

**To: Undergraduate majors in Classics and related disciplines  
who are interested in pursuing graduate studies**

If your goal is a career in Classical Studies, and you would like to train in a close-knit and vibrant community in one of the country's top-ranked institutions, consider the Classical Studies PhD program at Duke.

We are not a very large department, but the interests of our faculty range widely, from Aegean prehistory to the medieval period. Our students have the opportunity to explore dirt archaeology, social, cultural, political, intellectual, and economic history, textual criticism and palaeography, philosophy and political theory, gender, ethnicity, and identity, papyrology and epigraphy, historiography and literary theory, digital Classics, the many aspects of ancient material culture, and of course the rich harvest of Greek and Latin. Here, then, is a department where you can discover not only the things that excite you, but also their many and even unexpected points of contact with other subjects and disciplines. Many of our faculty and students enjoy strong intellectual ties with other units such as Art, Art History and Visual Studies, History, Literature, Medieval Studies, Political Science, Religion, and the Library, as well as with colleagues just down the road at UNC-Chapel Hill. This is an exciting place, where ideas flourish and good things happen.

For us, diversity is as essential to the creation of that environment as interdisciplinarity is; in the students and faculty colleagues whom we endeavor to recruit, in the subjects that we research, in the material and outlook that we bring to the classroom. "Collaboration, innovation, creativity, and belonging" are not only the watchwords of Duke University's [Commitment](#) to Diversity and Inclusion but crucial animating principles of our intellectual community.

With roughly three students admitted per year, that community is as tight as it is varied. Students work closely with faculty from the start, navigating one of two flexible tracks within the PhD program, one that emphasizes robust, broad training in Classical Studies, and a new track that offers specialized training in Archaeology broadly defined. Students are admitted with generous financial support for five years; this includes full tuition, fees, health coverage, and an annual stipend of about \$24,000 (with a [substantial increase](#) scheduled to start 2022/23). Students may also apply for additional scholarships

and fellowships, university and departmental travel awards, support for modern foreign-language study, and funding beyond the fifth year.

Teaching and research are two sides of a coin, and here you will have the opportunity to TA twice in your second and/or third year and then, in your fourth and fifth, to take the reins and teach courses on your own (one per semester), to some of the brightest and most accomplished undergraduates in the world. That is a lot of responsibility, but it comes with enormous support: a generous financial package, a top-notch graduate school, a world-class library, unparalleled campus amenities, a collegial group of excellent graduate students, a faculty devoted to excellence in teaching, research, and service, but most of all: a warm community of scholars who are excited to share what we have built and to welcome new colleagues—that means you! And also new professors! This year we are searching for three new junior faculty to join our ranks, so that next year will bring even more excitement and change and growth.

You could say that Duke Classical Studies offers the best of two worlds. We are a small, tight group such as you might find in a liberal arts college, and yet we are part of a high-powered research institution. Durham, which surrounds our beautiful campus, is much the same. It is a small city, where people know each other and feel at home, but its restaurants and breweries and music and arts scene put those of many bigger cities to shame. Durham is just *exploding* with life and ideas and opportunities, just the way we aim to be in Classical Studies.

To learn more about our program and decide whether Duke Classical Studies is a place where you can see yourself growing and thriving, visit our website (below) or email me, or any of our faculty.

With every good wish for your future career,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh S.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua D. Sosin

Associate Professor, Classical Studies

Director of Graduate Studies

[joshua.sosin@duke.edu](mailto:joshua.sosin@duke.edu)

Department website: <http://classicalstudies.duke.edu>

Commitment : <https://provost.duke.edu/initiatives/commitment-to-diversity-and-inclusion>

Increase : <https://today.duke.edu/2019/04/duke-makes-12-month-funding-commitment-phd-students>