



Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate>

and

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/theology>

The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn is superbly situated for students studying Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion. The Faculty building stands immediately next to the College. This means that Selwyn students are well placed for getting to lectures and classes, for seeing people in the Faculty, and for making use of the excellent Faculty Library and other facilities. Selwyn also has more Fellows who specialize in Theology than most other Colleges.

From its very beginning, Selwyn has always had a strong tradition in Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion, and provides a challenging and encouraging environment for the study of the subject. The library resources have been built up over a long period and are unusually strong. There is a thriving community of Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion students in the College, both undergraduate and postgraduate, and they give each other much mutual support, as well as organising dinners and discussions.

Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion students at Selwyn are given special encouragement, above all, to enjoy the subject, and particular care is taken to ensure that each individual can study the papers that most interest them in the way that suits them best. And because they enjoy what they are doing, they also do well: for several years now, virtually every Selwyn student in all the Parts of the Tripos has gained nothing lower than a First or 2.1.

The Teaching Fellows

Selwyn has two Fellows in Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion. The Director of Studies is Dr Alison Gray. She is also a Tutor in Hebrew and Hebrew Scripture at Westminster College. The Regius Professor of Divinity, Ian McFarland, is an expert in modern theology. Selwyn is also fortunate to have a retired Fellow, Dr Andrew Chester, who is a specialist in New Testament studies.

Qualities we are looking for

We are looking above all for students who are enthusiastic about the subject, and who are interested in raising questions about it and reflecting on them in a careful and constructive way. They can belong to any religious tradition or none; that does not matter at all. What does matter is that they should find studying Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion a compelling prospect, and want to develop their thinking and understanding. Those who teach for Selwyn find the subject fascinating and rewarding, and they want those who come to share the fascination and rewards. The course is demanding, and we seek evidence of strong motivation as well as excellent academic ability.

Interviews

There will usually be three interviews. The main subject interview is with Dr Gray, and lasts for 30 minutes. Applicants will be asked to send two of their essays to the College in advance of the interview. They will also be given a brief passage to read shortly before the interview. This passage, along with the essays, will provide a starting point for discussion, but the interview will also range more widely over candidates' aptitude for and understanding of the subject.

You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for Theology 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 interests in and beyond Theology.

In both interviews, the intention is to give each candidate every possible chance of showing themselves at their best, and a real effort is made to help candidates feel at ease and able to perform to the best of their ability.

In addition, Cambridge University has a policy of giving all Theology applicants a further interview at a second College. This is intended to ensure that the standard of admission is as comparable as possible between the various Colleges.

Written work

Candidates will be asked to submit two copies of marked pieces of recent and relevant class-work. If you are studying Religious Studies and/or Philosophy at A2-Level then we would prefer to see an essay from this course if possible.

Admissions Assessment

All candidates invited for interviews for Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion at Selwyn are asked to take an admissions assessment whilst they are in Cambridge.

Your performance in the admissions assessment will not be considered in isolation, but will be taken into account alongside the other elements of your application.

Finding out more and Open Days

The subject will 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.

You are welcome to contact Dr Gray, at Selwyn College, Cambridge CB3 9DQ, if you want more information, or would like to come to discuss doing Theology, or have an informal meeting.



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