University of Cambridge: Programme Specifications

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. Programme specifications are produced and then reviewed annually by the relevant teaching faculty or department and revised where necessary. However, we reserve the right to withdraw, update or amend this programme specification at any time without notice.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/camdata/archive.html

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS

1	**Awarding body**	University of Cambridge
2	**Teaching institution**	Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages
3	**Accreditation details**	None
4	**Name of final award**	Bachelor of Arts
5	**Programme title**	Modern & Medieval Languages Tripos
6	**UCAS code**	T900BA
7	**JACS code(s)**	N/A
8	**Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)**	Languages and related studies; Linguistics
9	**Qualifications framework level**	6 (Honours)
10	**Date specification produced/ last revised**	Last revised 27 April 2011
11	**Date specification last reviewed**	27 April 2011

Typical Offer: A*AA. Admission is based on high achievement in 'A' level or equivalent examinations, school recommendations and success in interview. On average there are 180 full-time students in each year.

The core teaching staff consists of 68 University Teaching Officers (out of whom 8 are (Senior) Language Teaching Officers) and 15 College Teaching Officers. In addition, a wide variety of specialists from the Colleges and individual departments teach in supervisions and assist with the programme of lectures. Many colleges also appoint their own lectors to assist with language teaching.

The Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages is situated in a building on the Sidgwick Site in Cambridge where there are lecture and seminar rooms. The Faculty has a well-stocked library with about 108,500 books, 2,550 videos/DVDs, CDs and audio recordings, a CALL (Computer-assisted language learning) Facility/Media Centre, Phonetics Laboratory and a dedicated Year Abroad Office. Students also have access to the University Language Centre, which has a staff of 27. Its services are independent of the Faculty and are available to the whole university.

Programme structure

Parts IA & IB

Where one language is studied *ab initio*, all students take a scheduled (non-language) introductory paper related to the literature (and linguistics, in the case of Italian) of that language area. All students are expected to have reached the same level of achievement at the end of their second year (part IB).

On completion of Part IB students should have

(a) achieved practical competence at reading, comprehension of the spoken word, writing and speaking in each of two foreign languages, regardless of entry level;

(b) acquired and developed a range of critical and analytical skills, and hence become technically and intellectually equipped to make informed decisions as to the further direction of their studies;

(c) acquired intercultural awareness and understanding;

(d) acquired basic learning skills in
• using computers to assist language learning;
• essay-writing;
• effective participation in individually supervised and group discussion.

In Part I (A and B) students have the opportunity to choose introductory papers in the literature, language (linguistics) and, in some cases, history and society of the countries where their chosen languages are spoken.

Part II

Candidates are of standing to take Part II if they have completed Part I in MML or another Tripos.

On completion of Part II students should have acquired in addition

(a) through the year abroad and further language study, an advanced level of practical competence in at least one foreign language;

(b) through the dissertation, translation project, or linguistics project during the year abroad, the ability to plan, design and execute a piece of independent research;

(c) through choosing from a very wide choice of specialised options, enhanced knowledge and skills according to their own particular interests and aptitudes;

(d) a more advanced level of subject-related skills through the
• study of specialised topics in a particular field;
• acquisition of interdisciplinary perspectives and skills;
• acquisition of skills of oral and written presentation, and of constructive and critical participation in seminar classes and larger groups.

Educational aims

The course aims:
(a) to provide teaching and learning to undergraduate students in
• a wide range of European languages;
• language as a phenomenon (linguistics);
• the history of European languages, and families of languages;
• the development of cultures based on those languages, from their medieval origins to the present day;
• the intellectual traditions of those cultures (history of ideas);
• literature in those cultural and intellectual contexts;
• comparative aspects of those cultures;
• in certain cases, the political and social history of the relevant nations;

• in certain cases, film and the visual arts in those cultural contexts.

(b) to provide high calibre students with an excellent education which is informed by current developments in scholarship and research;
(c) to provide a stimulating environment in which students can reach their intellectual potential;
(d) to provide an integrated structure of learning and teaching;
(e) to help students develop a wide range of intellectual abilities and skills which will enable them to make a significant contribution in their chosen careers and walks of life, including training in academic research.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course students will have acquired the following skills
(a) Knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.
(b) Cognitive skills:
• the ability to use language creatively and precisely for a range of purposes and audiences;
• the ability to engage with and interpret layers of meaning within texts and other cultural products;
• the ability to contextualise from a variety of perspectives;
• the capacity for critical reflection and judgement in the light of evidence and argument;
• the ability to extract and synthesise key information from written and spoken sources;
• the ability to organise and present ideas within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument;
• the ability to engage in analytical and evaluative thinking.
(c) Practical skills:
• the ability to present and use material in the target language and one's own language in written and oral forms in a clear and effective manner;
• the ability to work autonomously, manifested in self-direction, self-discipline and time-management;
• accurate and effective note-taking and summarising skills;
• library and bibliographic research skills;
• techniques for using target language source materials;
• analytic and problem-solving skills;
• the ability to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines;
• IT skills (e-mail, word-processing and internet use).
(d) Interpersonal skills:
• communication, presentation, interaction;
• ability to work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a team;
• self-reliance, initiative, adaptability and flexibility;
• inter-cultural competence.

Teaching methods

Teaching is delivered by lectures, seminars and classes in the Faculty which relate to the papers offered in the Tripos; by language classes; and by supervisions in the Colleges which provide individual teaching through written work and feedback. Throughout, students are required to undertake independent reading and study in order to consolidate what is being taught.

Assessment methods

Formative assessment is provided through language classes and the supervision system where feedback is given in oral and written form. Summative assessment, which takes place at the end of each year, is by two- and three-hour examination, submission of a portfolio of essays (Part IB), and dissertation(s) (Part II). With the exception of the Part II oral, which takes place at the start of the academic year following the year abroad, examinations in oral and aural proficiency are scheduled towards the end of the year.

Career Destinations

Graduates in Modern and Medieval Languages go into a wide variety of careers, such as: journalism, the media and arts, banking, accountancy, management, administration, marketing, civil service, law, teaching, translation and interpreting. Some stay to pursue postgraduate research. By the end of the year after they graduate, around 90% of our graduates are in employment or are engaged in further study, which underlines the value of the training which an MML degree provides.

Quality Management

The Faculty Board is responsible for all teaching in the Faculty. The quality of the course is maintained by
(a) scrutiny of the reports of External Examiners by the Faculty's Undergraduate Studies Committee, the Faculty Board, and the General Board's Education Section and implementation, where necessary, of suggested improvements;
(b) student feedback through lecture and class questionnaires;
(c) a four-yearly review of all teaching, conducted by the Faculty's Undergraduate Studies Committee;
(d) student participation in the Faculty Staff-Student Liaison Committee and the Faculty Board;
(e) regular appraisal and evaluation of staff, and the provision of staff development programmes;
(f) the General Board's programme for reviewing Faculties and Departments every six years.

Indicators of Quality

TQA Score: 22 (1996)

Results of the **2008 Research Assessment Exercise**: Grade Point Average: French (2.65), German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages (2.65), Italian (3.20), Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages (2.75), Iberian and Latin American Languages (2.90), Linguistics (2.45), Classics, Ancient History, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (3.15)

Links to further information

Cambridge University Guide to Courses: http://www.cam.ac.uk/guide
Faculty Website: http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/