

# DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

## APPENDIX TO THE MPhil/PHD DEGREE STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024/25

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the [core MPhil/PhD student handbook](#)

The Department of Classics sits within the School of Humanities, which covers the following disciplines: Classics, English, History and Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

### Welcome to your department

The Department of Classics is a friendly, research-intensive environment. We pride ourselves on our research community of which our post-graduate students are an integral part. We offer a vast range of expertise within the discipline of Classics, including philology, literature, philosophy, rhetoric, archaeology, history and reception studies. We have two specific research centres, the Centre for Oratory and Rhetoric (COR) and the Centre for the Reception of Greece and Rome (CRGR), but our academic staff are engaged across multiple fields of study.

The Department of Classics is located on the first floor of the [International Building](#).

---

### Key contacts

| Role                             | Name                       | Email  | Phone           | Room             |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Executive Dean                   | Professor Giuliana Pieri   | <a href="mailto:G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk">G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk</a>                       | 01784<br>443234 | INTER124         |
| Head of Department               | Dr Christos Kremmydas      | <a href="mailto:christos.kremmydas@rhul.ac.uk">christos.kremmydas@rhul.ac.uk</a> | 01784<br>443385 | INTER156         |
| School Director of PGR Education | Professor Andrew Jotischky | <a href="mailto:Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk">Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk</a>     | 01784<br>443305 | INTER 01A        |
| Department PGR Lead              | Professor Richard Alston   | <a href="mailto:r.alston@rhul.ac.uk">r.alston@rhul.ac.uk</a>                     | 01784<br>414982 | INTER<br>149b/03 |
| School helpdesk*                 |                            | <a href="mailto:Humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk">Humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk</a>   | 01784<br>276882 | INTER 149        |

\* For the majority of your non-academic related issues, please contact the [Doctoral School](#). However, for queries about teaching contracts, expenses and study space within the school, please contact the School of Humanities helpdesk.

---

## Staff

[List of staff in the Department of Classics.](#)

---

## Research areas

[Staff research interests within the Department of Classics.](#)

---

## Student committees

The School of Humanities PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting meets once a term and contributes to the organisation of the annual PG Colloquium. Please get in touch with the School Director of PGR Education if you would like to join. If you would like to raise an issue to be discussed there, please contact the [Doctoral School](#).

---

## Research Skills Training and Research Expenses

The School of Humanities runs a research skills training programme aimed at equipping PGRs across the School with the skills they need to successfully complete their studies. Students in their first year are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. See the [School of Humanities PGR Information Moodle page](#).

PhD students are eligible to apply to a contribution towards research expenses (such as conference fees, travel for archival visits etc.) each year. Further details and the form template are available on the [Moodle page](#). The completed form should be submitted to: [Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk).

---

## Annual reviews and upgrade

Although you will meet with your supervisor regularly during the academic year, your academic progress is formally reviewed at least once every twelve months, regardless of whether you are studying full or part time.

- [Core annual review details](#)
- [Annual reviews in the Department of Classics](#)

All MPhil / PhD students start their programme on the MPhil and have to pass their upgrade review meeting in order to be eligible to submit for the PhD.

- [Core upgrade details](#)
  - [Upgrades in the Department of Classics](#)
-

## **Preparation for your viva**

Viva preparation is something that starts the moment you begin your research. The annual review, the papers that you will deliver at the postgraduate research forum, and the upgrade are all ways of improving your presentation and defence of your work. You should also attend relevant training sessions offered by the Researcher Development Programme and by the School of Humanities. Please get in touch with your supervisor or the Director of PGR Education if you would like to have a mock viva.