



History and Modern Languages

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/applying/courses/history-modern-languages>

and

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-and-modern-languages>

The subject at Selwyn

This joint degree combines the best of both subjects, offering the opportunity to develop skills in a foreign language while studying a range of papers relating to the culture and history of the relevant language area. You will spend your third year studying or working in one of the countries where your language is spoken, immersing yourself in its language, culture, history and politics.

Students will develop analytical skills in History through a wide range of topics in British, European, American and World history, as well as the history of political thought. There will also be opportunities to work with historical sources in foreign languages.

For 2020 entry, you will be able to choose from French (post-A Level only); Spanish, German, Russian and Italian (either post-A Level or from scratch); or Portuguese (*ab initio* only).

Selwyn usually makes eight or nine offers to students for each of the History and the MML Triposes, so a student studying for the combined course would be part of a large peer group. The combined History/ML Tripos is a new Tripos and the numbers of offers made will depend on the numbers of applicants. In Selwyn, the College Library holds over 40,000 books. This includes a large History section, housed in its own room, where you will find books of central importance to your course. The Library's holdings in History are continually updated.

Students at Selwyn are supported by a wide range of College travel grants, including the Gebauer fund for the study of Germany and The Master's Fund For Summer Projects, to assist their academic travel and research projects.

The Teaching Fellows

Selwyn has four History Fellows and five Languages Fellows and can therefore provide supervisions on many subjects in College as well as being in a strong position to exchange teaching with other Colleges.

Professor John Morrill specialises in sixteenth and seventeenth century British and Irish history. Dr Mike Sewell specialises in modern American history and the history of international relations. Dr David Smith specialises in seventeenth and early eighteenth century British and European history. Dr Christopher Briggs is a Lecturer in Medieval British Social and Economic History.

In languages, Selwyn's teaching officers range across all the principal languages of the Tripos. Dr Edmund Birch (**French**) has research interests in French literature of the nineteenth century; Dr Bryan Cameron (**Spanish**) is a specialist in modern Spanish culture, with research interests in the nineteenth-century Spanish novel and experimental film;

Dr Angeles Carreres (**Spanish**) is a specialist in translation studies; Dr Elena Filimonova (**Russian**) has research interests in Russian linguistics; Dr Heather Webb (**Italian**) has research interests in medieval literature and culture with a particular interest in Dante, early Italian lyric poetry, Boccaccio, models of female piety and the history of concepts; Dr Charlotte Woodford (**German**) has published on early modern, nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century German literature, with a special focus on women's writing; Dr David Willis (**Linguistics**) specialises in historical linguistics and syntax, as well as the history and structure of Russian, Welsh and other Slavonic and Celtic languages. The College also has its own lecturers in French and German.

Qualities we are looking for

Applicants will have a variety of relevant examination qualifications, though not necessarily in both languages and history; they will be expected to demonstrate an interest in both subjects and will be assessed on their potential to succeed in them. We require A-Level (or equivalent) in the relevant language, except where you are applying to learn a language from scratch.

Admissions assessment

As at other Colleges, applicants will be asked to take the pre-interview written assessment for History, which will take place in schools and other assessment centres on **30 October 2019**. 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).

Applicants will also take an hour-long written assessment at interview, which follows the same format in all Colleges. Based on a passage in English, this is designed to assess writing skills in a foreign language; the ability to put forward an argument, and to write in English. No special preparation or prior knowledge is required. Those applying for a language from scratch will sit an assessment intended to assess their writing in English and their aptitude for studying languages.

Interviews

If you apply to us you will be asked to submit two recent and marked essays, which will be used as a basis for discussion in one of the interviews. The essays should not be written especially for the occasion.

You will have two subject interviews, one in each subject. You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for History and Languages at Cambridge. It is intended to give us a fuller sense of your aptitude for your chosen course, the maturity of your approach towards academic work, and your historical and other interests.

Finding out more and Open Days

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