



# CAREERS FOR CLASSICS GRADUATES

## CLASSICS AT UCC

Classics is the study of the cultural history of the ancient Greek and Roman civilisations between the 8th century BC and the 7th century AD, that is, of the cultural history of most of Western Europe, North Africa, and the Near East during this period. It encompasses the study of all aspects of civilisation including archaeology, art, history, literature, and philosophy as well as the ancient Greek and Latin languages. The study of Classics remained a key part of the education system throughout the western world until the mid-20th century, with consequent influence on art and literature throughout this period.



**UCC**  
University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Department of  
**Classics**

# WHAT CAN CLASSICS GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

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Classics is an excellent qualification for careers involving a knowledge of the ancient heritage of Western Europe, North Africa, and the Near East. This includes careers in teaching and in the heritage industry, whether working as tourist guides, in museums, or in the art trade. It fosters the following attributes and skills:

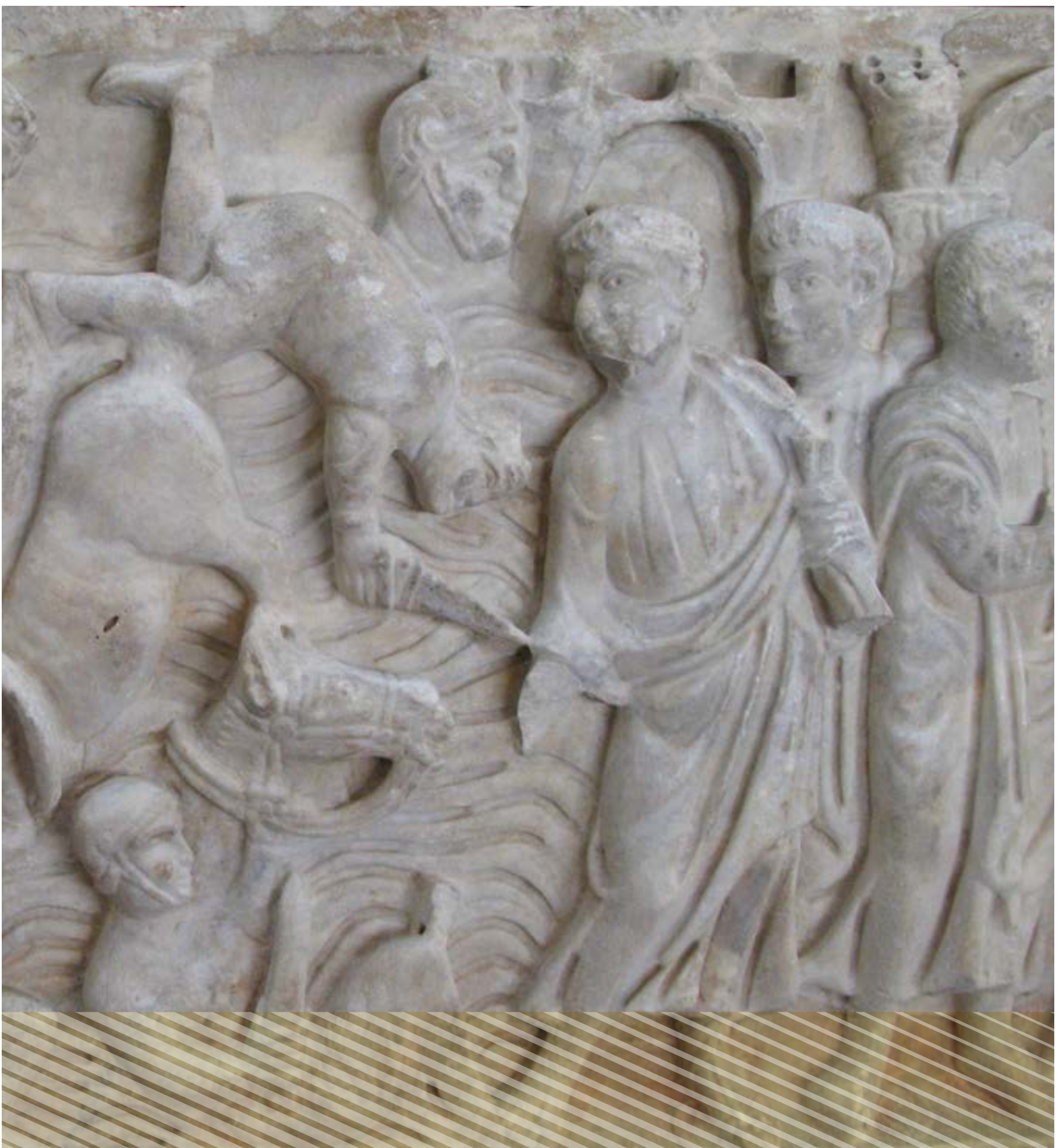
- A deep understanding of the traditions that have shaped Western European identity.
- A critical awareness of the possibility and nature of social change over the long term.
- The ability to argue critically on the basis of multiple forms of complex evidence.
- The ability to conduct serious textual analysis.



- Knowledge complementing qualifications in areas such as Art History, Archaeology, Celtic Studies, History, Modern Literature, and Religious Studies.

- A knowledge of Latin assisting comprehension of the various languages derived therefrom.

- A knowledge of classical Greek assisting the comprehension of modern Greek.

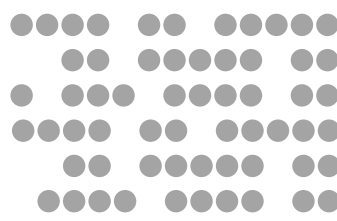
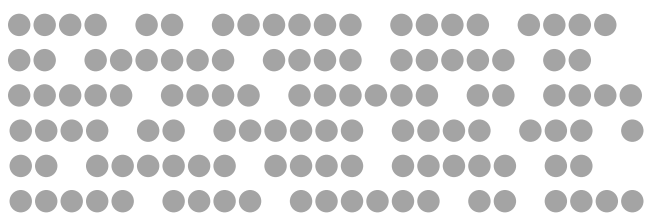


# GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR CLASSICS

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Each year, UCC Career Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on an annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. UCC students study Greek & Roman Civilisation, Greek, and Latin as subjects within the Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme. Over the last 4 years 90%+ of Bachelor of Arts graduates have progressed to employment or further study.

You can see the 5-year trend for all BA graduates by clicking on the UCC Careers box below.



## GRADUATE STUDIES

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Students often pursue graduate studies in order to deepen their knowledge of particular areas of Classics. This department offers a Post-Graduate Diploma in Ancient and Medieval Languages for those wishing to boost their knowledge of Greek and Latin before pursuing advanced study here or elsewhere. It also offers an MA in Roman Studies specializing in the study of the history and culture of the Roman Imperial and Late Antique periods. Suitably qualified students may also choose to pursue a PhD under the close supervision of a member of the department.

# AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CLASSICS GRADUATES

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A degree in Classics is not regarded as a vocational degree in that it does not usually prepare one for a specific career. Most graduates pursue careers that rely on the skills that they have acquired while studying Classics rather than their actual knowledge of Classics. Many take conversion courses, often of a year's duration, after their initial degree in order to pursue further training or careers in areas such as technical writing, accountancy, or law. Other pursue careers in retail management or in some branch of the public service

Teaching at secondary level, particularly in the Latin language.

01

An academic career pursuing teaching and research at university level. Most large universities still retain a department of Classics.

02



Careers in the art-trade, particularly with those auction-houses and other firms dealing in antiquities such as ancient coins.

03

Publishing. Some graduates pursue careers in writing, whether factual works or, more usually, in areas of historical fiction.

04

Technical writing. The language skills acquired through the study of Greek or Latin assist those who take conversion courses in order to pursue careers in technical writing within the computer industry.

05

Accountancy. Many of the larger accountancy firms hire some trainees based on the quality of the degree rather than the nature of its subject.

06

Religious life or priesthood. A knowledge of Greek is a great advantage in the study of Christian sacred scripture, as is a general knowledge of the Roman world.

07



## Graduate Profile 1

### **SHANE FORDE**

I graduated from UCC with a BA degree in English and Latin, followed by a MA in Medieval and Renaissance English. I am currently completing a MEd (part-time) at Cambridge University. I

now teach Latin, Classical Greek, Biblical Hebrew and Classical Civilisation at Loughborough High School, an independent girls' secondary school in the UK. Much of my job involves teaching teenagers how to read and appreciate classical literature both in its original languages and in translation. My time at UCC gave me the literary and philological training I needed to pursue a career where I can continue to deepen my own knowledge of the classics.



## Graduate Profile 2

### **RONAN O'MAHONY**

I graduated from UCC in 2010 with a BA degree in Latin and Irish followed by a MA degree in 2011 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education in 2012. Since 2012, I have been

working full time in a secondary school in Cork teaching Latin up to Leaving Certificate level. Given the ever-changing face of modern education, teaching can be as challenging as it is rewarding, but studying Latin in the UCC Department of Classics has provided me with the knowledge and skills needed to teach this all-encompassing and hugely beneficial subject to a new generation of classicists.



## Graduate Profile 3

### **PADRAIC MORAN**

I studied Classics as an undergraduate at UCC and was fascinated by the variety of topics and approaches. Through my studies, I developed my research and writing skills very significantly. By studying Latin, I sharpened my command of English grammar and vocabulary. After graduating, I put all of these skills to good use in a varied career, working in media research, reference publishing, web development and project management. Eventually I returned to postgraduate study and continued on an academic path. I am currently a lecturer and head of Classics at NUI Galway.





**WHERE CAN I  
FIND OUT MORE?**

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**UCC DEPARTMENT  
OF CLASSICS**



**CLASSICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF IRELAND**



**CLASSICAL  
ASSOCIATION TEACHING  
BOARD (UK)**



# 12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR CLASSICS DEGREE TO WORK

01

Gain practical experience through summer or part-time employment in the cultural heritage industry (such as at excavations, museums, historical sites).

02

Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering – find out more by attending the annual UCC volunteering fair.

03

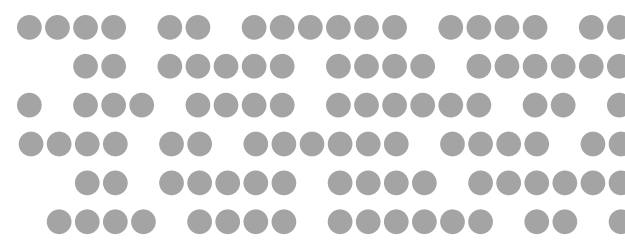
Gain relevant skills and experience through the “UCC Works” award.

**MORE  
INFO** →

04

Gain relevant skills and experience by taking an active role in a club/society that interests you, or the Student’s Union.





**05**

Create an up-to-date CV and professional social media profile and presence.

**06**

Avail of university-wide modules and skills training that will equip you with professional skills, such as business-planning, IT, languages or presentation skills.

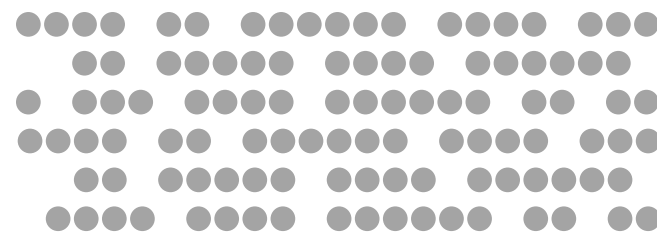
**07**

Join relevant professional and industry networks in Ireland and abroad (e.g. the Classical Association of Ireland).

**08**

Avail of professional, confidential and impartial careers advice at UCC Career Services by booking a consultation online.





**09**

Attend employer events on campus and use them to build relationships with potential employers.

**10**

Develop your degree with a masters course in Classics for further career training.

**11**

Do the UCC Summer School in Greek or Latin.



**12**

Do a postgraduate conversion course in some area such as accountancy or law.



# DID YOU KNOW?

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Several famous politicians began their careers with the study of **Classics**, including Boris Johnson.



# CONTACT US



**UCC Career Services,  
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Western Road, UCC**



**021 4902500  
021 4903202**



**Email Careers**



**Email Graduate  
Recruitment**



**Book an  
appointment  
to meet a  
careers advisor**



**Work  
Placement**





## **UCC Works Award Programme**



**Connect with  
your job**

## **UCC Careers**



## **MyStudentJob**



## **Employability Events**

**Careers Fairs, Roadshows,  
Employer Presentations**



## **Volunteering Opportunities**

