Selwyn College Italian Teachers CPD Day
Saturday 6\textsuperscript{th} May 2017
Michelle Tang, Schools Liaison Officer
What are the differences between Cambridge and other Universities?

www.cam.ac.uk/whycambridge
Challenging, stimulating courses

• Courses start broad and narrow in focus
• Expert teachers/lecturers – many national and world subject leaders
• Extensive small-group teaching – supervisions
• Superb facilities
• World-class education

www.cam.ac.uk/courses
The collegiate University

A College is like a mini campus, providing a base for students.

Role of Colleges:
• admit students
• academic and pastoral care
• accommodation, dining and recreation
• organise small-group teaching
• facilities for academic study

Role of the University:
• determines course content
• organises lectures, seminars, practicals and projects
• sets and marks examinations
• awards degrees

www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege
Supportive environment

- Academic – Director of Studies (DoS)
- Pastoral – Tutor
- Students’ unions and peer support
- Counselling Service
- Disability Resource Centre (DRC)
- Financial

www.cam.ac.uk/support
Fulfilling student experience

- University clubs and societies
- Sport, music and drama at every level
- Pubs, clubs, bars, theatres
- Safe and relaxed city only 50 minutes from London
- Low cost of living

www.cam.ac.uk/studentlife
Excellent employment prospects

• Cambridge is one of the top five UK universities targeted by Britain’s leading graduate employers (*The Graduate Market in 2016*)

• Students and graduates have access to an active Careers Service

• 92 per cent of students in employment or further study within six months of graduating

www.cam.ac.uk/whycambridge
What are we looking for?

- Academic ability and potential
- Satisfy any subject requirements
- Genuine subject interest – motivation and enthusiasm
- Good ‘fit’ between applicant and course
- Vocational commitment (where appropriate)

Cambridge is looking for the brightest and the best students, irrespective of social, religious, school or financial background

www.cam.ac.uk/apply
What information do we use to assess applications?

We consider every application individually, taking all aspects into account:

- academic record
- personal statement
- school/college reference
- any written work submitted (where required)
- performance in any written assessment
- contextual data
- interview (if interviewed)

No part of an application is considered in isolation – all available information is looked at together before decisions are made
The application process: Choosing a course

- Ask students to look carefully into the **details** of the course
Choosing a College – where would you like to live?

- 29 undergraduate Colleges
- Differ in terms of:
  - accommodation
  - appearance
  - facilities
  - size (number of students)
- Personal preference!
- Open application

www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege
Pre-interview assessment registration

• BMAT registration deadline – 1 October
• Registration deadline for others
  • 15 October
• Assessments taken –
  • Early November

Pre-interview written assessments
• Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic
• Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
• Chemical Engineering
• Economics
• Engineering
• English (ELAT)
• Geography
• History
• History and Modern Languages
• History and Politics
• Human, Social, and Political Sciences
• Medicine (BMAT)
• Natural Sciences
• Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
• Veterinary Medicine

www.cam.ac.uk/assessment
Pre-interview assessment registration

Taken at an authorised centre, usually the students’ school or an open centre.

Students need to be registered for the correct test before the UCAS deadline.

Test centres should forward a candidate number to confirm successful registration.

Results used as part of admissions decisions.

Information on content and sample papers available online.

Pre-interview written assessments

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Chemical Engineering
- Economics
- Engineering
- English (ELAT)
- Geography
- History
- History and Modern Languages
- History and Politics
- Human, Social, and Political Sciences
- Medicine (BMAT)
- Natural Sciences
- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine

www.cam.ac.uk/assessment
Completed online – application deadline 15 October

Personal statement

• 80% subject-based
• Covers interest in the course, relevant subjects studied, super-curricular exploration
• Extra-curricular activities not relevant to the course applied for aren’t taken into account in our considerations
Teacher Reference

- Comments from subject specialists that show evidence of an applicant’s intellectual flexibility and curiosity, analytic ability, logical reasoning and the ability to learn quickly are extremely useful.

- A benchmark or comparison of the pupil against their cohort. Comments from subject teachers indicating a rank order in class (such as 'top of 20' or 'in the top four out of 23') or a comparison with current or previous applicants (for instance 'one of our top 10 university applicants this year').

- If applicable, reasons for underperformance in exams. A separate Extenuating Circumstances Form (available to download on Cambridge website) should also be filled in and sent to the applicants’ chosen college or for open applicants, to the Cambridge Admissions Office.
Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ)

- Used to collect information not in the UCAS application but useful when assessing applicants, including:
  - topics covered in AS/A Level (or equivalent) courses
  - optional Cambridge-specific personal statement
- Ensures consistent information about all our applicants
- Completed online, in multiple sessions if you want

www.cam.ac.uk/saq
At-interview written assessments:

- no need to register in advance
- taken when in Cambridge for interview (if interviewed)

Written work:

- for a number of our courses, pupils may be asked to submit one or two examples of written work from a relevant A Level/IB (or equivalent) course

At-interview written assessments:

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Education
- History and Modern Languages
- History of Art
- Land Economy
- Law
- Linguistics
- Modern and Medieval Languages
- Theology
- Philosophy

Mathematics/Music – assessment tasks at interview

www.cam.ac.uk/assessment
Interviews

• Usually first three weeks of December
• One, two or three interviews
• Each 20-45 minutes
• Conducted by lecturers
• Predominantly academic and subject-focused

No trick questions and not the ‘final hurdle’

www.cam.ac.uk/interviews
The Colleges are responsible for all undergraduate admissions decisions, and notify students of the outcome of their application in January.

1. Offer
   - May be from the College you applied/was allocated to, or from a different College as a result of your application being ‘pooled’
   - Conditional/unconditional

2. Unsuccessful
   - 1 in 5 applicants are made offers
   - Competition is very high, many great students are unsuccessful due to competitive field
For the most up-to-date information and advice about anything covered in the presentation, please refer to our website

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk
Area Links Scheme

- Each part of the country is ‘linked’ to a specific College
- Ensures schools have a direct point of contact – usually a Schools Liaison Officer
- Allows for mailings and being kept up to date both about events in Cambridge and in your local area
- Contact for organising visits both to and from your school
- You are not restricted to contacting or being contacted by your link College; students are under no obligation to apply to their link College
Events

- University-run events
  - Sutton Trust Summer Schools
  - Masterclasses
  - Subject Matters
  - Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences
  - Experience Cambridge
  - HE Partnership
Events

• College-run events
  • Individual school visits
  • Summer schools and residential
  • Taster days/masterclasses
  • Competitions
  • Various other local outreach efforts