What to do with a degree in ... CLASSICS

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

WHAT IS CLASSICS?

Classics is the study of the ancient Greeks and Romans: their myths, mysteries, and games, their epics, comedies, and tragedies, their languages, arts, and architectures, their religions, philosophies, and sciences. It is important to study this as it gives us insight into western civilization, history, politics, and much more. [Dalhousie Classics Department]

Like many degrees, studying classics does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you a variety options. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though the skills you and experiences you have gained make you marketable for many careers a classics degree should give you an advantage in the following fields:

- Archives
- Cultural Organizations
- Legal Agencies
- Historic and Heritage Sites
- Communications
- Publishing Houses
- Production Companies
- Community Relations
- Education
- Government Departments
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Foreign Service

There are many exciting careers not directly related to the field of classics but within your skill set. It is good to keep your options open to these when looking for employment. In your studies you will have developed a number of transferable skills that can be marketed across multiple fields. These skills include:

- Research
- Persuasive writing
- Lateral thinking
- Critical analysis
- Meeting deadlines
- Giving presentations
- Organizing materials
- Teamwork
- Cultural understanding

Many classics graduates seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can open up a variety of other options. Here are some options available to a classics graduate who has completed additional training:

- Mediator
- Curriculum Designer
- Policy Analyst
- Teacher
- Counselling
- Museum Director
- Foreign Affairs/Diplomat
- Nurse
- IT Manager
- University Professor
- Librarian
- Lawyer

With the plethora of options a classics graduate can take, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Developing your skills, experience and network

Opportunities in Your Program

Get Published - Pseudo-Dionysis is a student run publication where students can publish their work.

Study Abroad - Visit the international centre for opportunities to learn abroad.

Pythian Games - A yearly competition in declamation, reading aloud, poetry, and rhetoric with cash prizes to be won.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many different avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider joining:

- Res Publica
- DALConnects
- Dal Action
- Dalhousie Arts and Social Science Society

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work are another great way to develop experience. They also give you the chance to develop specialties and discover what you like in a job and what you dislike. Even if your summer job doesn't directly relate to your field you can focus on building transferable skills. Check out these great resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. This is especially true for graduate students. If you would like to pursue a membership student discounts are often available.

If you are an undergraduate keep your eyes open for any undergraduate conferences around Halifax. Below is a sample listing of professional associations and conferences that may be worth examining.

The Classical Association of Canada
http://cac-scac.ca/wordpress/

Society for Classical Studies
http://apacclassics.org
Undergraduate Program

Classics at Dalhousie offers the full range of electives and degree programmes: minors, majors, and honours for Bachelor degrees, the Master of Arts, and the PhD. It has specialists in philosophy and religion, in languages and literature, and in history. Students of Classics must learn Greek and Latin, if they wish to take an honours degree or go on to graduate studies in the field.

Classics Minors:

- Classics
- Ancient History
- Classical Literature
- Ancient Philosophy
- Medieval Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Abrahamic Religions
- Arabic Studies
- Middle East Studies

Graduate Programs

The Department of Classics welcomes students who wish to pursue MA and PhD degrees. Study may focus on the traditional subdisciplines of Greek and Roman Literature and History, as well as on Ancient Philosophy. Alternatively, students may opt to explore Classical culture and its legacy in several other areas of interest distinctively cultivated by members of the Classics faculty, along with colleagues in the Program in Religious Studies and Arabic. Such areas include late-antique, patristic, Byzantine and medieval philosophy, theology and religion.

Masters

Students contemplating studying for a Masters degree should count on spending at least a full year to complete their classes and thesis. It typically takes two full years. A thesis, usually between 100 and 150 pages, is required.

Doctorate

All candidates are expected to have a broad understanding of all aspects of Classical culture. Within the general area of Hellenic-Hellenistic Studies, each candidate is expected to concentrate, with the guidance of a supervising committee, in one of three fields: History, Literature, and Philosophy. Before submitting a thesis, the candidate must pass a comprehensive examination (written and oral) in his or her special field.
There are many other established classics programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable classics programs:

**University of Toronto**

Location: Toronto, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Classical Civilization and Classics (Greek and Latin), Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Ancient Greek and Roman History

**University of Alberta**

Location: Edmonton, Alberta  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Classical Languages, Classical Studies, Ancient and Medieval History, Classical Archaeology, Ancient Societies and Cultures

**University of British Columbia**

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Myth and Literature in Greece, Rome and the Near East, Archaeology: Greece, Rome and the Near East, Classical Studies, Ancient Culture, Religion and Ethnicity in the Mediterranean and the Near East

**McMaster University**

Location: Hamilton, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Classics

**University of Calgary**

Location: Calgary, Alberta  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Greek and Roman Studies, Ancient and Medieval History, Classical and Early Christian Studies

**University of Western Ontario**

Location: London, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Classical Studies, Ancient Philosophy and Classics, Classics
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a classics degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that classics students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni in appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Education
- Arts and Design
- Media and Communication
- Operations

- Support
- Accounting
- Legal
- Marketing

- Sales
- Community and Social Services
- Consulting
- Engineering

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★☆☆

(3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a classics degree are in the health sector, sales or IT. In the health sector jobs such as LPNs, RPNs, and patient service associates are given a good outlook. In the IT sector, jobs such as software tester, and systems tester are given a good outlook while network technicians and support technicians are given a fair outlook. Sales positions with a good outlook include retail salesperson, sales clerk, wholesale trade representative, and retail trade supervisors.

Fair Outlook ★★★☆☆

(2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for classics majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include; archive technicians, librarians, translators, terminologists, interpreters, authors and writers. Public relations and communications jobs also share a fair outlook. Education, social services and legal fields have fair outlooks within Nova Scotia. Education related career paths include college instructors, education counsellors, education policy researchers and consultants. Career paths for Computer and Information Systems Managers also has a fair outlook in the province. For legal careers jobs include lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants, legal advisers, and barristers.

Limited Outlook ★★★☆☆

(1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia jobs include: conservators, curators, journalists, editors, and technical occupations related to museums and art galleries.

Out of the possible occupations a classics graduate could pursue, additional jobs with a limited outlook in Nova Scotia include: senior government managers, government program officers, and secondary school teachers.
Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.

Print


The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Senor Media inc.
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009). James Mulvey

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Archivist
Position: Full Time - Salary: $62,000-72,000 - Hours: 40

The Archivist is responsible for the conservation and cataloguing of archival materials; handling public inquiries and assisting researchers; coordinating internal and public access to archival materials, including the maintenance of related systems, indices and equipment; and assisting with volunteer administration and co-ordination.

Duties
- Care and conservation of the archival collection.
- Cataloguing and maintenance of municipal records.
- Handling public inquiries and requests for archival information.
- Conducting research for Museum and Archives publications.
- Assisting in the development and mounting of exhibits.
- Co-ordination of volunteers in the Archives.
- Assisting in the development and delivery of educational programs.
- Conducting tours.
- Share in the management and oversight of the day-to-day operations.

Qualifications & Skills
- Undergraduate degree in history or related field.
- One to three years’ archival training and experience.
- Familiarity with legislation governing copyright, Freedom of Information and public access to information.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience in the care and conservation of archival materials.
- Excellent research, writing and public relation skills.
- Interpersonal skills with a team-player attitude
- Knowledge of local government and community considered an asset.
- Experience in the use of computers and office equipment.
- Criminal reference check will be required.
- Experience working with volunteers.

Skills you can hone while volunteering or by doing an internship:

- You may want to list a class that you developed those skills in
- May want to focus attention on any major written work you have put together inside or outside school
- Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop at a summer job
- Experience can be developed through volunteer work.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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