
Computer Projects for  
Archaeology/Ancient History  
Conquest and Crisis: the Roman Republic  
Early Rome: History & Legend  
Gender & Sexuality  
Greek & Roman Medicine  
Greek Historical Texts I  
Greek Historical Texts II  
Greek Values  
Hellenistic Art & Architecture  
Independent 2nd Year Study  
Intro to Computing for  
Archaeology/Ancient History  
Julian the Apostate  
Kingdoms, Cities and Hellenization  
Latin Historical Texts  
Literary Evidence for Ancient History  
Material Evidence for Ancient History  
Reading Greek I  
Reading Greek 2  
Reading Latin I  
Reading Latin 2  
Roman Britain  
Rome & Carthage  
Special Subject Dissertation  
The Roman Army

## Modules typically available in odd years (eg 2011/12, 2013/14)

Advanced Greek Historical Texts  
Aegean Bronze Age:  
Emergence to Collapse  
Army & Society: Homer to Alexander  
Art & Archaeology of Classical Greece  
Athens in the Age of Demosthenes  
and Lykourgos  
Death & Burial in the Roman World  
Expansion & Conflict in the Greek Poleis  
GIS for Archaeology/Ancient History  
Gods & the Polis  
Greek Historical Texts I  
Greek Historical Texts II  
Houses in Roman Italy  
Independent 2nd Year Study  
Intro to Spatial Techniques  
Latin Historical Texts  
Life in Ancient Rome  
Literary Evidence for Ancient History  
Material Evidence for Ancient History  
Reading Greek I  
Reading Greek 2  
Reading Latin I  
Reading Latin 2  
Roman Imperial History  
31 BC - AD 138  
Roman Religion  
Special Subject Dissertation  
The Archaeology of Late Antiquity  
The Etruscans: History and Society  
The Later Roman Empire AD 284-602



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