Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Full details about the course are available from http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/ and www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/anglo-saxon-norse-and-celtic.

The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn has a record of success in the ASNC course and provides strong support for students; Selwyn is known to encourage smaller subjects, which is also an advantage.

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 in small subjects like ASNC is organised across the university as a whole, and so there is no particular advantage in reading this subject at one college as opposed to another. But as already mentioned, Selwyn is keen to maintain the profile of the smaller subjects to ensure a wide variety of interests represented among its students. Selwyn is also close to the Sidgwick Site, where most ASNC lectures and classes take place, and close to the departmental library and to the University Library.

Teaching Fellows at Selwyn

Our Director of Studies for the ASNC course is Dr Rosalind Love, who is a Reader in Insular Latin and teaches Latin from beginners upwards in the Department of ASNC.

Qualities we are looking for

The vital requirements for a successful ASNC student are interest, enthusiasm, commitment, and ability. A student must be eager to get immersed in unfamiliar knowledge, to read widely in the subject, and take pleasure in bringing the material under control; he or she might wish to develop an expertise in a particular combination of ASNC subjects, for example by choosing mainly Germanic languages and literatures and history, or mainly Celtic ones, but any mix of subjects will, it is hoped, lead to a rewarding experience. The ASNC course is intended to satisfy a general interest in the medieval world, and at the same time to provide a varied and rigorous intellectual training. ASNC students have gone on to a wide variety of professions, including teaching, publishing, banking, museums and library work, journalism, Law and the Civil Service.

Subject requirements

In terms of their A-level subjects, candidates for admission in the ASNC course have varied backgrounds. Combinations often include English, or History, or a Language, but we do not have any particular requirements and are simply looking for evidence of academic ability relevant to the course.

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 take the pre-interview written assessment for ASNC, which will take place in schools and other assessment centres on 2 November 2017. You must be registered in advance (separately to your UCAS application) to take the assessment. The registration deadline is 15 October 2017. Your assessment centre must register you for the pre-interview assessment (you cannot register yourself).

Written work

Candidates are asked to send in advance two recent essays written and marked for their school work, if possible on a literary or historical subject. These may be used as a basis for discussion in the interview.

Interviews

There are two separate interviews. One interview will be with the College’s Director of Studies in ASNC, who will be trying in particular to assess the candidate’s aptitude for the course, and their commitment to the field of study. It can be helpful if the candidate has some idea of the options within the course which they might wish to take, and has done some exploratory reading in those subjects.

You will also have a shorter general interview which is intended to ascertain your motivation in applying for ASNC at Cambridge. This will give us a fuller sense of the maturity of your approach towards academic work, and your general intellectual interests.

Finding out more and Open Days

ASNC has its own open day on 28th June 2017. The subject will also be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 6th and 7th July 2017. See the insert in our prospectus about this and about open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.