

Programme Specification 2025-26

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS

Awarding body	University of Cambridge
Teaching institution	Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages and Linguistics
Accreditation details	None
Name of final award	Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Programme title	Modern & Medieval Languages Tripos
UCAS code	R800 BA/MML
HECoS code(s)	100329 (modern languages)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	Languages and related studies; Linguistics
Qualifications framework level	6 (Honours)
Date specification produced	January 2025

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 79 University Teaching Officers (out of whom 11 are (Senior) Language Teaching Officers) and 17 College Teaching Officers. Between them, these teaching officers deliver faculty lectures, seminars, and classes as well as College supervisions. Many colleges also appoint their own lectors to assist with language teaching.

The Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics 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 118,000 books, 3,500 videos/DVDs, CDs and audio recordings, a CALL (Computer-assisted language learning) Facility/Media Centre, Phonetics Laboratory and a dedicated Year Abroad Office. Students are also encouraged to access the University Language Centre. Containing multimedia resources in more than 170 languages and offering formal and informal language learning opportunities, the Language Centre is independent of the Faculty and its services 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.

First-year students offering both languages as Option B take a scheduled (non-language) paper in each one, introducing them to the literature, culture, and (in many cases also) linguistics of each language. First-year students offering one language as Option A take an introductory paper to these aspects at a level appropriate for beginners.

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 specialize in one language or combine options from two or more languages.

Students will develop translation skills into and out of the foreign language 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 literature, linguistics, film, 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 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 range of specialized options according to their own particular interests and aptitudes;
- through acquiring 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 contextualize from a variety of perspectives;
- the capacity for critical reflection and judgment in the light of evidence and argument;
- the ability to extract and synthesize key information from written and spoken sources;
- the ability to organize 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 summarizing 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 individualized 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 a combination of in-person exams, coursework, 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. 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.

Management of Education Quality and Standards

The University ensures high quality of teaching and learning in the following ways:

1. Scrutiny of the External Examiners Reports for all teaching programmes.
2. Encouraging student engagement at both the local level, through involvement in Faculty and Departmental Committees, and at a central level by participation in nationally benchmarked surveys.
3. Participation in the biennial Education Monitoring and Review Process to explore provision, share good practice, and suggest constructive courses of action.
4. Mentoring, appraisal, and peer review of staff, and encouraging staff participation in personal development programmes.

Indicators of Quality

The Faculty is ranked third in the country for modern languages and linguistics in the Guardian University League Tables for 2025. It is ranked first in the world for modern languages and second in the world for linguistics in the QS World Rankings for 2024.

Results from the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, Unit of Assessment 24 (Modern Languages and Linguistics)

	% of the submission meeting the standard for:				
	4*	3*	2*	1*	U/C
Overall	53	32	11	1	3
Outputs	39.9	38.9	19.5	1.4	0.3
Impact	72.2	16.7	0	0	11.1
Environment	72.5	27.5	0	0	0

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year, and any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the *Reporter*. The relevant Faculty or Department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

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