



# Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/>

and

[www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/asian-and-middle-eastern-studies](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/asian-and-middle-eastern-studies)

## The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn has a record of success in all the subjects within the AMES course and provides strong support for students, and the fact that Selwyn is known to encourage smaller subjects is also an advantage.

We welcome applications for all parts of the AMES course. Applicants wishing to continue a modern European language with Arabic, Persian or Hebrew should apply for AMES.

The College Library holds over 40,000 books, including those most relevant to this subject, and stock is continually updated. The Library also provides a pleasant study area.

## Teaching Fellows at Selwyn

Our Director of Studies for the AMES course is Dr Victoria Young, who is the Kawashima Lecturer in Japanese Literature and Culture.

## Qualities we are looking for

None of these subjects are an easy option, and candidates will need a clear head for grammar and the recognition of patterns. Although an experience of language learning is useful, students have excelled from backgrounds in Mathematics, Sciences or Music, as well as History. Apart from language learning all AMES subjects involve essay writing on a wide range of topics. An independent approach for learning will be expected. Enthusiasm is also essential, as is the ability to work in small groups, and a capacity for critical reading.

## Subject requirements

The languages offered in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies are taught *ab initio* in Cambridge, which means that although some prior knowledge can, of course, be very useful, it is not necessary for success. If a candidate is offering either Chinese or Japanese A-Level, this will normally be treated as a fourth subject, extra to the standard offer. Please note that, as stated clearly on the Faculty website, the courses are not suitable for native speakers.

Although there are no specific subject requirements for these languages, we will obviously be very interested in your aptitude for language learning. Most applicants study a foreign language at school, and should aim to achieve top grades in school-leaving foreign language subjects: it is desirable to be on track to achieve A\* at A level or equivalent in your language at the end of sixth form.

If you are planning to combine Arabic, Persian or Hebrew with a language taught in the MML faculty (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish), you will need an A level, IB Higher or equivalent qualification in the European language.

The standard conditional offer is A\*AA; comparable conditions are set for those taking the IB and other school-leaving examinations.

## Pre-interview assessment

As at other colleges, applicants will be asked to complete a University-wide written aptitude assessment as part of the selection process. This will take place on **30 October 2019** at an authorised centre. You must be registered in advance (separately to your UCAS application) to take the assessment. The registration deadline is **15 October 2019**. Your assessment centre must register you for the pre-interview assessment (you cannot register yourself).

## Interviews

There are two or three separate interviews. One interview will be with the College's Director of Studies in AMES. This will be with a specialist in the subject within AMES for which they have applied. There will also be a general interview, which is intended to inform us of your motivation and your general aptitude for your chosen course.

## Admissions assessment

If you are invited for interview and are applying for a European language, you will also be asked to take the at-interview written assessment for MML, which lasts one hour. You do not need to register for this written assessment as it will be organised automatically by the College if you are invited for interview. Students who are not applying for a European language do not take this assessment.

## Finding out more and Open Days

The subject will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on Thursday 4 July and Friday 5 July. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.



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