

Programme Specification

BA Philosophy and Classical Studies

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: QV85

UFPPXCL

UFPPXCLPE

UFPPXCLSY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Philosophy and Classical Studies with Placement Experience - 4 years (UCAS Code: QV58) BA Philosophy and Classical Studies with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Philosophy; Classics

Programme information and content

The Philosophy programme aims to provide you with a comprehensive degree-level education in Philosophy, to encourage you to confront your deepest beliefs and assumptions in a characteristically philosophical way, to enhance your global engagement and multi-cultural awareness, and to teach you the basic rudiments of philosophical argument. You will learn about different conceptions of social and civic responsibility, and current debates in philosophy, to develop a sense of the significance of philosophical thinking in dealing with modern problems, and to help you appreciate multiple perspectives and the values of diversity. You will cultivate your skills in oral and written argument and be encouraged to compare and contrast very different ways of doing philosophy. The programme of study is specifically designed to introduce you to progressive intellectual challenges and to consolidate your previous experience at each new level.

The Classical Studies programme aims to teach a broad and inclusive version of the ancient world, using and evaluating many diverse forms of evidence – archaeological, literary, philosophical, and historical. Our guiding principle is that the ancient world should be accessible to all, and everyone can benefit from and enjoy studying it. The capacities and interests that we foster will thus enable our graduates to act as engaged citizens of the multicultural modern world, open to new arguments and able to adjust their perspectives in line with the evidence. The skills gained in the course of our stimulating degree programme – including communication, presentation, research, and data management skills – are valued by a wide range of employers. You will also have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of ancient languages.

Part 1:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 1 introduces you to the core topics of philosophy and to the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning. There is a particular emphasis on developing oral and written skills through small group discussion. You will undertake research to produce coursework essays and to learn how to critically appraise what you discover.</p> <p>In Classical Studies, Part 1 introduces you to the study of Greek and Roman civilizations with a particular emphasis on the range of different texts and how we know about them, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific topics in ancient literature, history, and culture.</p>
Part 2:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 2 provides you with a deeper awareness of current philosophers, of the skills of argument and presentation, and of the epistemology and methodology of Philosophy. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means (speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, designing slides).</p> <p>In Classical Studies, Part 2 enables you to develop your knowledge of the ancient world by studying a wide range of literary forms and their reception, as well as a range of different periods from ancient history across a choice of modules, from Alexander the Great to Late Antiquity. A careers-focused module will encourage you to reflect on the transferable skills you are gaining through your degree and guide you towards the best ways to present these to prospective employers.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	<p>If you are enrolled on a four-year programme, you will undertake a professional placement or study abroad year between Parts 2 and 3.</p> <p>If you choose to study abroad, you will follow several courses at one of our partner institutions. You may take courses that deepen your understanding of subjects you have already studied or extend your knowledge into new areas that are relevant to your personal or career goals.</p> <p>If you choose a professional placement year, you will undertake an approved role related to your programme of study. A placement will provide you with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in your first two years of study, as well as develop your skills in a professional context.</p>
Part 3:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 3 gives you the opportunity to develop full mastery of the discipline of Philosophy across a broad range of different conceptions of what counts as ‘Philosophy’. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, personal effectiveness and self-awareness as well as</p>

	<p>the ability to reflect effectively on your progress and strengths and on the goals you wish to achieve.</p> <p>In Classical Studies, Part 3 gives you the opportunity to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional modules and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic in depth.</p>
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Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Philosophy and Classical Studies

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Critically read, comprehend, analyse and evaluate a range of philosophical and ancient literary texts.
2	Explain and evaluate various approaches to philosophy, and demonstrate awareness of the social, cultural and political contexts of philosophical thought across a range of different philosophical traditions.
3	Identify suitable sources of information in primary and secondary material.
4	Analyse and synthesise complex data sets and make connections between different types of evidence.
5	Apply philosophical principles to contemporary issues and real-world situations.
6	Construct and communicate complex, rational and persuasive philosophical arguments for a variety of purposes and audiences.
7	Demonstrate critical thinking and reasoning skills.
8	Organise their own ideas with clarity and precision and demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.
9	Demonstrate employability skills such as: time management; workload management; efficiency; use of technology; teamworking; receptivity to new ideas.
10	Demonstrate awareness of the social, cultural and political contexts of ancient literary production and its interpretation.
11	Reflect on their own work and development.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes

Study Abroad

By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.

Placement

By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CL1SO	Ancient Song	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4
PP1GW	Great Works in Philosophy	20	4
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of 20 credit optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Classics.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must choose one 20 credit employability module from a list provided by the Department of Classics.

Remaining credits will be made up of 20 credit optional modules available from the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Classics. Credits must be balanced across the two subjects.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students enrolled on a 4-year programme will take one 120 credit module in either Study Abroad or Professional Placement Year.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

In Part 3, students will take one of two pathways:

On the first pathway, students will take a 40-credit Dissertation module in either Philosophy or Classical Studies, or a 40-credit Independent Project in Classical Studies, with the remaining credits taken from optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Classics. Credits must be balanced across the two subjects.

On the second pathway, students will take either a 20-credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy, with the remaining credits taken from optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Classics. Credits must be balanced across the two subjects.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

In Philosophy, you will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work, including marked presentations.

In Classical Studies, you will be taught through a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2, with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation in Part 3 comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study. Throughout the programme, you should treat the feedback you get for oral and written work as an important learning resource, and you are strongly encouraged to discuss your feedback with staff.

Further information on the delivery of module content is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

In Philosophy, the programme will be assessed through a variety of means, including written coursework, class tests, and oral examinations.

In Classical Studies, the programme will be assessed through a wide range of suitable activities, from essays and exams (both written and oral) to presentations, creative responses, and reflective exercises. These activities will become more complex as you progress from Part 1 to Parts 2 and 3. You should expect one or two assessed assignments per 20 credits, except in language modules, where frequent assessments are essential to monitor progress.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:
(i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;

- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad/professional placement:

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Professional placement: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you may incur some additional costs.

In Philosophy, there are no textbooks which you must buy, and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Classics. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Philosophy and Classical Studies for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26
1 August 2024

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