

# Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology

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The interdisciplinary program of graduate study in Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Archaeology (AHMA) is conducted by a group that includes more than 20 faculty members affiliated with seven different Berkeley departments as well as the Graduate Theological Union. A chair, a graduate adviser, and a student affairs officer administer the program.

The AHMA program offers PhD degrees in areas that combine work in archaeology and history and related disciplines of ancient studies. Most of its graduates have successfully secured teaching positions in Departments of Classics, Art History, History, Anthropology or Near Eastern Studies in colleges and universities in the US or abroad, including Bar-Ilan, Haifa, Volos, Oxford, Toronto, Columbia, Madison, Austin, and Pennsylvania.

Students are not admitted to work specifically for the MA degree, although those working toward the PhD may file for an MA after fulfillment of the requirements for Stage 1. Students work closely with faculty in courses, seminars, and independent research projects to develop independent thought as well as a thorough knowledge of their fields and their critical methods.

## Admission to the University

### Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant has completed a basic degree from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

### Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant

already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

## Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. *If the applicant is admitted*, then *official* transcripts of all college-level work will be required. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) attended. If you have attended Berkeley, upload your unofficial transcript with your application for the departmental initial review. *If you are admitted*, an official transcript with evidence of degree conferral *will not* be required.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants who have completed a basic degree from a country or political entity in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to institutions from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:
  - courses in English as a Second Language,
  - courses conducted in a language other than English,
  - courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
  - courses of a non-academic nature.

If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833. Official IELTS score reports must be sent electronically from the testing center to

University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division, Sproul Hall, Rm 318 MC 5900, Berkeley, CA 94720. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years.

## Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

## Admission to the Program

The AHMA program is open to students with a BA degree in a relevant field of study (such as Classics, Near Eastern Studies, History, or History of Art) that have completed at least one year of undergraduate work in ancient history, ancient art, archaeology, or related fields. Applicants primarily interested in the Greek and Roman worlds should be prepared to undertake advanced work in either Greek or Latin and its culture, and also should have basic competence in the second of these two languages. Applicants primarily interested in the ancient Near East and Egypt do not have to display competence in one of the area's ancient languages before applying, but to do so may strengthen their application considerably.

Students who have already acquired the MA degree in a relevant field are especially encouraged to apply and will be considered for direct admission to the PhD program. The AHMA faculty as a group approves all applicants for admission. AHMA policy is to limit enrollment to the number of students who can be adequately supported for the first five years of their graduate career. Although AHMA receives around 35 applications per year, we can only enroll one to two students each fall. Competition therefore is extremely keen. As a result, while some applicants may be rejected for lack of preparation or for undistinguished academic records, a substantial number who are capable of doing good graduate work unfortunately also must be denied admission.

The AHMA faculty judges and ranks applicants on a combination of criteria that includes:

- Preparation to undertake advanced scholarly work.
- Academic distinction as reflected in overall GPA, major GPA, and junior and senior year GPA, as well as awards, prizes, or publications.
- A minimum of three letters of recommendation.
- A statement of purpose, which should be clearly and cogently written and indicate why the applicant is interested in the AHMA program and where his or her specialization might lie.
- A scholarly writing sample between 25-30 pages and indicating the origin of the writing sample (i.e. a class paper, senior honors thesis, MA thesis).

An applicant with an MA is expected to offer substantially stronger preparation than one with only a BA. Applications must be submitted electronically either via Graduate Division's online application (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>). The online application process for fall normally opens in early September. The deadline for applications is early December.

## Fields

Students declare three fields: a First field, a Second field, and a Special field. The First and Second fields are chosen from the following four options: North Africa; Greek world; West and/or Central Asia; and Roman world. All four First/Second fields embrace both history and archaeology/

material culture. A third, Special field, is tailored to the student's specific interests.

## Coursework

Pre-MA students are required to take at least 12 courses. They are also required to write no fewer than 8 seminar papers in those 12 courses.

Post-MA students are required to take at least 8 courses. They are also required to write no fewer than 5 seminar papers in these 8 courses.

## Languages

Students satisfy program requirements in four languages, two ancient and two modern. One ancient language is designated as primary, the other as secondary.

## Fieldwork

Students are required to participate in either (a) at least one season of excavation or survey, or (b) one summer program in archaeology, material culture, or a relevant technical discipline, or (c) a summer internship, usually in a museum.

## Petition to Proceed

Every student must submit a Petition to Proceed to Stage II of the program. This occurs for pre-MA students no later than the beginning of the fifth semester, and for post-MA students no later than the beginning of the third semester.

## Exams

In order to advance to PhD candidacy, students must pass a written exam covering the First field and an oral Qualifying Examination (QE) covering all three fields.

## Dissertation

After passing their QE, students must compose a prospectus of the intended dissertation, present it at a colloquium for approval, and then, under the supervision of a Dissertation Committee, complete a dissertation that makes an original contribution to the subject.

## Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology

Expand all course descriptions [+]  
Collapse all course descriptions [-]

## AHMA 210 Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology Interdisciplinary Seminar 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

Team-taught by faculty from two different departments. The purpose is not only to expose students to a discipline other than their own, but to engage them directly in the application of that discipline to their own research interests. The topic and instructors will vary from year to year. Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology Interdisciplinary Seminar: Read More [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Ancient History and Med. Arch./Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology Interdisciplinary Seminar: Read Less [-]

## AHMA 298 Special Study 2 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Normally reserved for students writing the doctoral dissertation.

Special Study: Read More [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

#### Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 6-36 hours of independent study per week

15 weeks - 6-36 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:** 12 weeks - 7.5-45 hours of independent study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Ancient History and Med. Arch./Graduate

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Special Study: Read Less [-]

## AHMA 299 Special Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Summer 2019

Topics and instructors will vary from year to year. Special individual study for qualified graduate students. Individual study and research, including archaeological fieldwork or laboratory projects, in consultation with instructor on subject matter not covered in scheduled course offerings.

Special Study: Read More [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 4-16 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:** 8 weeks - 7.5-30 hours of independent study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Ancient History and Med. Arch./Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Special Study: Read Less [-]

## AHMA 601 Individual Study for Masters Candidates 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser or personal adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Individual Study for Masters Candidates: Read More [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

#### Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3-36 hours of independent study per week

15 weeks - 3-36 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:** 12 weeks - 3.7-45 hours of independent study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Ancient History and Med. Arch./Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Masters Candidates: Read Less [-]

## AHMA 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Candidates 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021

Individual study in consultation with the graduate adviser or personal adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used for unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Individual Study for Doctoral Candidates: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

#### Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3-36 hours of independent study per week

15 weeks - 3-36 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:** 12 weeks - 3.7-45 hours of independent study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Ancient History and Med. Arch./Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Candidates: [Read Less](#) [-]