

**Department of Classical Studies
University of Michigan
Bridge MA
Student Handbook
Version 1, June 30, 2020**

Admissions

The Bridge MA is designed as a bridge to the University of Michigan Classical Studies PhD programs: Classical Languages and Literatures; Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, IPCAA; Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History, IPGRH; and the Program in Ancient Philosophy. It is a three-semester program whose overall purpose is to help students prepare to enter the PhD program in the Fall of the following academic year. As such, students will primarily work on their ancient languages, while they will also begin to develop their academic interests, work on their research skills, and enter the teaching profession through a GSI appointment in the Winter semester.

Admission Requirements are a minimum of one year in one of the ancient languages; two years in another; outstanding academic record; and recommendations from three previous instructors. Bridge MA students must meet the [RMF requirements as outlined by the Rackham Graduate School](#). Students do not have to submit GRE scores.

Admission is by committee; the Bridge Committee serves as a nominating committee, which then forwards names to the admissions committees of the respective PhD programs. The PhD programs have a final say in who is admitted to the Bridge MA. No more than two students can be admitted per academic year.

Funding

Students admitted to the Bridge MA program receive funding support for three semesters. The funding will consist of a fellowship in the Fall semester, a teaching appointment in the Winter Semester, and a fellowship in the Spring Half semester. The Spring Half semester is intended to provide a study period for the purpose of preparing for and taking language exams. Students may receive a fellowship also for the Summer Half semester if the Director, in consultation with the Chair, deems it necessary for their academic work to complete the Bridge MA degree requirements and prepare for PhD work. The Summer Half semester is intended for travel, studying a modern language, or for working on an archaeological site, supported by the Onassis Foundation Diversity Scholarship. It may be used for further ancient language exam preparation if needed, as determined in consultation with the Director.

Onassis Foundation Diversity Scholarships

The Onassis Foundation USA awards each student up to an additional **\$10,000 scholarship** towards enriching educational and scholarly opportunities. This award may be used during Bridge MA studies for foreign language study abroad or for educational supplies including books and computer hardware in consultation with the Chief Administrator of the department.

Orientation and Fall Enrollment

Students typically take part in the departmental orientation for all graduate students and in the GSI orientation for Classics teaching before classes begin. Prior to the start of the semester, students will take two diagnostic exams in Greek and Latin. In consultation with the Director of the Bridge MA (who is their advisor), these exams will help determine correct language placement. Students will meet with the Director to discuss language placement and enroll in courses for the fall term.

Advising and Coursework

Students will meet at least twice each semester with the Bridge MA Director, who also serves as their advisor. Once a semester, they will plan their coursework for the next semester. (Students are also encouraged to discuss their coursework and career planning with their mentor, see below). Students will select their courses in consultation with the Director following these meetings, with a view to strengthening their overall language preparation for a PhD program. The Director will submit a report of the meeting to the student, copying the Graduate Coordinator. The Director will consult the student's instructors throughout the semester to monitor student progress.

Coursework is normally structured around strengthening the student's overall language and PhD program preparation. It may include seminar work and coursework that ultimately fulfills the PhD requirements. In the spring/summer, students may take up to 6 credit hours total of 599 (independent study) at UM to prepare for their ancient language exams. The arrangement for these credits should be made by the Director in dialogue with each student, with the Director reaching out to faculty who will oversee the independent study. Students are also encouraged to enroll in immersive foreign language programs and to use the Onassis Foundation Scholarships for this.

24 credits, distributed as follows:

- 12 credits in the Fall (3 language classes; 1 elective)
- 6-9 credits in the Winter (2 language, 1 elective)
- 3-6 credits in the Spring (Independent Study e.g. Latin/Greek 599; CLARCH 599; History 801 or 700)

Students are expected to write a research paper in their coursework and are encouraged to develop a writing sample.

Students must pass a language exam in the two ancient languages (normally Greek and Latin; IPGRH may substitute Coptic, Hebrew, etc. for either Greek or Latin) at the end of the Spring semester. See reading list in Exam section below.

Model curriculum based on typical offerings in Classical Studies

Fall

Greek 476 Advanced Greek Reading

Greek 554 Plato's Dialogues

Latin 403 (Elementary Latin Composition)

Elective: Greek 803 Symposium in Greek Tragedy (taken as a 500 level course)

Winter

Latin 449 Satire

Latin 464 Cicero

Spring half term

Greek/Latin 599 Independent Study

History 801 (independent reading course) or History 700 (independent research), or Latin/Greek 599; Classical Archaeology 599

Mentoring

After their arrival in the Department, students will be assigned or will choose a mentor. Typically this happens in early October, after students have had an opportunity to become familiar with faculty. It is arranged by the Graduate Coordinator. The mentor is either a faculty member whose research interests overlap with the student's or one who serves as the Director of the PhD program the student seems likely to move into the following year. Students who are already familiar with some of the faculty may request a specific mentor assignment.

It is important to acknowledge that the role of the mentor, like that of the Director, may go beyond academic advice and include assessment of resources for concerns in any area of student life, including finances, housing, transportation, mental health, community issues, and career advice in general.

Student Progress

Adequate progress is defined as maintaining an overall 3.3 (B + GPA) in classes; no incomplete grades except under the circumstances outlined in Rackham guidelines; participation in classes; progress in the languages; completion of all assignments in classes. Methods of evaluation in addition to the GPA: the Director will solicit feedback from the instructors in all courses twice each semester, specifically after midterms and after the final exam. The feedback report will describe language skills, written work, and oral presentations. The Director will solicit a report also from the student's GSI mentor. The Director will share the reports with the student and Graduate Coordinator. The Director will review this feedback with the student and in deliberation with the Bridge MA Committee as a whole as needed. It is in the student's best interest for the committee to be involved whenever academic or instructional concerns arise.

Streamlined Admission to the PhD

A student will be recommended for admission to a UM Classical Studies PhD program who states their interest in the program, is assessed as having made adequate progress (as outlined above in the section "Student Progress") in the Fall semester, and has shown that there is a good academic fit for the PhD program. This is determined in consultation with the Bridge MA Committee. The student recommended for admission will apply to the PhD program (as a program level change from MA to PhD rather than as an external application), in coordination with the Graduate Coordinator. Bridge MA applicants are not required to submit transcripts, GRE scores, or letters of recommendation.

A recommendation for admission by the department is to be expected no later than the second week after classes end in the Fall and before the beginning of the Winter semester.

Additionally, the student is required to complete the Bridge MA program, which means they must earn the degree by fulfilling all the Bridge MA program requirements (passing exams, teaching, coursework) for advancement into the PhD program.

Teaching

The student will be appointed as a GSI for a Classical Civilizations course in the Winter semester, provided that adequate progress has been made in the first term. Attendance at the GSI orientation the week before the beginning of Fall semester is mandatory.

Exams

The student will take the language exam no later than the last day of the Spring semester. Students may retake the exam by August 1 if the first attempt is unsuccessful. The point is to pass the exam and register completion of the degree in time for entrance to the PhD. One part of the exam will be for Greek; the other part for Latin. The student may also choose to take the graduate survey course for either or both of the Greek or Latin portions of the exam and in this way fulfill the language exam requirement for that subject.

Reading list:

Herodotus	Book 1
Homer	<i>Iliad</i> , Books 1, 6; <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 9-12
Lysias	Lysias 1 (<i>On the killing of Eratosthenes</i>)
Plato	<i>Republic</i> , Book 1
Sophocles	<i>Antigone</i>
Catullus	Poems 1-17
Cicero	<i>In Catilinam</i> 1
Livy	Book 1

Ovid	<i>Amores 1; Metamorphoses 1</i>
Vergil	Book IV

About the exam:

- I. The exam, which is set by a regular faculty member of the Department of Classical Studies, will consist of four passages (no passages that are suspected of major corruption will be set). All of the passages (two prose and two poetry) will be taken from the reading lists. There will be no sight passage. The passages will be roughly 120 words of poetry or prose depending on the author. The exam is a total of two hours long.
- II. The translation must demonstrate command of grammar, syntax, and common vocabulary of the ancient language in question. Numerous errors in these areas with the result that the passage is substantially misrepresented are a basis for failing the exam. Failure to finish a passage constitutes a serious weakness in that passage.
- III. The exam is graded by one reader. In the case of uncertainty, a second grader (not the DGS) is to be consulted. The assessments of these graders are considered final and the exam cannot be re-graded by other graders.
- IV. While it is to be expected that the student will be able to produce a smooth English translation, a lack of polish or elegance will not be a basis for failing the exam.
- V. Students will receive a grade of pass or fail. There is no “low pass” but the advisor can point out areas where continued improvement should occur. The exam will be returned to the student, who will have the opportunity to review the exam with the grader.

Tutoring

Bridge students may avail themselves of extra-classroom language tutoring that will be paid for by the Department, if the Director in consultation with the Chair determines that this is needed and that the work cannot be done in a course the student is taking. This provision depends on the availability of tutors and also expects that students will make use of office hours and available academic resources normally afforded by the program. The program also depends upon the willingness of faculty to spend time helping students in the Bridge develop the necessary skills, with the realization that students in the Bridge might not initially be prepared in the same way that students in the PhD programs have been.