

General information on Modern and Medieval Languages for offer-holders in MML (Modern and Medieval Languages) and HML (History and Modern Languages)

This document contains advice on preparing for Modern Languages at Cambridge; HML students, please make sure that you also check the information provided for you in relation to the History side of your course.

You can find useful overviews of the MML and HML courses at Cambridge here:

- [MML course](#) and [information for offer-holders](#)
- [HML course](#)

and a list of the different papers here:

- [MML papers](#)
- [HML papers](#)

We would recommend that you explore the webpages above carefully, to familiarise yourself with the course. The first-year ab initio papers are labelled A1, A2 and A3; the post-A level language papers are B1 and B2.

It is essential that you set aside a good amount of time over the rest of the summer for reading ahead for the course here in Cambridge and for building on your existing language skills. Following the links below will provide you with very important advice about the preparation that you will be expected to complete before you arrive in October.

For each language you are studying, you will take a 'scheduled' paper covering literature, linguistics and other topics, including history, thought and cinema. These papers are designed to be introductory and will expose you to a number of different ways of approaching the study of language, history and culture. They will help you discover what you enjoy most, which will be very useful when you come to choose from a range of optional papers in your second year.

It is really important that you complete a substantial amount of the core reading for these papers before you arrive. Terms at Cambridge are very short; they are exhilarating but exhausting, and you will find that you will barely have enough time to tackle secondary reading and prepare your essays – reading key texts for the first time generally has to happen beforehand during the vacations. Please don't be discouraged if you find reading in your languages heavy-going at this stage. There are no short cuts to acquiring the vocabulary you will need to read fluently without the aid of a dictionary, so you should expect to find the reading challenging (or even very challenging) at this stage. When you get here, there will be lectures and classes to help you in your work on the texts, but reading them through now, even if you feel you are only just following the gist of them, will give you a good base to work from.

Over the summer, we would also recommend that you dip into this general guide to undergraduate study at Cambridge, which has a lot of useful introductory information:

<https://camguides.lib.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates.html>

If you have any questions, the best person to contact would be the Fellow in the relevant language (if one is not listed, please contact Dr Price). We are all very much looking forward to welcoming you in October.

Fellows and Directors of Studies in Modern Languages at Robinson:

Dr Scott Annett (sa410@cam.ac.uk) – Fellow in English and College Lecturer in Italian

Dr Rory Finnin (ref35@cam.ac.uk) – Fellow in Slavonic Studies

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