

**Graduate Student Handbook
Department of Classics
Columbia University**

2023-24



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I. PRACTICALITIES

1. Welcome!

Welcome to the Graduate Handbook for the Department of Classics. We have done our best to design this handbook with an eye to areas in which graduate students have signaled that they need more information. This is a living document and will be updated every year; we look forward to feedback.

Note: The information presented here reflects the status of August 2023. For up-to-date information on the latest status of Departmental and GSAS policies, see the relevant websites.

2. Faculty Officers

John Ma,
Chair
jtm2179@columbia.edu

Katharina Volk,
Director of Graduate Studies (Fall)
kv2018@columbia.edu

Gareth Williams
Director of Graduate Studies (Spring) + Summer Session Representative
gdw5@columbia.edu

Elizabeth Scharffenberger,
Graduate Instruction Coordinator
es136@columbia.edu

For profiles of all faculty in the Department, see <http://classics.columbia.edu/profiles>.

3. Staff

Colleen Swift
Director of Academic Administration and Finance
cks2141@columbia.edu
212-854-2726

Areas of responsibility: General administrative and financial planning/management including: Departmental hiring, course scheduling/administration, admissions, communications (website and email), technology, space management (seminar room reservations), event planning (budgeting, space), etc.

Shante Tucker
Administrative Assistant
st3516@columbia.edu
212-854-3902

Areas of responsibility: General administrative and financial coordination including: reimbursements, purchasing (desk copies, supplies, catering), space management (seminar room reservations), event planning (purchasing, logistics), communications (website and email), etc.

4. Office Hours

The Department of Classics' normal operating hours are 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday. For faculty office hours, see <http://classics.columbia.edu/profiles>.

Ph.D. students: The Department will issue you keys to the 617 suite; 618, the seminar room; and 606, the graduate student office. If you enter the office outside of normal operating hours, please take care to lock the door upon your exit.

5. IDs

Information about obtaining an ID can be found here: <https://ssc.columbia.edu/obtain-id-card>

Students may pick up validation stickers from the Student Service Center (210 Kent) or the ID center (210 Kent) for the valid semester.

The Passport to Museums program grants free access to participating museums to Columbia students who present a University ID card with a valid term enrollment sticker. See <https://artsinitiative.columbia.edu/museums/>

Your ID card must be activated with the appropriate access via Public Safety to gain entry into Hamilton on weekends and evenings. Please speak to a Department staff member for details.

6. Departmental Library

The Departmental Howard Porter Library is located at 601 Hamilton.

Library access is as follows:

- 24/7 access for all staff, faculty, graduate students (Classics and Classical Studies), and postbacs (please see office staff to activate swipe access with your ID card)
- Monday to Friday, 9-5 access for all undergraduate majors.

As general reminders:

- The Library is not a circulating collection. Please re-shelve what you use.
- Eating is not allowed in the library. Please keep liquids in covered containers.
- Please be courteous to fellow users of the library: keep noise to a minimum, and remove your belongings when you are not actively using the space. Please do not monopolize space.
- *No guests allowed* unless approved by the Department.

Suggestions for purchases for the library should be directed to the Chair of the Departmental Library Committee (2023-24: Elizabeth Irwin).

7. SSOL

Student Services Online (SSOL) is your multi-purpose tool for:

- checking your registration appointment times;
- registering for your courses;
- viewing your bill;
- updating your address;
- checking for holds that may be blocking your registration;
- requesting transcripts.

When you are on your teaching fellowship, SSOL is also where you will input grades.

First, activate your UNI, and then log in to SSOL here: <https://ssol.columbia.edu/>

8. Email and Websites

The Department will send all communications to your Columbia UNI email account; please check it regularly (or set up email forwarding).

If you haven't done so already, please activate your UNI here: <https://cuit.columbia.edu/cuit/manage-my-uni>

The Department of Classics regularly updates [its website](#) with event offerings. The site maintains profiles of all Ph.D. students. To update your profile, contact office staff.

9. Mailboxes

Ph.D. students are issued a mailbox, which is located in 617 Hamilton.

10. Graduate Student Office

The Graduate Student Office (606 Hamilton) is for use by graduate students in the Department, and graduate students in affiliated programs during their teaching appointments with the Department. We respectfully ask that others refrain from use of the space.

Computers: the login password for the computers in the Graduate Student Office is: classics

Storage: Ph.D. students will be able to store materials in the graduate student lounge. Please speak with the graduate student representatives (Melody Wauke and José Antonio Cancino Alfaro) for details.

Dropbox Account: Ph.D. students should speak with the Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium leaders to gain access to a Dropbox account (found locally on the Mac in the Graduate Student Office) which contains teaching materials and scans of texts.

The login for the wifi network in the Graduate Student Office is as follows:

Network name: Arachne

Password: Minerva753

11. Text Book Assistance

The Department of Classics is currently offering to assist with the cost of required books for students in our classes, in case of need or hardship. **All** students in classes offered by the Columbia and Barnard Classics Departments are eligible, regardless of college or degree path/level. More information will be available at the start of each semester. N.B. Funds are limited. We are unable to reimburse students for books already purchased.

12. GSAS Payments

All Ph.D. students on paid appointment will receive all compensation as semi-monthly salary, regardless of the type of appointment. Funded Ph.D. students who are not appointed as salaried student officers, including

students with zero-salary appointments, will continue to receive stipends as lump-sum payments at the start of each semester. Please note that all compensation, whether paid as stipend or salary, is subject to tax.

The amount of federal tax that the University withholds from all domestic employee paychecks depends on the amount of earnings and the information that employees provide on their federal W-4 form that is completed as part of the hiring process. Students who have already submitted a W-4 form and wish to adjust their payroll withholding may do so by updating their W-4 form by logging into the MyColumbia portal and scrolling down to *View and/or Update Your Personal Data*. Students may choose to reduce their withholding using the W-4 form in order to increase their semi-monthly after-tax take-home pay. Please note that such adjustments do not change a student's ultimate tax liability. Certain international students may be able to reduce their tax withholding and liability through the use of a tax treaty. For more information and to see if you are eligible, contact the HR Service Center. Additional tax information, including the taxability of stipends and tax reporting is available on the [Student Financial Services](#) website.

The University encourages all funded students to enroll in direct deposit to expedite the receipt of their stipend payments or salary. If you have not yet set up direct deposit, instructions for how to do so can be found at <https://sfs.columbia.edu/content/direct-deposits>.

For fall 2023, the University will continue to make advances available to all registered Ph.D. students experiencing financial hardship who hold or will hold a salaried student officer appointment in the fall. The maximum amount for an advance has been increased to \$3,000. Additional Information, including eligibility requirements, is available at <https://studentbenefits.provost.columbia.edu/content/compensation-and-student-employee-benefits>.

13. Other Financial Support

The Department can provide a limited amount of financial support for academic travel, including to conferences. Priority will be given to students on the job market, followed by those presenting papers. Please send applications for support, with an itemized budget, to the DGS and Colleen Swift. GSAS will match Departmental funding up to \$300 through the [GSAS Conference Matching Travel Fund](#).

Thanks to the [Mellon Summer Language Incentive](#), students who are on their Teaching Fellowship and independently teach a language course will receive an additional \$1,000 of summer funding per course taught at the end of the academic year.

The Department can provide up to \$1,000 in additional summer money to students in years 1-5 from the Archeology Fund. The use of this money must be related to the study of ancient material culture broadly defined; awardees have to file a report documenting their use.

14. Library Carrels

A limited number of carrels in Butler library are available for students writing their dissertations. Applications for carrels will be solicited by the DGS in late summer.

II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Department of Classics admits students into two graduate degree-granting graduate programs:

- M.A.
- Ph.D.

The M.A. is a terminal master's program whose students do not continue on to the Ph.D. Students participate in this program on a part-time or full-time basis.

Students in the Ph.D. program have been admitted to a five-year fellowship during which, subject to their satisfactory completion of the requirements at each stage, they will attain an M.A. and an M.Phil., before receiving the Ph.D. after the completion and successful oral defense of an extended research dissertation.

1. M.A.

The M.A. degree is earned by graduate-level work in ancient Greek, Latin, or both. Superior reading knowledge in the language(s) in question is required for admission. If only one of the languages is used for the degree, students are still expected to have completed at least one year of advanced work in the other language; transcripts of undergraduate course work are accepted as evidence that this requirement has been met.

Highly motivated and prepared students will be able to complete the degree in two semesters, but most students will do so in three; no full-time student may take longer than four semesters. Students may also enroll as part-time students. Part-time students may complete the degree in up to eight consecutive semesters. Leaves of absence that extend the time limit will only be granted in cases in which a student's other obligations conflict unavoidably with attendance at the University. The time limit may be extended by petition in special circumstances. For more information, see the [GSAS website](#).

Limited financial aid may be available to qualifying candidates. See the [GSAS website](#) for more information on financing the M.A.

Course Requirements

- 30 credits comprised of nine or ten courses, seven of which must be taken for graded credit
- All courses must be at the 4000-level or above
- Of these courses, students are required either to attend two semesters of the Graduate Research Colloquium (CLCV GR5010; 2 credits each semester) or to write a M.A. thesis under the rubric of CLPH GR 5000 (4 credits). The written product of CLPH GR 5000, the M.A. Thesis, is designed to supplement the work done to complete the requirements for one of the primary courses. The trajectory of the assignment for CLPH GR5000, and the details of how it will be supervised, must be approved by the DGS.
- Of the remaining courses, all except two must be in Greek (GREK) and/or Latin (LATN). The other two may be civilization courses offered by the Department or courses on the ancient world in other departments.
- Graduate Research Colloquium may be taken for P/F or graded credit. Students intending to receive a grade should notify the faculty organizer in the first week of classes to discuss the grading criteria.
- Students must maintain at least a B+ average.
- Students should meet with the DGS at the beginning of each semester to review their program. In addition, a mentor who is more closely related to their academic interests will be assigned to each M.A. student.
- Two Residence Units (RU) are required for the degree. [For more information about Residence Units click here.](#)

- Although there is no modern language requirement as such, students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree in the future are advised to begin acquiring a reading knowledge of German and either French or Italian.

The Department also offers a **B.A./M.A. option**, which allows Columbia undergraduates to extend their B.A. into an M.A. Please contact Classics Director of Undergraduate Studies Marcus Folch (mf2664@columbia.edu) for information and see further <https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/bama-option>.

2. Ph.D.

These requirements are valid for students who entered the program in Fall 2023 or earlier. New requirements will apply to students entering from Fall 2024 onward.

The Ph.D. is a degree program comprised of three stages. At the successful completion of each stage, students will be awarded the corresponding degree. The M.A. is generally completed by the end of the second and no later than the fourth semester of coursework. The M.Phil. should be completed in the third year of study after a completion of coursework, exams, and written work, and no later than the end of the fourth year of study. The Ph.D. dissertation proposal should be defended by the beginning of the eighth semester, but not later than the end of the eighth semester. The Ph.D. is completed after a successful defense of a doctoral dissertation.

STAGE ONE: M.A.

As above, but omitting M.A. Thesis (CLPH 5000), and requiring two semesters of the Graduate Research Colloquium (CLCV 5010) taken for P/F credit and a passing grade on one modern language exam. In choosing courses during the M.A. students should consult the course requirements listed below for the M.Phil.

STAGE TWO: M.PHIL.

Continuation of study beyond the M.A. degree is authorized by the DGS. The M.Phil. degree is always in Classics, both Greek and Latin. Thus, coursework and examinations are related to the study of both classical languages and their literatures (including their cultural and political backgrounds). Programs of study are individually arranged in consultation with the DGS.

General Course Requirements

Fourteen courses, made up of twelve courses plus two semesters of the Graduate Research Colloquium (CLCV 5010) taken for P/F credit during the students' first year.

These fourteen courses must include:

- Greek and Latin 4105 and 4106 (History of Greek Literature I & II, History of Latin Literature I & II) and both Greek and Latin 5139 (Greek Prose Composition, Latin Prose Composition)
- Six further courses comprised of:
 - three or more courses at 8000 level;
 - one or more courses at 6000 level;
 - no more than two courses at 4000 level;
- Two semesters of the Graduate Research Colloquium (CLCV 5010) during the students' first year.

The Courses taken for the M.A. count toward the total of fourteen. (Students advancing from the M.A. to the Ph.D. do not take CLPH 5000.)

Of the fourteen courses, only the Graduate Research Colloquium may be taken P/F, and none of the remaining twelve courses may be taken for R credit. Only courses above and beyond the twelve can be taken for R credit.

Students must maintain at least a B+ average in their graded courses.

History Requirement

Students are required to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of ancient history. This history requirement must be fulfilled in **both** Greek and Roman history.

To complete the requirement, students can opt to

- take a course in the field OR
- take an exam in the field OR
- (if this option is available) act as a TA for a history class in the field.

The History Examination Committee sets the exam or determines which classes taken or TA'd for fulfill the requirement.

Students must complete this requirement by the end of their sixth semester, but ideally by the end of their fourth semester. It is recommended they satisfy half the requirement by the end of their first year.

Should students come with demonstrable background in one or both of Greek and Roman history, substitutions may, at the discretion of the History Examination Committee, be allowed from related ancient cultures or periods.

Modern Language Requirement

A reading knowledge of German and either French or Italian, to be demonstrated by written tests as early as possible in the student's graduate career, and in no case later than the certification examination. This requirement includes competence in one language demonstrated as part of the work for the M.A. degree. It may be satisfied by the passing of an exam administered through the Classics Department, or by the relevant language department. Students may also fulfill this requirement by getting a passing grade on an approved reading course in the relevant department.

Students who would like to take a modern language course in the summer to prepare for the fulfillment of the modern language requirement, may do so free of tuition by submitting the [Application for Summer Tuition Credit | Columbia GSAS](#).

Qualification Examination ("M.Phil. Exams" or "Reading List Exams")

The qualification examination will be held three times a year: on the Friday of the first week of classes in the fall and spring semesters; and on the first Friday of the exam period in the spring semester. It consists of two two-and-a-half-hour examinations, usually taken in different semesters, in the translation of Greek and Latin texts chosen from the common reading list (<http://classics.columbia.edu/common-reading-list>). The examination in at least one language must be first attempted no later than the beginning of the student's fourth semester of residence, and at least one examination must be attempted at the beginning of every following semester. Both must be passed no later than the end of the sixth semester. Students who do not

pass both examinations by the required deadline will not be permitted to continue as candidates for the degree.

Each examination consists of six passages (three prose, three poetry) of about 100-150 words, of which the student must translate four (two prose, two poetry). The examination is designed less to test the student's ability to translate Greek and Latin (which is assumed) than his or her knowledge of the texts on the reading list. The passages on the examination are chosen so as to be representative both of the breadth of the list (expect passages from different genres and different periods) and of the works in question (expect passages that are typical for the content and style of a work and/or particularly significant for its interpretation).

Exams are graded anonymously. The identity of each candidate is known only to the Departmental administrator who administers the exam and is uncovered to the DGS and chair of the exam committee only once the result has been reported.

Each examination is administered by a three-person standing committee that is newly constituted each academic year; for the sake of continuity, chairs should ideally serve for two consecutive years. Each of those members will read the completed examination independently and assess each of the four completed passages on a percentage scale (see below). The total for each of the four passages will be calculated by each examiner, and then the scores of each examiner will be gathered by the committee chair and combined into a final score. A final score of 70 or above will constitute a Pass, of 59 or below a Fail. If the overall score falls in the 60-69 range, the committee will meet and discuss the result. A final decision will be taken by majority vote.

The committee chair will report the results to the DGS and Departmental Administrator. In the case of a fail, the committee chair will make themselves available to the student to offer feedback on the examination, drawing on the evaluations of all three examiners. Individual examiners' scores will be held in confidence by the examiners and committee chair.

Percentage scale

90+: An impressive translation that very accurately conveys the meaning of every sentence, and is idiomatic and stylized in its wording.

80-89: A good translation that is generally very accurate, and shows a clear understanding of how complex syntactical structures fit together even if vocabulary is not completely known.

70-79: An acceptable translation showing a generally high degree of accuracy in translating a wide range of grammatical and syntactical structures, even if not all vocabulary is known and there are rare misunderstandings of major grammatical or syntactical phenomena.

60-69: A problematic translation that conveys the sense of the passage reasonably accurately but with several errors of grammatical and syntactical understanding, and also problems with vocabulary.

50-59: A mediocre translation that only partially captures the meaning of the passage and is inconsistent in its handling of complex linguistic combinations and vocabulary.

40-49: A poor rendering of the grammar and syntax of the original, with significant omissions, inaccuracies and misunderstandings that indicate that the student does not have a grasp of the passage in question.

Certification Examination (“M.Phil. Paper”)

Students are required to complete one written examination or extended research paper on a special author or field under the supervision of an adviser of their choice, who determines the appropriate format. The topic of the examination or paper may, but need not, be related to the proposed field of the student’s dissertation. The M.Phil. Paper will be double-marked by the adviser and another faculty member. The requirements of the Certification Examination ought to be completed by the end of the student’s sixth, but no later than the start of their seventh semester.

Dissertation proposal defense

Within one semester of the completion of all other requirements for the M.Phil. degree, and no later than the end of the fourth year of residence, a candidate for the Ph.D. must submit and successfully defend a proposal for the planned dissertation, to consist of a statement of the topic and a rough outline of the expected structure, of approximately 20 pages with a short bibliography (approximately 30 titles) of relevant scholarship.

Before working on the proposal, a candidate chooses as a dissertation sponsor a faculty member who is an approved Classics [dissertation sponsor](#). The candidate works closely with the sponsor in preparing the proposal; since this process can take a considerable amount of time, students are advised to begin thinking about their dissertation topics no later than the beginning of their fourth year. Candidate and sponsor jointly choose two other faculty members to make up the committee. Ideally, these two additional committee members will remain the same throughout the candidate’s work on the dissertation and will ultimately become members of the dissertation defense committee as well. However, this process is not fixed, and occasionally committees change over time as the dissertation develops and faculty become (or are no longer) available.

The proposal defense consists of an informal oral examination of the candidate by the three-person committee (typically 30-40 minutes). If successful, the committee certifies the candidate’s passing of the proposal defense in writing.

All dissertation (i.e., non-teaching) fellowship awards are contingent upon the completion of all M.Phil. requirements, including the proposal defense, by the end of the fourth year.

STAGE THREE: PH.D.

To receive the Ph.D., the student must write and successfully defend a dissertation, normally on the subject approved by the original proposal committee, no later than the end of the seventh year. Throughout, the sponsor is the candidate’s primary academic adviser.

GSAS requires a meeting every semester with the dissertation sponsor and at least one other faculty member, in order to receive timely feedback on the dissertation work and regular support throughout the dissertation-writing process. While GSAS monitors the meeting process, in consultation with the DGS, students are themselves responsible for scheduling the meetings.

The dissertation defense is a formal oral examination of two hours of the Ph.D. candidate by the dissertation committee, which in the final stage includes the sponsor and four additional readers, of whom two are most likely the members of the original proposal committee, one is an additional Barnard or Columbia faculty member, and one must be a faculty member from another institution. The committee is chosen by the dissertation sponsor in consultation with the candidate. The committee votes on the outcome immediately after the defense and informs the candidate. For the process, see <https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/defense-and-evaluation>.

The defense is preceded by the *distribution* of the dissertation to all members of the committee at a point arranged with the sponsor (usually four to five weeks before the defense) and followed by the *deposit* of the final, revised version of the dissertation to GSAS at a time depending on the outcome of the defense (usually one month after the defense). The DAAF assists the candidate in the process of distributing, defending, and depositing. More information about the distribution, defense, and deposit process can be found [here](#).

In the case of students beyond year six without Columbia or outside funding, the Department will cover the student's M&F registration for the semester in which they distribute the dissertation. Please contact the DGS for more information.

3. Mentoring and Advising

The DGS is the primary academic advisor for all graduate students before the dissertation stage. All M.A. and Ph.D. students meet with the DGS at least once a semester.

All M.A. and Ph.D. students before the completion of the M.Phil. are assigned faculty mentors.

In addition, students should feel free to consult with any member of the faculty in the Department. Office hours are posted on the Department website.

4. Registration and Degrees

You may register for courses on SSOL during your registration appointment period. [For more information about registration click here.](#)

Two Residence Units (RU) are required for the M.A. degree; four additional Residence Units, for a total of six overall, are required for conferral of the MPhil and PhD degrees. [For more information about Residence Units click here.](#)

Academic degrees are conferred three times a year. The dates for 2023-24 are:

18 October 2022

14 February 2023

15 May 2023

It is the responsibility of degree candidates to apply for degrees by the relevant deadlines. The DAAF will assist in submitting the necessary forms.

For the M.A., see <https://www.registrar.columbia.edu/content/application-degree-or-certificate>.

For the M.Phil. and Ph.D., see <https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/dissertation-dates-and-deadlines>

5. Related Programs

With the permission of the DGS, students may take courses in departments other than Classics and use them to fulfill their requirements, where possible.

The Department of Classics participates, together with Art History and Archaeology, History, and Philosophy, in the [Classical Studies Program](#), an inter-departmental, interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. program at Columbia.

Columbia's faculty in Modern Greek are housed in the Department and participate in the [Program in Hellenic Studies](#).

The following programs and institutes offer graduate certificates, which students can earn through additional work in the subject in question:

- [Medieval and Renaissance Studies](#)
- [Comparative Literature](#)
- [Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies](#)

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is a member of the Inter-University Doctoral Consortium (IUDC), which provides for cross-registration of graduate-level courses among member institutions.

Participating schools are:

- CUNY Graduate Center
- Fordham University
- The New School for Social Research
- New York University (including the Institute of Fine Arts)
- Princeton University
- Rutgers University
- Stony Brook University

Students wishing to take classes at these institutions should consult with the DGS. More information is available [here](#).

6. GSAS Policies

- **Transfer credits/advanced standing:** at GSAS, transfer credit denotes relevant coursework completed before a student's enrollment in a GSAS degree program that the student submits in partial fulfillment of specific academic requirements for the degree. This determination is made by the student's department, approved by GSAS, and entered on the student's transcript as formal acknowledgement of previously completed, approved work. During the first semester in which they register, students requesting transfer credit should submit the [Application for Transfer Credit form](#) as well as any relevant materials to their department's DGS or program director.
- **Advanced standing:** students who enter the degree program with a Columbia M.A. will receive advanced standing, i.e., they will enter the program as second-year students, transferring in the credits from their M.A. This means that they are on an accelerated clock as far as their requirements are concerned; it does not affect their six-year funding.
- **Funding Clock:** GSAS stipulates a seven-year funding eligibility window, and a nine-year policy for time to doctoral degree.
- **Six-Year Funding Guarantee:** doctoral students normally receive the annual prevailing stipend and appropriate tuition and health fees for six years, provided that they remain in good academic standing and, in the case of student officers, have discharged responsibly their pedagogical or research duties.
After the sixth year of funding, students in years seven may be eligible for, but are not entitled to, additional support. Such advanced students may be eligible for GSAS funding if they have previously banked it from outside awards received any time in years one to five; if they have special teaching assignments such as Core Preceptorships or GSAS Teaching Scholarships; or upon special request by departments that have exceptional and demonstrable pedagogical need in a given year, subject to GSAS approval.

A listing of external fellowships may be accessed [here](#).

Students are not eligible to receive GSAS fellowships after their seventh year of registration. However, for students beyond their seventh year of registration who currently hold a major,

competitively awarded external fellowship that requires that GSAS contribute to the cost of tuition and health fees, an exception may be made.

- **Columbia Funding Opportunities after Year Five:**
 - Core Preceptorship (see below)
 - Teaching Scholars Program (see below)

III. TEACHING

1. General

Teaching for six semesters as a Teaching Fellow (TF) is part of the requirements for the Ph.D. Students typically assist a professor in teaching a class each semester in year 2 and teach their own courses, typically elementary or intermediate language classes, as instructors of record in years 3 and 4. Courses are assigned by the Graduate Instruction Coordinator in collaboration with the DGS and Chair. Graduate teaching guidelines can be found on [the Department website](#).

2. Union

All teaching appointments are covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the University and the [Student Workers of Columbia SWC-UAW](#). The agreement can be found at <https://humanresources.columbia.edu/content/columbia-university-and-swc-uaw-collective-bargaining-agreement>.

3. Teaching Beyond Year 5

The Department cannot offer students regular teaching beyond year 5. However, students are encouraged to apply to one of the following competitive programs:

[Teaching Scholars Program](#)

This GSAS-funded program offers students the possibility to be funded for one year, teaching one class of their own design and one determined by the needs of the Department.

[Core Preceptorship](#)

Students may apply to teach sections of Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, part of Columbia's renowned undergraduate Core Curriculum, for up to two years.

4. Summer Teaching

Limited opportunities are available for teaching Latin, Greek, and Classical Mythology during the summer terms at Columbia. Students are not eligible for summer teaching until they have completed all requirements for the M.Phil. degree. Slots for these positions, which run either May-July or July-August, are assigned by the Summer Session Representative on the basis of a) seniority, based on the number of years in the program and b) proven experience of teaching Latin or Greek (for the language courses) during the regular academic year.

2023-24 Summer Session Representative: Gareth Williams.

5. Supervision and Support

TFs who serve as instructors of record are supervised by the Graduate Instruction Coordinator, who provides mentoring and support. TFs who assist faculty are supervised by the instructor of record of the class to which they are assigned.

TFs who assist in courses should expect to be observed periodically during the semester by the faculty instructors of their courses. TF instructors of record should expect to welcome faculty observers to their courses at least once a semester in three of the courses they teach on their own.

Further teaching support is available from the Center for Teaching and Learning ([CTL](#)).

6. Lead Teaching Fellows

Students are encouraged to apply to CTL's [Lead Teaching Fellows](#) program, which provides training opportunities as well as funding for teaching-related events in the Department. Each year, the Department's LTF(s) organize(s) workshops and serve as facilitators for pedagogy-related initiatives in the Department (cf. below on the Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium).

Senior Lead Teaching Fellows (SLTFs) are returning LTFs who serve as mentors to each year's cohort of new LTFs.

2022-23 LTF: Brett Stine

IV Getting Involved

There are multiple opportunities for graduate students to get involved in academic life in the Department and beyond.

1. Graduate Student Representatives

Each year, the Ph.D. students appoint two representatives who serve as a liaison between students and faculty, working closely with the DGS and attending the monthly meetings of the Department's faculty.

2023-24 Graduate Student Representatives: José Antonio Cancino Alfaro, Melody Wauke

2. Classics Graduate Colloquium

The Classics Graduate Colloquium is typically held on six Friday afternoons each semester at 4:10pm in Hamilton 603. Talks are followed by a reception and a dinner for invited guests. Officially part of the Graduate Research Colloquium (GRC), the Colloquium is organized by two graduate student Colloquium Chairs, who are appointed and remunerated as follows:

- Two Colloquium Chairs (CCs) are appointed for two years, ideally in such a way that the positions are staggered.
- To be eligible, a student must be in good academic standing and have passed the M.Phil. Qualification Examination ("M.Phil. exams").
- CCs are appointed by the DGS, who solicits applications each spring semester.
- In the case of multiple applications, the Graduate Affairs Committee selects the new CC(s), in consultation with the current CCs.

- CCs receive remuneration of \$750 per semester.

2023-24 CCs: Marissa Swan, Melody Wauke

3. University Seminar in Classical Civilization

The University Seminar in Classical Civilization is not a Departmental but a University initiative, albeit one with deep ties to the Department. It is a long-standing lecture series that takes place on the third Thursday of each month during the semester, at the Columbia University Faculty House. Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. and are preceded by drinks and dinner for those wishing to attend.

As of 2022-23, University Seminar-attendance is mandatory for students enrolled in the GRC. However, all other students are strongly encouraged to attend both talks and dinners. Each month, the Department will cover dinner-costs for three students, on a “first-come, first-served” basis; information will be sent out by the rapporteur.

The seminar is chaired by two faculty members, one from Columbia (often from the Department) and one from outside. Most of the practical organization lies in the hands of a paid graduate student rapporteur (often from the Department), chosen by the Chairs. To be considered for the position of rapporteur, contact one of the Chairs.

2023-24 University Seminar Chairs: Marcus Folch, Joel Lidov (CUNY)

2023-24 University Seminar rapporteur: José Antonio Cancino Alfaro

Other University Seminars of possible interest include the

- [University Seminar in Modern Greek](#)
- [University Seminar in the Renaissance](#)
- [University Seminar in Medieval Studies](#)
- [University Seminar in Material Texts](#)

4. Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium

The Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium provides a forum for exploring topics crucial to the teaching of Greek and Latin and the Humanities more generally, as well as for workshopping particular pedagogical practices and methods. Graduate students themselves design, research, and lead the presentations and workshops. It is usually run by the LTFs (see above).

5. Center for the Ancient Mediterranean (CAM)

[CAM](#) is an interdepartmental initiative that seeks to link together all the faculty, students, and numerous departments that have an interest in the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean and adjoining areas. It is simultaneously a mechanism for coordinating courses, an information source, and a means of organizing conferences and other scholarly encounters. CAM talks usually take place on Fridays at 11am, and graduate students are strongly urged to attend.

6. Stavros Niarchos Foundation Public Humanities Initiative (SNFPHI)

SNFPHI aims to connect the field of Hellenic Studies with a broad public audience. Through its [Summer Grant scheme](#) SNFPHI supports Columbia graduate students and recent M.A. and Ph.D. recipients interested in pursuing their own public humanities projects or collaborating with one of SNFPHI's projects in Greece.

7. Barnard/Columbia Ancient Drama Group

The annual performance of a Greek or Latin play in the original language is a longstanding Barnard/Columbia tradition. The producers, director, and actors of the play are all students, both undergraduates and graduates. A high standard is achieved, both in linguistic terms and in the quality of the acting, and each year multiple performances are given to substantial audiences. Calls for auditions usually go out in the late fall. See further <http://classics.columbia.edu/greek-latin-play#>.

V. DEPARTMENTAL CULTURE

1. General

We are committed as a department to fostering a challenging and lively intellectual atmosphere as well as one that emphasizes inclusion and equity in our community. We view the ancient world as multi-ethnic and multi-racial and think that academic disciplines are enriched by divergent voices and perspectives—in recruitment, admissions, appointments, and pedagogy. We aim to foster a forward-looking conception of the discipline that actively supports viewpoints and practices representative of the diverse populations that the study of antiquity should serve. [Follow this link to read more about the GSAS Office of Academic Diversity and Inclusion.](#)

2. Harassment

We as a department understand that any commitment to inclusion and equity must be in keeping with ongoing efforts to combat discrimination and harassment, sexual or otherwise, within the Department, the discipline, and the wider academic community.

Students who wish to report an incident involving an alleged violation of the university's Gender-Based Misconduct Policy for Students (which addresses sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, gender-based harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence) should consult the university's [Sexual Respect website](#). If there is an immediate risk to a student's health or safety, please contact Columbia Public Safety at 212-854-5555.

3. Leaves of Absence

[Follow this link to learn more about Leaves of Absence.](#)

4. Mental Health

The Department aims to cultivate an environment that is emotionally and psychologically supportive for students, in keeping with the statements on fostering a positive culture and combatting harassment. While we understand that various stages of the program can be intense and at times stressful, we aim to be available for strategizing and locating resources for students in need of counseling. [Follow this link to learn more about Counseling and Psychological Services on campus.](#)

5. Disability Services

For disability services and accommodations, see <https://www.health.columbia.edu/content/disability-services>.

6. Further Resources

Health Services: <http://www.health.columbia.edu/>

Gender-neutral restrooms: <https://visit.columbia.edu/content/maps-and-directions-update>

Lactation rooms: <https://worklife.columbia.edu/lactation-room-access#!#text-1841>

Back-up child and elder care: <https://worklife.columbia.edu/backupcare>