



2027 Summer Research Project

Section	Description
Project title	Raymond Duncan and the Art of Living Greek
Hours & delivery	Project will run from 11 January-19 February. Exact research hours are negotiable, but will amount to 20–36 hours per week. Students can work online, but must be available for regular on campus meeting with supervisor. This research project examines Raymond Duncan (1874-1966) as a significant figure in the modern reception of ancient Greece. Best known as the brother of the dancer Isadora Duncan, Raymond sought to recreate what he believed were the values and lifestyle of classical Greece in the modern world. Rejecting industrial society, he adopted Greek-style clothing, practised traditional crafts such as weaving, promoted physical culture, and founded educational communities inspired by his interpretation of ancient Greek ideals. He was so devoted to embodying Greek ideals that he was prepared to endanger the life of his son.
About the project	The project explores how Duncan used the classical past as a model for social, artistic, and personal reform. Rather than attempting an accurate reconstruction of ancient Greece, he created an idealised vision that reflected modern concerns about industrialisation, consumerism, education, and individual freedom. By analysing Duncan's writings, lifestyle, and public image, the project investigates how ideas about ancient Greece have shaped modern identities and cultural movements. It also considers the tension between historical reality and imaginative reconstruction in the reception of antiquity. Through the case of Raymond Duncan, we can better how embodiment works as a method of understanding the ancient world.
What you'll do	Identify and locate key primary sources relating to Duncan (lectures, photographs, letters, interviews, and published works as well as contemporary newspaper and magazine accounts of his activities). Prepare a bibliography of relevant secondary works and undertake literature review.
What you'll learn	Students will experience project design from its initial stages. They will learn how to locate and evaluate primary and secondary sources. Research will involve interaction with important archives, museums, and digital databases.
Project outcomes	This project aims to devise a fully formulated research project on Raymond Duncan suitable to take forward for external funding. It hopes to make some preliminary conclusions about the nature and significance of Raymond Duncan's life and writings for the study of classical reception.
Who should apply?	This research project is open to all undergraduate (including honours) and postgraduate coursework students studying at The University of Queensland. It is particularly suited to students with a background in Humanities, especially history or literary studies. Some familiarity with the ancient Greek world would be desirable.
Team & supervision	Researchers will be required to provide own laptop. Some shared desk space may be available.
Contact	Students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: Prof. Alastair Blanshard, a.blanshard@uq.edu.au