

MASTER'S: HISTORY, CIVILISATIONS AND HERITAGE - CLASSICAL LITERATURES

Presentation

The Master's in History, Civilisations and Heritage includes theory-based, methodology-based and applied course units, whilst an important role is also given to research activity.

This Master's programme comprises three subject pathways (**'Classical Literatures'**, **'Medieval Studies'** and **'Ancient History'**), which are geared towards professions in research, heritage and teaching. The subject pathways draw chiefly on the scientific output of university lecturer-researchers and of the researchers affiliated with the Université Bordeaux Montaigne joint research unit, Ausonius. This multidisciplinary research team, which is recognised internationally, brings together specialists in Hellenistic and Roman texts (literary specialists and philologists) with historians and archaeologists of Ancient and Medieval history. The specialised course units taught within the three subject pathways provide an in-depth study of the sciences from Classical Antiquity and the Middle Ages, their specific interrogations and their unique methodologies. Moreover, students become familiar with research activity in these fields: they attend seminars and scientific events held by the Université Bordeaux Montaigne joint research unit, **Ausonius**.

Students are sometimes also involved in the organisation of these events. Ultimately, one of this programme's priorities is to encourage openness between these close and complementary disciplines and so some of the seminar units are merged with other programmes. It is this multidisciplinary approach that makes this Master's programme – which is the only one of its kind in France – so original.

Objectives

The Master's in Classical Literatures is one of the three possible subject pathways that can be chosen within the Master's in History, Civilisations and Heritage.

The programme aims to shape future **specialists in Classical languages and cultures**. In both the first and second year of this two-year programme, students study in greater depth the generalised learning they acquired during their undergraduate *Licence* degree in Classical Literatures. This is via pathway-specific seminar units, in which they will learn about key current research trends, the methods used and the interrogations underway. Among these seminar units is a textual sources workshop entitled From the Text to its Interpretation, which aims

In a nutshell...

Duration:
year(s)

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Education level:

to document and shed light on the history of **classical texts from Antiquity to the Renaissance** via a range of approaches. These look at contexts and methods of production, channels of transmission and propagation and questions of interpretation and reception.

Students of Classical Literatures also have the option of complementing their studies with an advanced and demanding introduction to the other sciences from Classical Antiquity. This is thanks to 'taster' seminars units. These are seminar units selected from the other two pathways within this Master's programme, or from the Master's programme in Archaeology and Sciences for Archaeological Purposes. This is in keeping with the spirit of Classical Studies as practised elsewhere in Europe and North America. The link with French literature remains central as students have the opportunity to follow (if they wish) a seminar unit in French literature, which is merged with the Master's programme Research into Literary Studies within the Department of Literature and Humanities.

The 'Classical Literatures' subject pathway also includes classes in Greek and Latin language, which are specifically dedicated to Classical Literatures and which are merged with the Master's for Future Teachers (Master MEEF).

Students must produce a 'pre-dissertation' in the first year and a full dissertation in the second year. These projects represent a key learning process with regard to research skills. In addition, students may attend colloquiums, study days and seminars run by the Université Bordeaux Montaigne joint research unit, Ausonius. In some cases, students may also be invited to participate in the organisation of these events.

Joint degree establishments and partnerships

Training content

Two years of study: Master 1 (M1) and Master 2 (M2)

In Master 1, students on the 'Classical Literatures' pathway follow the organisation of the Master's in 'History, Civilisations and Heritage' as a whole. There is a unit block entitled Course Choices M2 with four course units per semester. For the chosen discipline, this brings together the theoretical learning assimilated in the research seminar units with the technical and methodological training acquired through workshops. 'Taster' seminar units allow students to gain training in neighbouring and complementary disciplines from the other two subject pathways within this Master's programme or from other Master's programmes (Master's in Archaeology and Sciences for Archaeological Purposes, or Research into Literary Studies).

This interdisciplinary and methodology-based training is consolidated in four further unit blocks. There is a block entitled **Cross-disciplinary Skills** (units include Documentation,

with the backing of the Robert-Étienne library at the Maison de l'Archéologie; Modern Languages; 'taster' seminar units) and another entitled **Common Core Curriculum** (units include Methodology: Introduction to Scientific Writing; Classical Languages: Latin and Greek).

The production of a 'pre-dissertation' in the first year, and then of a full dissertation in the second year, enables students to develop their skills in research and scientific writing. In the second year, course units are thus concentrated in the first semester. The second semester is reserved entirely for the completion of the research-based dissertation.

Master 1: First year of two-year Master's programme

Other than the unit blocks entitled Cross-disciplinary Skills and Common Core Curriculum, which are the same for all three of the subject pathways, the programme of study in Classical Literatures is organised around a unit block entitled Course choices M2.

For each semester, this is composed of four course units.

- * The first and second course units are pathway-specific seminar units (one on Latin literature and civilisation, the other on Greek literature and civilisation). In both semesters, these revolve around four essential themes: literary aspects of documentary corpora, documentary aspects of literary texts, fundamental notions in Greek and Roman thought and questions of publishing and transmission.
- * The third course unit is a workshop on textual sources, entitled 'From the Text to its Interpretation'.
- * Finally, the fourth course unit is a 'taster' session that opens out onto associated disciplines, both those within the other pathways of this programme and those within other Master's programmes (Master's in Archaeology, French Literature).

The pre-dissertation in Master 1, which is evaluated at the end of Semester 2 as part of the Methodology and Common Core Curriculum units, explores a subject chosen by students in conjunction with their research supervisors. Students carry out an initial assessment of the sources, bibliography, research question and study axes. This 'pre-dissertation' enables students to lay the foundations for their full dissertation in Master 2.

Master 2: Second year of two-year Master's programme

The second year sets aside more time for personal work and first-hand study of documentation.

This is formally evaluated via the completion of a research-based dissertation. The majority of these two semesters is thus spent on this dissertation. In addition, in the first semester of Master 2 and as part of the pathway-specific unit block, students follow two research seminar units (Greek literature and civilisation, Latin literature and civilisation). These revolve around the interrogation of a genre or theme and can also be seen as preparation for competitive university competitions for the recruitment of teachers ('Agrégation'), which is open to students in the following year.

Admissions

Find information regarding enrolment procedures and the supporting documents to be provided, according to your profile and your level of studies :

- * Independent Stay
- * Exchange Programme

Identifier ROME

Career pathways

By definition, professions related to higher education and research within universities and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) constitute key employment opportunities for students of all three pathways within this Master's.

But the programme of study also leaves students the option of moving into other professions, particularly those related to heritage and culture. Students wishing to continue along their chosen subject pathway may enrol as doctoral candidates. This is provided that their marks throughout the Master's programme are of a satisfactory standard (particularly for the dissertation element). They can also enrol for a programme of preparatory study for the competitive university examination for the recruitment of Classical Literatures and Grammar teachers ('Agrégation').