



Selwyn College
Cambridge



Modern and Medieval Languages

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/applying>

and

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/modern-and-medieval-languages

The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn has a long-standing commitment to modern languages and has a thriving modern languages society. Every year, we make eight or nine offers, as well as offers to students for the new joint Tripos of History and Modern Languages.

Selwyn's teaching officers range across all the principal languages of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos.

Students at Selwyn are assisted in their studies by a wide range of travel grants, including the Gebauer Fund, to help with the costs of travel to Germany for academic purposes, and the Master's Fund for Summer Projects, which includes internships and summer dissertation travel.

The College is ideally situated for modern languages, since it adjoins the Sidgwick site, where the University lectures and classes are held and the Faculty Library is located. The College Library itself also has excellent, up-to-date holdings in all the languages available for study.

All modern linguists spend their third year abroad either studying, teaching English, or on a work placement.

"My favourite part of my year abroad was the people I met: studying abroad gave me the opportunity to meet people from all over Europe and the world."

The Modern Languages Teaching Officers at Selwyn

Dr Edmund Birch (**French**) is a specialist in nineteenth-century French culture; Dr Bryan Cameron (**Spanish**) is a specialist in modern Spanish culture, with research interests in the nineteenth-century novel, film studies and social protest movements; 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

The Selwyn Fellows in Modern Languages are concerned both to foster a spirit of intellectual enquiry and to encourage the highest academic standards.

Successful candidates will have demonstrated an independent approach to learning, together with evidence of wide reading;

they will have achieved a high standard in the languages they are already studying; they will be highly motivated and they will have the potential to pursue academic excellence once they are at Cambridge. Able candidates who have not enjoyed particular educational advantages are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications from students on gap years are also welcomed.

All students of MML study two modern languages, one of which may be from scratch. It is possible to study a modern language with History (by applying for the History/Modern Languages Tripos), or with Arabic, Persian or Hebrew (by applying for the Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Tripos (see separate sheets).

If you have A-level Latin, it is possible to combine Classical Latin with an MML Tripos language. You can also study Classical Greek with a modern language, either from scratch or post A-level.

After graduation

As a result not only of their language skills but also their time spent working or studying abroad, modern linguists have an excellent employability rate after graduation and go on to work in a wide range of careers. Recent modern linguists have gone to work in the media, the arts, in teaching and lecturing, translating, Law, the Civil Service, banking and accountancy.

Interviews

Candidates will have two subject interviews, one for each language. All interviews will include a test of your oral ability, except in the case of a language you wish to start at University, where the interviewers will be looking for motivation and an active interest in the culture and history of the language-speaking area. You will usually also expect to be asked to discuss a passage, which may or may not be literary in nature. Those who are following a non-literary syllabus in the sixth form should note that this is designed to be an exercise in linguistic comprehension rather than a test of literary appreciation.

You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for Modern 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 linguistic, literary and other interests.

Admissions Assessment

Cambridge Colleges ask Modern Languages candidates to sit a written test when they come for interview. It consists of a short response in the target language and in English to a passage in English. The format of the test is the same across all Colleges; see <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/applying/how> for more information. You will also be asked to submit examples of your sixth-form work which may be discussed at interview.

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.

The Directors of Studies are happy to answer any queries from candidates considering making an application, and can be available to meet with potential candidates who are unable to visit on one of our open days. Please email the Admissions Office (admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk) who will be able to pass your query to us.