

# Neha Patel – Interview

**What is your current job?**

Court reporter (or transcriber), National Transcription Service, as well as some freelance work as an audio describer for blind and vision-impaired patrons at theatre/dance/musical performances.

**What is your highest degree (and major)? Where did you study?**

Masters in Ancient History, University of Auckland.

**What drew you to Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages?**

I loved Classics at school, because it involved studying ancient civilisations from a number of different perspectives - art, literature, philosophy, architecture etc - which really appealed to the generalist in me.

**What was the name of your favourite paper?**

Probably a tie between Greek Tragedy and the Ancient Novel.

**How has your studies in Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages benefited you in looking for employment?**

I don't know that Classics and Ancient History have specifically helped in my job search, but I think a lot of employers are impressed by the subject matter, and the degree evidences a valuable skill-set (see question 6).

**What skills have you learnt in the process of your studies that are transferable to an industry based job?**

Research, comprehension, critical analysis, argumentation and writing skills.

**What do you like the most about your studies? Has it improved your quality of life?**

Getting to read a broad range of texts that cover everything from dirty jokes to fundamental questions on the nature of the human condition.

**What do you think is the biggest misconception about studying Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages?**

That the ancient world lacks relevance to the world today.

**Who is your favourite god or goddess? Why?**

None of them sound all that likeable, but I'd probably pour a libation to Tyche (goddess of fortune and providence) whenever possible.

**If you could invite three people in ancient history, real or fictional, to dinner, who would they be?**

Euripides (though I suspect he would be quite morose), Apuleius (because hopefully he would be much livelier) and a hetaira (who I'm sure would be excellent company).