Get to know CLASSICS

We hold that the study of Classics leads to a wider appreciation of human values and achievements, and a more objective understanding of ourselves and our times.

Classics refers to the study of the Greek and Roman worlds. Multi-disciplinary in approach, it involves the studies of history, literature, archaeology, religion, mythology, drama and philosophy, in addition to the ancient languages of Greek and Latin. Today our understanding of Greek and Roman culture is further enhanced by the latest advances in technology that increasingly pervade studies in archaeology, epigraphy, papyrology, and ancient science and medicine. At Queen’s, students have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in the latest techniques by participating in archaeological excavations and projects overseas supervised by our own faculty. Students also learn through a variety of on-campus projects and assignments such as working with the Diniacopoulos collection of artifacts at Queen’s. The chance to share in the tradition of over 175 continuous years of instruction in Greek and Latin at Queen’s creates an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their love and knowledge of the ancient world in a small class setting, all supported by our knowledgeable and congenial faculty and staff.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

With courses like Doctor, Bloodletter, Surgeon: the Beginnings of Western Medicine, and Archaeology Fieldwork Practicum our students expand their thinking beyond the traditional. Our most popular courses include Intro to Greek and Roman Civilizations, Ancient Humour, Roman History, Myth and Religion, and Ancient Science — top those off with one of our ancient language courses such as Latin or Greek (both are foundations for medicine). And who wouldn’t want to finish their studies spending a summer on a dig in Italy or Macedonia and getting academic credit for it?

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENGHU. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)  
Major / Medial / Minor in Classical Studies / Specialization in Classics  
Internship option available

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.
1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

In first year take CLST 102, 103. For Plan requirements, see the Classics website. LATN 110* and GREK 112* are recommended for students pursuing a major or medial. Take CLST 129* if interested in archaeology.

At least one required first-year course is required for a Classics Major, Medial, and Specialization. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen's Archaeology Club and the Classics Department Student Council (DSC). Volunteer at the Queen’s Archives. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations. Attend Classics Department Faculty and Visiting Faculty Presentations and Workshops. Connect with Classics professors at social events. (Tea with Prof., etc.) hosted by the Classics DSC.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities. Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grapple with program decisions. Go to Majors Night or get some help thinking about career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR

In second year take CLST 200, 201, and take an additional 6.0 units at the 200-level. LATN 110* and GREK 112* are recommended for students pursuing a major or medial. CLST 290* is required for those interested in Archaeology.

Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in International Studies or explore other certificates available.

3RD YEAR

Try to complete core requirements A and B (see CLST Major Plan requirements) by the end of Year 3.

Review Option course requirements in the Academic Calendar to stay on track.

Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

In fourth year take 6.0 units at the 400-level. Review your Plan to make sure all course requirements are met.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, supporting and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Where could I go after graduation?

Administration
Anthropology
Archaeology
Archival work
Art conservation
Arts administration
Broadcasting
Civil service
Communications
Copyright law
Corrections
Cultural resource management
Diplomatic service
Editing
Education (including ESL)
Entertainment
Finance
Foreign service
History
Journalism
Labour / Industrial relations
Law
Library information sciences
Marketing
Ministerial work
Museum work
Public relations
Publishing
Religion and theology
Research
Theatre performance
Tourism
Translation

Some careers may require additional training.

Consider joining professional associations like the Classical Association of Canada (CAC) and the Canadian Museums Association (CMA). Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Classics. Participate in conferences such as the Inquiry at Queen’s Undergraduate Conference.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Consider volunteering at one of our archaeological digs.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
What can I learn studying CLASSICS?

- Knowledge of Greek and Roman civilizations, including their history, archaeology, science and literature
- Language skills to interpret and translate texts from Latin and Ancient Greek
- Knowledge of excavation methods and hands-on experience with archaeological digs
- Oral and written communication through a variety of writing assignments and seminar presentations
- Research skills to synthesize large amounts of information and identify relevant data
- Using primary and secondary sources to analyze and solve historical problems
- Critical thinking to address assumptions and critique historical arguments
- Logical reasoning to make judgments based on historical evidence
- How to work both independently and as part of a team
- How to manage both resources and time

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet’. Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily’. 