November 15, 2016

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

If your goal is a career in Classical Studies, and you would like to train as part of a close-knit and vibrant community in one of the country’s top-ranked institutions, consider the Classical Studies graduate program at Duke. It’s not too late to apply!

Specialties within our department range over the span of almost four thousand years, from Aegean prehistory to the medieval period, and venture laterally into a host of fascinating territories that include dirt archaeology, history and material culture, history and documents, cultural history, political theory, literary theory, digital archaeology, textual criticism, palaeography, digital document studies, philosophy, art history, and late antiquity. Classical Studies is by its nature an interdisciplinary subject, ensuring that our faculty and students engage in dynamic and creative ways with one another and with intellectual and academic life as a whole. Many of our faculty enjoy strong intellectual ties (and often joint appointments) in other departments and programs such as Art History and Visual Studies, History, Literature, Medieval Studies, Political Science, and Religion. We also collaborate closely with our counterparts at UNC-Chapel Hill, occasionally offering jointly-taught graduate seminars.

Ours is, by design, a moderately sized program. With on average around three students admitted per year, students work closely with our faculty from the start, tailoring individual programs to best meet their needs and interests and to promote success. Students normally enter on a full financial package for a five-year term: our standard offer is full tuition, fees, and about $21,000 in stipend per annum. Additional scholarship awards are also available, as are – in the course of your degree – university and departmental travel awards, support for modern foreign-language study, and the possibility of funding beyond the fifth year. We are also deeply committed to training future teachers. As you move through the program, we give you experience as teaching assistants and then as teachers in your own right, helping educate some of the best undergraduates in the nation. Grad students do not teach or TA in their first year, and
even in their second and third year take on only one teaching assistantship per year. At Duke you can expect a generous financial package, and a deeply supportive community in other respects too: supportive of your research interests and needs, and your training as future faculty.

Finally, for those who haven’t already visited the Triangle area (Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh), it is a diverse, fast-growing, and all-around exciting place to be. Not only does it boast a huge population of PhDs belonging to Duke, UNC Chapel Hill, and the Research Triangle, but its food, music, and general cultural scene rivals that of any major city.

To explore our program and decide if Duke Classical Studies might be a fit for you, look into our website (see below) or write me directly—or indeed any of our faculty.

With every good wish for your future career,

Maurizio Forte
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