



# Linguistics

Full details about the course are available from

<https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal/undergraduates>

and

[www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/linguistics](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/linguistics)

## The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn has a long tradition of welcoming students doing Linguistics, whether in the Linguistics Tripos or as part of the Modern Languages Tripos. Selwyn is one of the few colleges to have an internal Director of Studies in Linguistics. The college has a record of success in the Linguistics course and provides strong support for students. The College Library has one of the finest collections of Linguistics books of any Cambridge college library, and is extremely close to the Department of Linguistics and the Modern Languages Faculty Library. As in other small subjects, most teaching is organised at departmental level.

## The Teaching Fellows

Selwyn has two fellows in Linguistics: Dr David Willis, who has research interests in historical linguistics and syntax, and in Celtic (esp. Welsh), Old English and Slavonic (esp. Russian and Bulgarian) and Dr Kirsty McDougall, who has research interests in experimental and forensic phonetics. A number of other fellows also have research interests in linguistics: Professor David Holton (Modern Greek) in historical Greek linguistics, and Dr Rupert Thompson (Classics) in classical linguistics.

## Qualities we are looking for

For most of our students, linguistics is a new subject that they have not studied formally before. Some may have developed an interest in language from doing English Language A Level, while for others the initial stimulus may have come from learning a foreign language or experiencing different dialects and languages in their everyday lives. Because of this diversity of backgrounds, we do not insist on any particular A Level subjects, but are looking instead for intellectual curiosity about language, a passion for the subject and an ability to think about language in a logical and precise manner. Successful candidates are likely to have shown evidence of intellectual independence, for instance, through independent reading in relevant areas. A Level subjects that could serve as a good preparation for this include English language, a foreign language, maths, psychology or a science.

## Interviews

Candidates will have two interviews: one subject-based interview with the Director of Studies at Selwyn and one general interview, both conducted in the college. The subject interview aims to test your ability to think creatively and logically about language, to work out the structure of an unfamiliar language, and to establish your motivation for the subject and degree of engagement with it.

The more general interview 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 and other interests.

## Written work

Applicants are asked to send in advance two pieces of recent marked work. Ideally this should be in the form of an essay.

## Admissions Assessment

Students who are invited for interview in Linguistics are also asked to take the at-interview written assessment, 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.

## Finding out more and Open Days

The subject will also be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 5 and 6 July. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.

If you want information specific to the Linguistics Tripos, please contact the Admissions Office on [admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk). We will be happy to provide any further information.



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