

# Classics

Undergraduate programme  
and course information

SEPTEMBER 2017  
ENTRY

[www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology](http://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology)



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
School of History, Classics  
and Archaeology



*Welcome to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. I am delighted that you are thinking about coming to study with us. You have come through a tough selection process and you should be rightly proud of receiving an offer.*

Our School is a vibrant academic community. All three disciplines represented are concerned with the study of the human past: historians, classicists and archaeologists have much in common with each other. Together we form a diverse and international community and you will have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

The University was established in the sixteenth century and there are tangible benefits from having such a long history, especially when combined with our modern outlook. The School also derives much from its physical and cultural setting in Scotland's capital city. The close relationships that we have with the

libraries, museums and galleries are a unique aspect of the student experience. We hope that you will learn about many areas of the world and about themes that have global implications, whilst also learning about Scotland.

We encourage our students to be adventurous, try out new areas of study and take the chance to explore disciplines and languages that they have not studied before. The Scottish degree system allows breadth of study over four years and Edinburgh has a greater range of choice than most institutions – take advantage of that – your wider student life should be enriched by your experience.

The University has a very active careers service and there will be many career-related events in the School in which you can participate. Volunteering might be another way of adding to your experience. The Edinburgh University Students' Association provides information and opportunities in this area.

We are delighted that you are considering a degree programme in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. Our aim today is to give you the chance to sample what we offer and give a flavour of what it might be like to be a student with us. You will have the chance to meet staff and students and to see our facilities. I hope you have an enjoyable day, and decide to join us in September.

**Professor Ewen Cameron**, Head of School,  
Sir William Fraser Professor of Scottish History



## The University

Consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world, the University of Edinburgh has been making its mark on the world for more than 400 years.

We are ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the World's Most International Universities 2017 – students from two-thirds of the world's countries study here. We are 19<sup>th</sup> in the 2016/17 QS World University Rankings, 4<sup>th</sup> in the UK for research power and 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world for the employability of our graduates. By choosing to study with us you'll be investing in an education that offers the very best in teaching and research, and one that will help you build a successful future.

Our hands-on innovative approach will equip you with the skills, insights and perspectives to enhance your employability and career prospects. Our flexible programmes, world-class facilities and award winning support services combine to ensure an exceptional student experience.

Edinburgh is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> best student city in the UK, so you'll also be living in a vibrant, historic and inspiring capital city with world-class cultural festivals and the mountains and beaches of Scotland on your doorstep.

Times Higher Education: The World's Most International Universities 2017

QS World University Rankings 2016/17

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

Latest Emerging Global Employability University Ranking 2016

QS Best Student Cities 2016

# Studying Classics

With a distinguished tradition that stretches back more than four centuries, studying Classics at Edinburgh will introduce you to the history, cultures, languages and literatures of some of the most important civilisations in world history.



**Professor Gavin Kelly**, Head of Classics

## Wide range of subjects

We offer one of the widest choices of subjects in, and approaches to, Classics of any university in the UK. Whether you are interested in the archaeology of the Roman empire, the art of ancient Athens, the drama of Euripides, the epics of Homer and Virgil, or the history of Greece, Rome and Byzantium, you will be able to find a programme suited to your interests and ambitions.

## Studying in the Athens of the North

The city of Edinburgh has been a centre of classical study for hundreds of years. Known as the 'Athens of the North', Edinburgh's neoclassical architecture makes the city feel a particularly apt place to pursue your study of Classics.

Join us and study at one of Europe's leading centres for the study of Classics and the Ancient World.

## Teaching format

Classics courses are taught through lectures, seminars and tutorials.

Classics class sizes at sub-honours can be as high as 200 for some first year courses, which are popular with outside students. Greek and Latin, both for beginners and advanced, normally have 20–40 students in the class. Tutorial groups of about 12 supplement the lectures.

For honours, classes would normally be about 15–20 for Greek and Latin courses and around 25 for non-language courses.

## Assessment

In most courses, coursework is combined with a formal examination. Exams are held at the end of each semester in years one and two, and at the end of the year in years three and four.

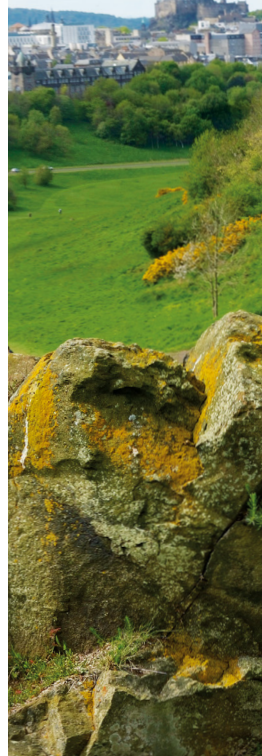
## Dissertation

In your final year you will write a dissertation on a topic of your choice; you work on this independently, with a certain amount of one-to-one supervision. For many students, the dissertation is the most personally fulfilling part of their programme.

## What is distinct about Classics at Edinburgh?

For the last few years, we have been the third largest department of Classics in the United Kingdom, and we are one of the Europe's leading centres for the subject. Our staff research and teach across the whole range of the discipline: Greek and Latin language, literature, and thought; Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology; Ancient History. We also extend the boundaries of Classics chronologically, with a speciality in the Greek and Latin-speaking cultures that succeeded the Roman empire in Byzantium and Medieval western Europe.

And we teach these subjects in serious ways: our Classical archaeologists run excavations in Italy, Turkey, and Georgia which many of our students participate in; Greek and Latin students can do honours courses in which they work first hand with manuscripts. The Scottish degree makes it easy for you to spend your third year abroad, and gives students the opportunity to produce remarkably mature work by the end of the fourth year. We are passionate about bringing you to a high level in whatever subject you specialise in. We are proud of our students who continue with their Classics studies to a still higher level; but we are equally proud of those of our alumni (the majority) who use the analytical skills they have developed to go on to high-flying careers elsewhere, in law, journalism, finance, teaching, the armed forces, publishing and many fields besides.



## A flexible four-year degree

As a Scottish university, Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge. In your first two years you can study subjects outside of your core discipline, before specialising in your third and fourth years.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- **Breadth of Study.** The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years.
- **Joint Degrees.** A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- **Third Year Abroad.** An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities gives you the chance to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.
- **Final-Year Dissertation.** A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- **MA (Hons).** On completion of the four-year honours degree you will be awarded an MA.
- **Academic Maturity.** The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of four years is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.



## Study abroad

The University of Edinburgh offers students the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, transform your academic perspective, and help you to get the very most from your undergraduate career.

Meeting people with different views and lifestyles gives you new insights and widens your frame of reference. Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject and this is your chance to see something of the world, and to find out who you are!

You can apply to study overseas during Year 3 of your degree programme. We have partnerships with a large number of prestigious universities across Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Asia from which you may choose.

*For further information on studying abroad visit:*

**[www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad)**



# Classics degree programmes

Our Classics degrees cover a wide range of disciplines letting you combine those that most interest you. The main disciplines we teach are **Greek, Latin, Ancient History, and Classical Art and Archaeology**; we also teach **Classical Literature in Translation**. We offer a range of Master of Arts (MA) degree programmes that let you focus on one or more disciplines.

## Greek and Latin

Our degree combining Greek and Latin languages and literature is simply called *MA Classics*. You can also take one of the languages alongside Ancient History or Classical Archaeology (see below), or focus on just one language, in *MA Greek Studies* or *MA Latin Studies*. You can also study Latin or Greek in *MA Classical Studies* and various joint degrees (see below).

## Ancient History

This is the study of the history of Greek and Roman politics, society, economy, and culture. It is possible to take a single honours *MA Ancient History*, as well as *MA Ancient History and Greek*, *Ancient History and Latin*, *Ancient History and Classical Archaeology*. Ancient history is also an important part of *MA Classical Studies*, and can be taken as part of many of our joint degrees (see below).

## Classical Art and Archaeology

The study of the material record of the Graeco-Roman world is an important part of our offerings. You can take Classical Archaeology alongside other classical subjects in Classics in the various degrees, *MA Ancient History and Classical Archaeology*, *Classical Archaeology and Latin*, *Classical Archaeology and Greek*. It can also be taken as part of *MA Classical Studies* and as a Classics option within many of our joint degrees (see below).

## Classical Literature in Translation

Courses in Classical Literature in translation can be taken as additional options in various degrees, and are a compulsory component in *MA Classical Studies*. This degree involves multidisciplinary study of Classics, including literature and history and, if you wish, Latin, Greek and Classical Archaeology. This is a good degree if you are not sure of your focus at the start: you can always change to a different Classics degree if your interests become more specialised.

## Joint programmes

Edinburgh offers a wide range of joint programmes combining studies of Classics with other subjects, some based in Classics, others in other departments. The Classics element is fixed in some (Greek in *MA Classics and English Language* and *MA Classics and Linguistics*, *MA Arabic and Ancient Greek* and *MA Philosophy and Greek*; Ancient History in *MA Ancient and Medieval History*, *MA Archaeology and Ancient History*; either Ancient History or Classical Archaeology in *MA Ancient Mediterranean Civilisations*, *MA Classical and Middle East Studies*). In others you can take any element of Classics, timetable permitting: usually Latin, Greek, or one or more of Ancient History, Classical Archaeology, and Classical Literature in translation: these degrees include: *MA History and Classics*, *English or Scottish Literature and Classics*, *Divinity and Classics*, and the following modern languages with Classics: *French*, *German*, *Italian*, *Russian Studies*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Spanish*.

## About your degree structure

For more and the most up-to-date information on each programme and our courses, visit [www.shca.ed.ac.uk/ug-classics](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/ug-classics)

# Courses available to study in Classics

We are one of the outstanding centres of classical learning in the United Kingdom. Our courses reflect the expertise of our staff and demonstrate the breadth and flexibility of our provision.

Our course offerings vary from year to year, especially at honours level, and will depend on the degree programme you study, but may include some of the following courses. On how they fit into the most common programmes, see the Typical Programme Structures in Classics information below.

## First year non-linguistic courses

### The Greek World 1A: Greece in the Making

The history and culture of the Greeks, their political, military and cultural institutions and interactions with neighbours such as Persia, in the period from the Bronze Age through to Archaic and early Classical eras (down to c.476 BC).

### The Greek World 1B: Greece's New Horizons

Trace the development of Greek culture in Athens and other Greek city states in the period from the Peloponnesian War, through the rise of Macedon and the reign of Alexander the Great, to the formation of the Hellenistic Kingdoms.

### The Roman World 1A: The Rise of Rome

Study the political and social history of Rome from the conquest of Italy down to

the fall of the republic and the rise of Augustus, together with the material culture, monuments, art, poetry, drama, and thought of the Romans during this period.

### The Roman World 1B: The Roman Empire

Study the political and social history of Rome from the death of Augustus to the late 3rd century AD, together with the material culture, monuments, art, literature and thought of the Romans during this period.

## First year Greek and Latin courses

### Greek 1A and 1B

The first course introduces absolute beginners to the morphology and syntax of Classical Greek and is intended for those with no experience in the language at all. In the second you will develop your knowledge of the morphology and syntax of Classical Greek and your skill in reading original Greek texts (e.g. Lysias, Euripides).

### Greek 1C and 1D

You will advance your knowledge of the Classical Greek language and develop the ability to read independently with linguistic and literary understanding. Typical authors include Homer, Xenophon, Euripides and Plato.

**Latin 1A and Latin 1B**

The first course introduces absolute beginners to the morphology and syntax of Classical Latin and is intended for those with no experience in the language at all. The second will develop your knowledge of the morphology and syntax of classical Latin and your skill in reading original Latin texts (e.g. Ovid).

**Latin 1C and 1D**

You will consolidate your knowledge of the morphology and syntax of Classical Latin, improve your skills in reading original Latin texts and develop your understanding of the interpretation of Latin authors. Typical authors include Catullus, Cicero and Vergil.

**Second year non-linguistic courses****Ancient History 2A: Past and Present in the Ancient World**

The course provides an introduction to ancient historiography. You will analyse ancient historians and histories, especially the key figures and texts in the development of the genre, including Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius, Livy, Cassius Dio, Tacitus, and Ammianus Marcellinus.

**Ancient History 2B: Themes and Theories in Ancient History**

This course focuses on how crucial facets of ancient life can be studied today and how they have been approached in the past. It is a problem-based course, designed to introduce you to key models and theories used in studying ancient history.

**Greek Art and Archaeology**

This course surveys the art and archaeology of ancient Greece from the Bronze Age (c.3000–1100 B.C.) to the early Roman imperial period (1st century AD), considering the physical remains of ancient Greek life and society, including

religion, domestic life, civic spaces, burial practices, social practices, the military, and interactions with other cultures.

**Roman Art and Archaeology**

This course focuses on the material culture of the Roman world from the early history of Rome through to the early Christian period (c.8th century BC–4th century AD) examining different strands of the art and archaeology of this period, exploring what these reveal about contemporary society and culture, urban and rural life, religious practices, death and burial, visual display, domestic life, the negotiation of status and power, warfare, and interactions between groups within and beyond the Roman empire.

**Classical Literature 2: Greek and Roman Epic**

Classical Literature 2 is an introduction to ancient epic, at present Homer, Apollonius of Rhodes, and Vergil. The works are studied in translation.

**Second year Greek & Latin courses****Greek 2A or 2A Ex-beginners/2B**

Advance your knowledge of the Classical Greek language and develop the ability to read independently in Classical Greek with linguistic and literary understanding. Typical authors include Homer, Thucydides, Sophocles and Demosthenes. 2A Ex-beginners offers those who took beginners' courses in first year a graduated step up to advanced level.

**Latin 2A or 2A Ex-beginners/2B**

Advance your knowledge of Latin language and literature, and develop your ability to read independently in Latin literature with a linguistic and literary understanding of the original texts. Typical authors include Tacitus, Prudentius, Horace and Petronius. 2A Ex-beginners offers those who took beginners' courses in first year a graduated step up to advanced level.

**Third and fourth year courses**

You will choose option courses in your third and fourth (honours) years from a wide selection available across the subject area. Depending on your degree programme, courses may be compulsory or available as optional courses. Our courses vary from year to year but here are those that have been or look likely to be taught in 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.

**Ancient History**

- Approaching Alexander
- After Alexander
- Animals in Antiquity
- The Bishop and City of Rome in Late Antiquity
- Constantinople: the History of a Medieval Megalopolis
- Custodians of Empire: The Praetorian Guard
- The Emperor in the Late Roman World
- The Emperor Nero
- Empresses and Others: Women of Imperial Rome
- The Greek World and Rome
- Persuasion in the Ancient Greek World
- Polybios
- Roman Slavery
- The Severans
- Sparta and Crete: Classical Greek Society beyond Athens
- Violence and Disorder in Roman Society, 133 BC–31 BC

**Classical Art and Archaeology**

(includes some courses from Archaeology Dept\*)

- Ancient Superpowers
- The Athenian Akropolis
- Byzantine Archaeology\*
- Early and Archaic Greek Art and Archaeology
- Etruscan Archaeology\*
- The Hittites\*
- Mediterranean Maritime Archaeology
- Palmyra
- Roman Architecture
- Roman Provinces

*Constantinople, above, can also be taken as a Classical Archaeology course*

**Classical Literature in Translation**

- Ancient Didactic Poetry
- Ancient Literature from a Comparative Perspective
- Monsters, Murder and Mayhem: Biography in the Ancient World
- Roman Satire
- Socrates and Plato: Five Dialogues
- Tragedy
- Troy after the Fall
- Topics in Byzantine Literary History

*Various Ancient History courses may also be taken as Classical Literature in Translation*

**Greek**

- Greek Language A or Greek Language B (compulsory)
- Early Greek Philosophy
- Greek Epic
- Greek Literature of the Roman Empire
- Greek Tragedy
- Hellenistic Poetry
- Socrates and Plato

**Latin**

- Latin Language A or Latin Language B (compulsory)
- Amor and Roma: Latin Love Elegy
- The Catilinarian Conspiracy
- Cicero the Advocate
- Medieval Latin: *Artes Liberales* from 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Centuries
- Later Latin Poetry: Vergil and his Late Antique Readers
- Latin Epic
- Latin Satire
- The Latin Manuscript: Palaeography, Codicology, Transmission

*Other courses taught outside the School may also be available.*

**Typical Programme Structures in Classics**

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>MA in Classics</b>			
Latin 1A and 1B or Latin 1C and 1D Greek 1A and 1B or Greek 1C or 1D Two outside courses	Latin 2A (or 2A Ex-beginners) and 2B Greek 2A (or 2A Ex-beginners) and 2B Two outside courses	Latin Language A Greek Language A Two specialist text courses in each language*	Classics dissertation (double weighted) Two specialist text courses in each language
<b>MA in Classical Studies</b>			
Either four Greek and Roman World courses or two World and two Latin/Greek courses Two outside courses	Ancient History 2A Classical Literature 2 Two further second year Classics courses Two outside courses	Six courses following on from those taken in subhonours (three courses in Honours years must be Classical Literature)	Classics dissertation (double weighted) Four courses following from those taken in subhonours
<b>MA in Ancient History</b>			
Greek World 1A Greek World 1B Roman World 1A Roman World 1B Two outside courses	Ancient History 2A Ancient History 2B Two courses following on from first year Two outside courses	Six courses in Ancient History*	Classics dissertation (double weighted) Four courses in Ancient History
<b>MA in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology</b>			
Greek World 1A Greek World 1B Roman World 1A Roman World 1B Two outside courses	Ancient History 2A Ancient History 2B Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology Two outside courses	Two courses in each of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History Two free choice from either group*	Classics dissertation (double weighted) Two courses in each of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
<b>MA in Ancient History and Latin</b> (scheme applies, with variations, to MA Ancient History and Greek; Classical Archaeology and Latin/Greek; Ancient and Medieval History)			
Latin 1A and 1B or 1C and 1D Two of the four World courses Two outside courses	Latin 2A (or 2A Ex-beginners) and 2B Ancient History 2A Ancient History 2b Two outside courses	Two courses in each of Ancient History and Latin (i/c Latin Language) Two free choice from either	Classics dissertation (double weighted) Two courses in each of Ancient History and Latin
<b>Exemplary Joint Degree: English Literature and Classics</b> (applies, with variations, to joint degrees with History, Divinity, and (modified for 3rd year abroad) modern languages.			
English Literature 1 Latin 1A/1B or 1C/1D or Greek 1A/1B or 1C/D or two World courses Two outside courses	English Literature 2 Any two Classics second year courses following from first year choices Two outside courses	Two English courses or equivalent Two Classics courses following on from subhonours Two free choice	English / Classics dissertation (double-weighted) Two English courses or equivalent Two classics courses or equivalent

\*In third year at least one course in your specialised subjects can often be replaced by another Classics course (e.g. Classical Literature instead of Greek).

# The School of History, Classics and Archaeology

**About our building**

We are located in the west wing of the Old Medical School quadrangle on Teviot Place, known as the William Robertson Wing.

Our building was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson, a noted Scottish architect, and was completed in 1886. Constructed in the Northern Italian Renaissance style, incorporating details like palazzooed frontages and a corbelled stair turret, Rowand Anderson believed the building would inspire students and staff to "inquire into the nature of all things".

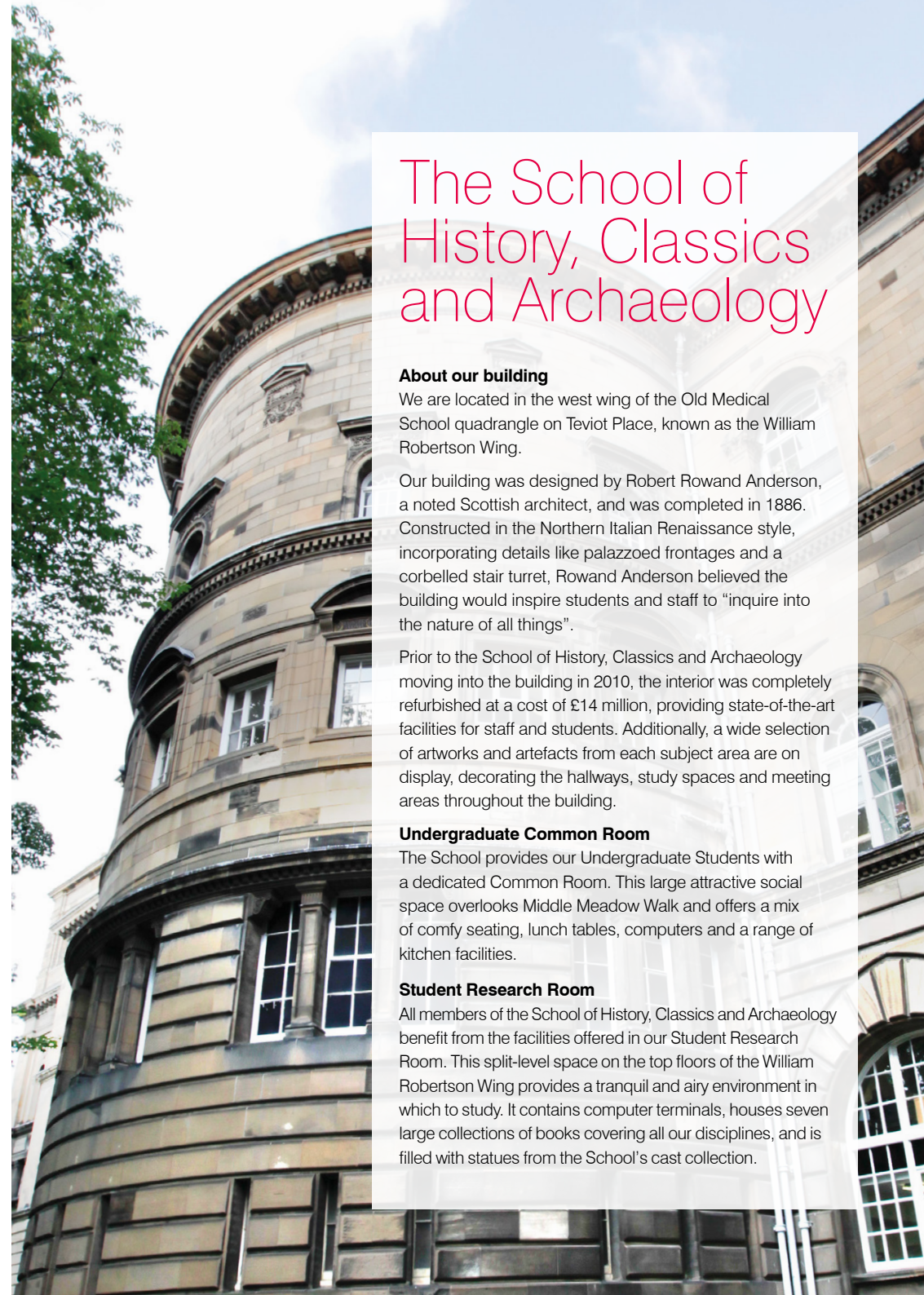
Prior to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology moving into the building in 2010, the interior was completely refurbished at a cost of £14 million, providing state-of-the-art facilities for staff and students. Additionally, a wide selection of artworks and artefacts from each subject area are on display, decorating the hallways, study spaces and meeting areas throughout the building.

**Undergraduate Common Room**

The School provides our Undergraduate Students with a dedicated Common Room. This large attractive social space overlooks Middle Meadow Walk and offers a mix of comfy seating, lunch tables, computers and a range of kitchen facilities.

**Student Research Room**

All members of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology benefit from the facilities offered in our Student Research Room. This split-level space on the top floors of the William Robertson Wing provides a tranquil and airy environment in which to study. It contains computer terminals, houses seven large collections of books covering all our disciplines, and is filled with statues from the School's cast collection.



## Some of the School's key rooms and facilities

### Jim McMillan Room – room 1.31

A common room for staff and postgraduate students named in honour of the first Head of School. The room also houses a kitchen with vending machines.

### Rosalind Mitchison Room – room 2.30

A common room for undergraduate students named in honour of the former Professor of Social History, Rosalind Mitchison. This social space offers comfy sofas, lunch tables, a snack machine, a tea preparation area with fridges and kettles, laptop tables and lockers.

### Postgraduate Study Room – room 2.35

A study space with flexible hot-desks and specialist software/hardware. It has colour printing and copying facilities.

### Teaching Computer Lab – room 2.36

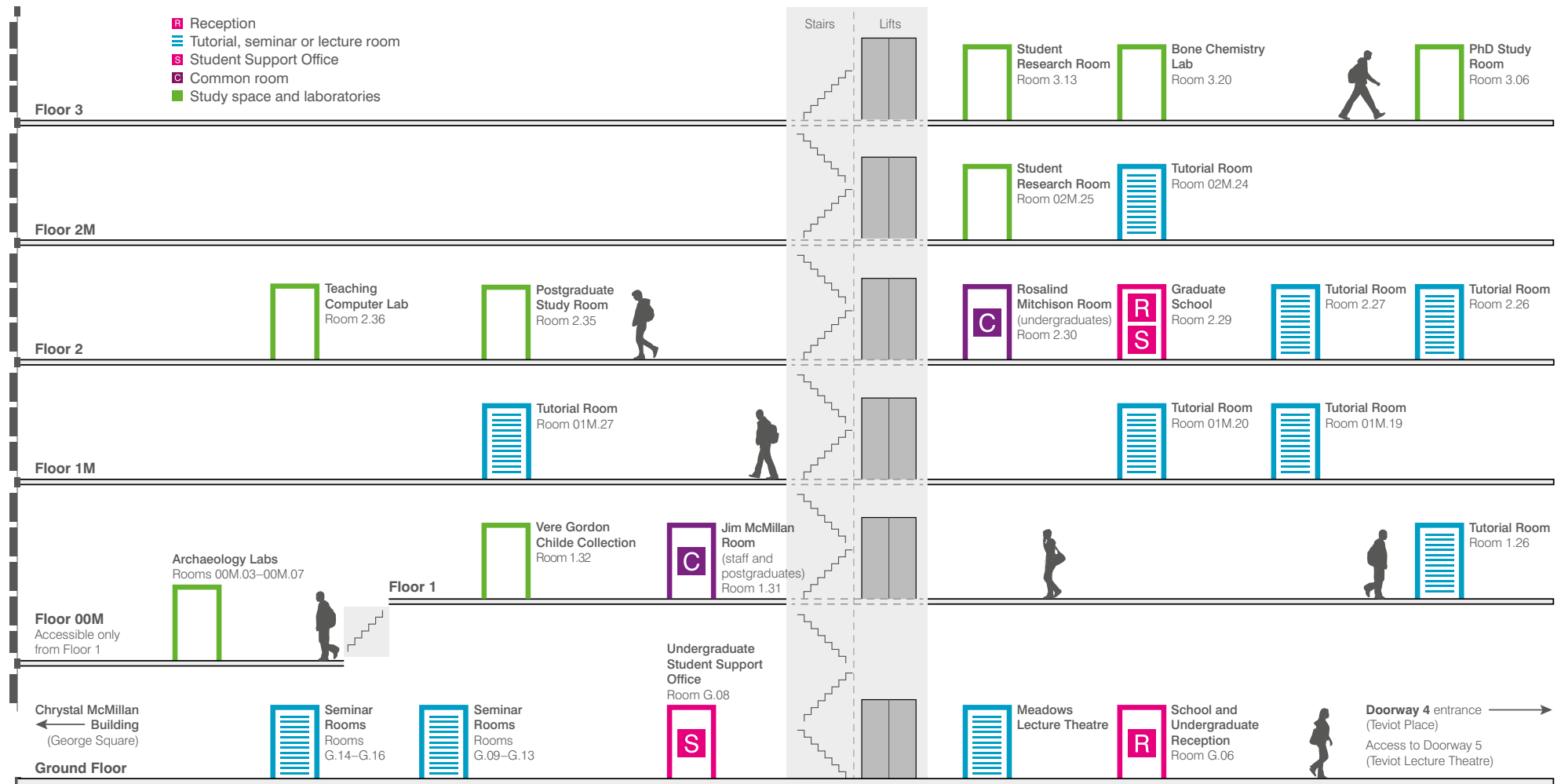
A dedicated teaching room for computer-based classes.

### Student Research Room – room 02M.25

This large airy room is used for study and houses seven book collections and computing/printing facilities.

### PhD Study Room – room 3.06

A large study room with both hot-desks and allocated desks for PhD students.



This is a schematic diagram, designed to show the approximate location of the most commonly used rooms. Rooms which appear next to each other here may be on opposite sides of the same corridor.



Drawn to  
**EDINBURGH**  
by our world-class city

You are in good company. Our 23,000-strong undergraduate community call Edinburgh home. Learn more at [www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

**Join us**

For further information about studying classics at Edinburgh, email: **HCA-prospective-UG@ed.ac.uk**

For further information about your application, email: **CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk**  
Tel: **+44 (0)131 650 3565**

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this handbook before going to print. However please check online for the most up-to-date information:  
**[www.ed.ac.uk/hca/classics](http://www.ed.ac.uk/hca/classics)**



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