



SELDEN COLLEGE

Liberal Arts Course of Study: Aims, Objectives, and Programme of Study AYE28

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Date of Review
1.2	19th August, 2026	Administration	1st July, 2027

How has this document changed from version 1.1?

Version 1.2 contains minor textual improvements and updates e.g. links to other policies and the study tour period.

Mission:

Selden College exists to graduate faithful Christian men and women who are prepared to act justly, skilfully and magnanimously in each and every office, private and public, in peace and war.

What is this policy document about?

This document sets out key information to help you make an informed decision about the aims, objectives, and course of study for the Liberal Arts programme offered by Selden College.

Context:

Selden College is a company and charity offering undergraduate and potentially postgraduate [awards](#). This document should be read in conjunction with a number of other policy documents (listed below) before applying to study at Selden College:

[Admissions Policy](#)

[Disciplinary and Complaints Procedures for Students](#)

[Fees Policy](#)

[Pastoral Care Policy](#)

[Refund and Compensation Policy](#)

[Student Statement of Faith, Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy](#)

Aim:

To outline in a clear, transparent manner the aims and objectives of the Selden College Liberal Arts programme, as well as information on the course of study students will undertake while studying at the College.

Programme(s)

Undergraduate level award in Liberal Arts (equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts). Students should be aware that Selden College is currently unaccredited. Students will be kept updated on any decisions to pursue accreditation as and when they are made.

Programme Overview

Building on the rich Christian heritage of liberal arts education, the programme is united around three categories of truth, traditionally understood as the 'light of rational, natural, and moral philosophical knowledge' all understood in the light of Holy Scripture:

- The truth of speech
- The truth of *things*
- The truth of conduct

Programme Aims (derived from the three categories of truth articulated above).

- Students will be able to express themselves truthfully and artfully.
- Students will be able to teach others effectively and skilfully.
- Students will be able to move others to true thought, action, and emotion through the artful use of language in speech and writing.
- Students will be able to understand the world as it presents itself in our experience, and how Holy Scripture reveals it to us, and so avoid a purely materialistic understanding of the universe.
- Students will be able to critically evaluate, in light of the truth of scripture, different and competing interpretations of the reality of the world in which they live and so understand the philosophical and theological premises behind the dominant historical and contemporary ideas that have influenced both Christian and non-Christian society.
- Students will be able to reason morally in accordance with historic orthodox Christian teaching on good and evil, and so act justly in each sphere in which they are called to work.
- Students will be able to reflect critically on their own thoughts and actions as well as those of others, either under their authority, or in authority over them.
- Students will be able to discern, understand, and critically evaluate the (sometimes conflicting) demands laid upon them by different spheres of authority (family, church, and nation), whether public or private, and so order their actions in accordance with what is true and just before God, and consistent with their loyalty to those different spheres of authority.

Programme Objectives (derived from the specific classes offered in the pursuit of the three categories of truth outlined above)

- Students will reach reading fluency in one classical language.
- Students will understand and be competent in the art of philology and so read various texts (in the original language and translation) in various genres (literature, history, philosophy, theology, etc) responsibly and artfully.
- Students will understand the main contours of the political, religious and legal history of the British Isles, and the main sources/ideas that have shaped those histories.
- Students will be theologically literate, generally within the context of the historic Christian faith and, particularly, within the Reformed protestant tradition.
- Students will understand the main developments in philosophy from ancient to modern times, and trace how those ideas have shaped society and culture.

- Students will develop critical reading skills and understand literary texts in their historical and intellectual contexts and how literature contributes to and changes those intellectual contexts.
- Students will understand the broad contours and key tenets of Judaism and Islam and undertake responsible comparative work on the so called 'Abrahamic' faiths approach to law and politics.

Course of Study

Examined Classes/Disciplines

- An examined *class* is a required class which has only one means of fulfilment (see below for more details).
- An examined *discipline* is a required discipline which may have more than one way of fulfilment (see below for more details).
- Over the course of three years students will be prepared to take nine final examinations.
- In the final year of study students will undertake an individual research project under the guidance of a faculty member.
- The results of the nine exams and the individual research project will determine whether they have passed or failed the course, and the final grade they will receive.
- Students will need to pass all exams and pass the individual research project in order to pass the course.

Final Exams:

- Theology I - text analysis (covering time periods/theologians covered over the three years)
- Theology II - essay questions (covering time periods/theologians covered over the three years)
- Language I - text analysis and translation
- Language II - composition
- Literature - text analysis and essay
- History (incl. British law and constitution) - essay
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics - essay
- 'Abrahamic' Religions/Middle East - essay
- Selden Integrated Essay Examination - essay

Study Abroad

- At the end of the student's first year there will be a ten-day/two-week study abroad trip to Israel.^[1]
- At the end of the student's second year there will be a ten-day/two-week study abroad trip to Greece and Reformation centres in Europe.

The cost of these trips is included in the college's tuition fees.

Examined *Classes*

- Classical Language - In time students will choose one classical language (Hebrew, Greek or Latin) and take classes in that language for the full three years of the programme. (Ideally this will be a language that has not been studied before.) Currently, only Hebrew is available to students.
- Theology - Students will study Theology for the full three years of the programme. Beginning with Biblical Theology (First Year), the students will study the main texts and authors from each time period (Ante-Nicene, Nicene, Medieval, Reformation, early Modern and Modern).
- 'Abrahamic' Religions/Middle East - Students will take classes on Islam and Judaism and the Middle East and, in particular, the similarities/differences to Christianity on views surrounding Law and politics.
- Constitution and Common Law - Students will take a class on the idea of the constitution in British political thought and the nature and role of Common law in the history of the British Isles.

Examined *Disciplines*

- History - Students will need to have taken classes that have covered all the major periods of history with a primary (but not sole) focus on the political, religious and legal history of the British Isles.
- Literature - Students will need to have taken classes that have covered all the major periods of literature.
- Philosophy Politics and Economics - Students will need to have taken classes that have covered all the major periods of philosophy (classical, mediaeval, modern) as well as related classes on 'politics, economics and human flourishing'.

Unexamined *Classes*

- Throughout the three years students will be required to attend the weekly Selden College Seminar; an informal group discussion led by faculty on books/topics, not required by the course of study but deemed essential by the college for the student's education.
- Throughout the three years students will have weekly music instruction aimed at developing music literacy and aural skills, with a particular focus on Psalmody and Hymnody.
- Periodically throughout the school year there will be whole college academic gatherings where invited speakers will be addressing the whole college on matters of import or academic interest. Students will be required to attend as directed by the Principal or Academic Dean.

Pedagogy and Contact Hours

Selden College has constructed the programme around the following core principles:

- Small class sizes

- Each class (excluding beginners language classes) will focus on specific texts/authors and will include both formal lecture-style instruction and guided conversation around those texts. As a student progresses through the programme the balance of the two styles of pedagogy will shift to guided conversation around texts.
- Independent study outside of the college classroom will be foundational to a student's success and the fruitfulness of the in-class lecture/conversation. As such, studiousness, attentiveness, and self-discipline are vital intellectual habits for Selden students.
- A student should expect approximately 15 hours contact time a week, made up of examined *classes*, examined *disciplines*, and unexamined *classes*.
- A student should expect to spend approximately a further 20-25 hours a week in individual study outside of the classroom context.
- Faculty will be readily available for individual counsel and discussion, which is encouraged via regular, set office hours.
- Where possible all classes will be in-person, however, in particular instances where this is not possible online instruction may be utilised, but in a way that ameliorates as much as is possible, the inherent weaknesses in that medium (e.g., intensive in-person sessions, followed by a series of online seminars/tutorials).

Faculty

Selden College is continuing to seek additional suitably qualified faculty who subscribe to the historic teachings and practices of the reformed Christian faith and the Statement of Beliefs as set out in the Schedules to the College's Articles.

Length of Programme

Students will study at Selden College for three years. The academic year at Selden College is split into three nine-week terms, with first-year students having an orientation period in the week prior to the start of their first year. Please see the website for details of the calendar including study tour periods at the end of years 1 and 2.

Learning Support

The College will comply with its legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments for those with recognised learning difficulties so that they can study and access the College's facilities and services on an equal basis with their peers. As a micro-entity with a small budget and limited human resources, there will be institutional limitations on what is 'reasonable' in our context. The college will, however, make every effort within its limited resources, to make reasonable adjustments so those with recognised learning difficulties can study here. Students with recognised learning difficulties are advised to contact the college during the application process to discuss their particular needs.

English language proficiency:

The language of instruction at Selden College is English and a high level of language skill is needed to complete the programme of study. The Selden College entrance exam and interview, therefore, will be written and conducted in English. As such no external English Language proficiency test is required.

Regulation

Selden College will consider applying to be registered with and regulated by the Office for Students during the 2026-27 academic period if funds permit.

Accreditation:

Selden College will apply to accredit its own award in Liberal Arts (equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts) as soon as responsible financial management permits. Students will be kept informed on these decisions as they are made.

Fees:

See the [Fees Policy](#) and [Refund and Compensation Policy](#).