

University of Cambridge: Programme Specifications

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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 (Honours)
5	Programme title	Modern & Medieval Languages Tripos
6	UCAS code	R800 BA/MML
7	JACS code(s)	R800
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 21 May 2012
11	Date specification last reviewed	21 May 2012

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 lecturers 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

All students must offer two languages. With the exception of French and Latin (where only post-A2-level, option B, is available), they must choose one of two options for each of their languages (A or B), at least one language must be offered as Option B. Option B papers are taught at a level of post-A2 (or equivalent). Option A papers are taught at beginners level.

To obtain honours in Part IA, a candidate must pass the examinations in both languages.

All first-year students take a scheduled (non-language) introductory paper, in at least one of their languages, related to the culture, literature and linguistics 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).

In the second year, Part IB students continue to build on their language skills for both languages. Students also choose from scheduled (non-language) papers covering topics such as literature, art, culture, linguistics and history. There is also the option to choose an introduction to a language not studied before.

Part II

Part II of the Tripos is a two-year course, comprising the year abroad and the final year in Cambridge.

Final year students specialise in one language or combine options from two or more languages. Students will study translation and work on advanced use of the foreign language and analysis of texts. Students will also choose scheduled (non-language) papers from a wide range of areas including film, history, and comparative studies. One of these may be replaced by a dissertation. There is also the option to 'borrow' papers from other degree subjects.

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) Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the subject matter:
 - through choosing from a very wide choice of specialised options, according to their own particular interests and aptitudes;

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

(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 critical, analytical and evaluative thinking;
- ability to plan, design and execute a piece of independent research through the year abroad project

(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);
- using computers to assist language learning;

(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

Faculty Website: <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/>

Careers service website:

<http://www.careers.cam.ac.uk/sectors/languages/index.asp>

Skills portal: <http://www.skills.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/index.html>