



JACT Durham Greek & Latin Summer School

JACT Summer Schools Trust (JSST)
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JACT Durham Greek & Latin Summer School 2025 - Bursary Reports

"I am incredibly grateful to the JACT Durham Greek and Latin Summer School for their immense generosity in offering me a full bursary, and I feel that this is something that will continue to benefit me, going forward. As a state school student who is lucky enough to learn Latin through school, and Greek through Classics for All, it is experiences like this summer school, which have, in the past, been available only to those from more privileged backgrounds, that make it possible for me to further my classical education, and to gain valuable knowledge in the lead-up to university applications. This was my second time at the Durham summer school, and it is something that has been discussed on my personal statement due to the highly positive impact of the lessons and lectures provided; I intend to apply to study Classics at competitive universities in the coming academic year, and I think that the structure of the lessons, with the close discussion of texts and high-level translation, have given me an excellent insight into what to expect from university. My tutor was also extremely helpful, introducing me to new ideas and providing resources to further my understanding of the texts which we studied, which shows the determination of the staff at the summer school to go above and beyond for students, which made the experience even better. Furthermore, I am incredibly keen on making Classics more available and accessible to those from under privileged backgrounds, and I am, therefore, very grateful to organisations such as this summer school for working so hard to do this, and for helping students like myself, for whom the summer school may not be accessible without financial aid. To be given such a wonderful opportunity, which I know will be incredibly helpful in my upcoming Classical education, without the added burden of any financial concerns, is something for which I could not be more grateful, and I look forward to hopefully progressing into a career which will allow me to give back to organisations such as the summer school."

"I was lucky enough to be a recipient of a partial bursary for the 2025 JACT Durham Greek & Latin Summer School which enabled me to relax without worrying about costs building up to and during the week. As I was having to travel quite far to get there, receiving financial help stopped the price from ballooning out of my budget, allowing me to explore a part of the country I had never visited before and meet entirely new and wonderful people from around the UK. Being able to visit Hadrian's wall during the summer school with all these new friends, exploring Durham from the Cathedral to the charity shops and learning a whole new language with people just as interested as I was has been an experience I will never forget. Not only that, but the level of support I received from all the tutors there, not just my own, to ensure I was happy and comfortable created such a welcoming atmosphere. The beginners course I was on was taught at a flexible pace so no one was left struggling but we were still pushed to try more advanced content. With all the free time between lessons as well, the daunting vocab lists to learn felt like a breeze. And if I wasn't feeling intellectually stimulated enough already, the evening lectures, alongside those done by staff.



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.... and students, broadened my knowledge of the ancient world as a whole (I'll never look at roman numerals in the same way again!). There was so much fun to be had during the week and I loved being able to take part in performing a short comedy sketch written by another student and performed on the final night. It was an exhausting week, but so incredibly worth it. This was only possible because of the support of the Summer School bursary scheme, and I am so immensely grateful to them for aiding me in my studies, helping introduce me to so many fantastic people and making this the highlight of my summer."

"This was my second year attending the JACT Latin and Greek Summer School at the University of Durham. Due to my Latin teacher going on maternity leave in January this year, I had missed out on the majority of my Year 12 classes, so this opportunity has been hugely beneficial for me in catching up and improving my Latin ready for my year of A-Level studies. At the Summer School, I had the chance to study original texts by both Livy and Ovid with an amazing teacher, and I learned so much about the way these authors crafted their work as well as their historical context. Additionally, I studied outside of the classroom with a group of students of a similar age from my class. As I am the only one in my year at school taking Latin this was a significant opportunity for me to collaborate with others on a translation and learn different ways of looking at a text. Furthermore, I attended many interesting lectures, given by a range of different speakers. Two that really stood out for me focused on Greek Tragedy and Scansion. I intend to apply to study Classics at university and was already planning on writing about Greek Tragedies in my personal statement, but this lecture gave me a fresh perspective on how the music can shape a play almost as much as the words in both ancient and modern adaptations. Additionally, the Scansion lecture was extremely helpful, as I had not been taught any scansion at school previously and I found it genuinely fascinating; for example, the ways that meter can influence meaning in a sentence. I also attended the Hadrian's Wall trip, which was a wonderful opportunity to see real Roman remains up close and learn about their history. I had the opportunity to visit a settlement along the wall, as well as some baths, which were particularly interesting due to their advanced underfloor heating systems. Of course, the Summer School was also lots of fun socially. I met many like-minded people and had a small taste of university life. I also took part in the sketch about mythological creatures (as a Harpy!) which was a profound way to end the week. Overall, I had another incredible experience, none of which would have been possible without the bursary, for which I am incredibly grateful."



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“My week at the summer school was amazing! My tutor supported me in the lessons, and I finally understand grammar that I have always struggled with. The texts we studied were interesting and I enjoyed translating them. I have definitely taken away a deeper understanding of the language which will help me for my A level. The evening lectures were really fascinating, and I appreciated the enthusiasm shown by each lecturer. The afternoon lectures offered a wide variation of topics, of which I found engrossing. It was easy to engage with many different people from a variety of age groups, making for some very intriguing conversations. The college provided delicious food that I looked forward to every day, and a wide variety of hot drinks, and the staff were lovely. It was an amazing week, and I will definitely be returning next year! The bursary supported me because without it, the summer school would have been unreachable for me. As I'm now entering my final year of studying the language, it was imperative for me that I understood the grammar that I was not too confident on, and the JACT summer school has helped me achieve exactly that, as I know I will be revisiting the notes I have made and I plan to make a small grammar guide for myself, now that I understand the grammar concepts fully - that would not be achievable for me without the bursary helping with the majority of the financial cost. Also, I plan on doing classics at university, so this experience gives an insight into what it would be like.”

“Where to start in writing about this wonderful experience? I was lucky enough to receive a bursary to attend the JACT Durham Latin and Greek summer school – and in my case it was Latin school. Quote honestly, without the bursary, I do not think I would have been able to attend. I am an unpaid carer, and while JACT is worth every penny and then some, finding that amount of money would have been pretty much impossible. Overall, it was an incredibly positive experience, and I honestly cannot think of anything negative to say, nothing I would change or do differently. I am so thankful to have been part of this, and it was the bursary that made it all possible. Was it life-changing? I do not know, that is hard to say, but it was life-affirming. Reminding me just how much I love studying, and love Latin. Would I do it again, given the opportunity? In a heartbeat!”

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for granting a bursary to me towards attending the JACT Greek and Latin Summer School in 2025 on a residential basis. This has been particularly important to me because, as a full-time level 5 undergraduate student, I would have been entirely unable to afford the full programme and accommodation costs. Furthermore, I believe participation on a day-attendance basis would not have afforded the benefit I received by attending on a residential basis – the need to travel between Tynemouth and Durham each day would inevitably have been time consuming and needlessly tiring, not to mention quite costly too. Although I initially



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.... registered to study post-beginner's Latin, I chose intermediate Latin when informed that post-beginner's provision would not be running in 2025. However, after some reflection, I decided this could well be too advanced for me and, on the first day of attendance, I requested permission to alter my course choice to beginner's Greek. I am grateful that relevant tutors supported this, and I went on to thoroughly enjoy the Greek provision. Indeed, I now feel suitably emboldened in my understanding of the foundations of grammar for Ancient Greek, and this will support my selecting relevant sentences in Ancient Greek when reading Euripides' Medea and Sophocles' Oedipus the King in translation during level 6 of my Classical Studies undergraduate degree in 2025/26."