



Studying Modern Languages

Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge

Bem-vindo! Bienvenue! добро пожаловать!
Bienvenido! Willkommen! Benvenuto!

- What should I expect if I study modern languages at university?
- What will my career prospects be as a modern languages graduate?
- Why study modern languages at Cambridge?
- Resources for subject exploration

You might be wondering...

- **Is this the right degree for me? Will it be useful?**
- **Which languages can I study?**
- **How will it be different to what I've done at school?**
- **What experience will I gain?**
- **What will my career prospects be?**

Why modern languages?

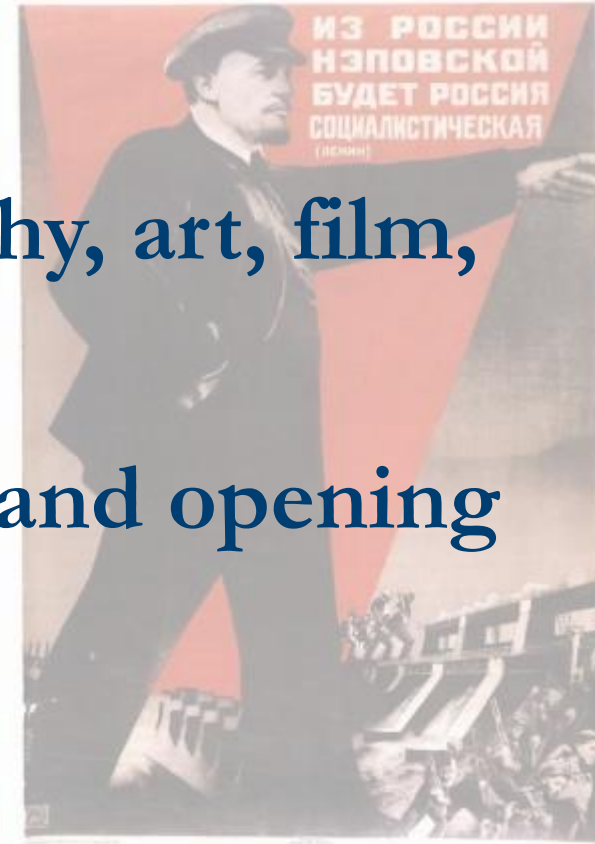
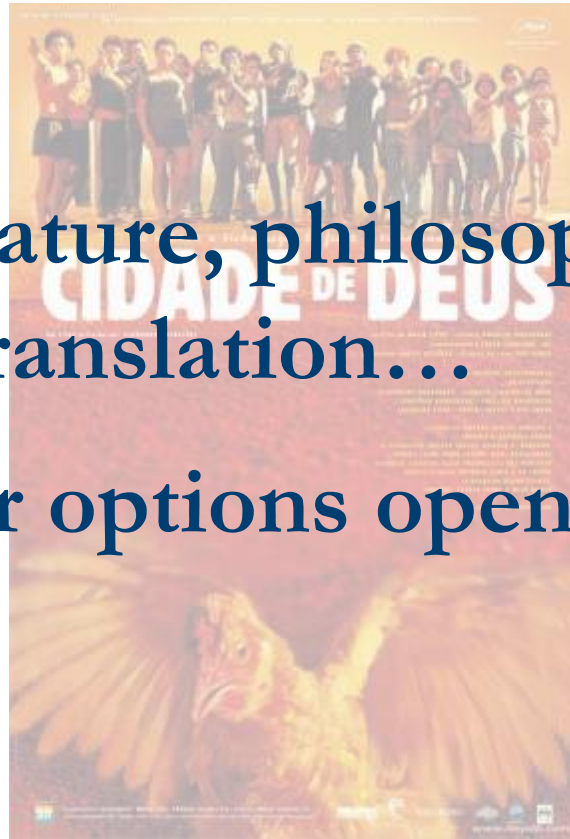
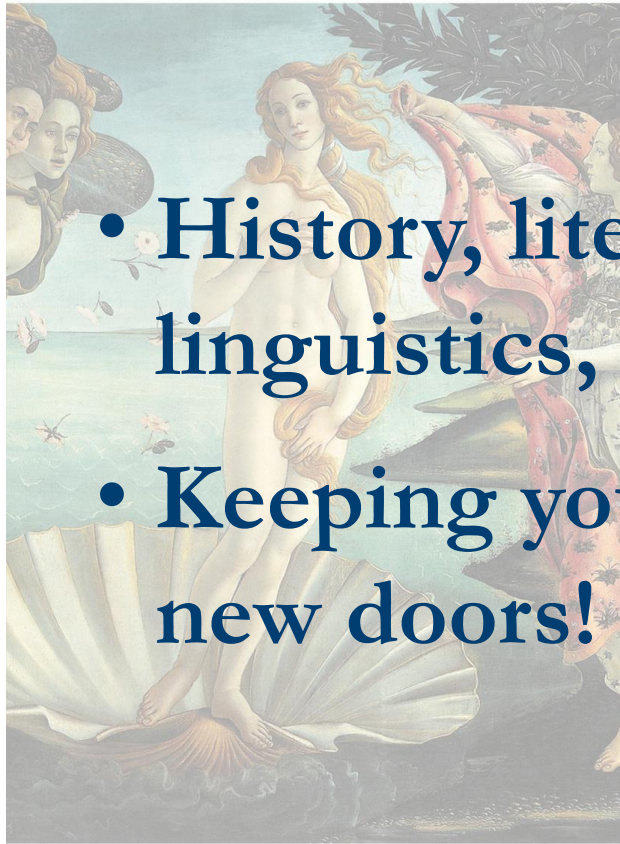
1. Intellectual stimulation

- High level of fluency
- Advanced linguistic and critical skills
- Intercultural sensitivity
- Curiosity and open-mindedness

Why modern languages?

2. Many disciplines rolled into one

- History, literature, philosophy, art, film, linguistics, translation...
- Keeping your options open and opening new doors!



Why modern languages?

3. The Year Abroad

- Advertising agency in Paris
- Investment bank in Frankfurt
- Law firm in Barcelona
- Studying history of art in Rome
- Teaching English in Colombia and Kazakhstan
- Radio station in Mexico

- See how languages work in context
- Grow in independence and confidence
- Acquire near-native fluency
- Gain professional experience
- Study at a foreign university

Why modern languages?

4. Career prospects

Sought-after skills on the job market:

- specialist knowledge of languages and cultures
- analysis and argumentation
- advanced communication and computing
- experience in independent thinking and project management

90% of Cambridge modern languages graduates are in employment or further study 6 months after graduation.

What can I do afterwards?

- language teaching (at school and university level)
- translation and interpreting
- journalism
- publishing
- politics
- advertising / marketing
- Civil Service / Foreign Office
- banking and investment
- accountancy
- law
- arts and heritage sector
- tech start-ups
- speech and language therapy

Why Cambridge?

1. Flexibility

2 languages, at least 1 post-A-Level:

French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Portuguese

All (except French) can also be studied from scratch!

1 modern European language can be combined with:

Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Latin or Ancient Greek

Additional languages in 2nd or 4th year:

Catalan, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Modern Greek

Joint degrees: History and Modern Languages, Modern Languages and Linguistics, and (in future), Modern Languages and Film

Why Cambridge?

2. Variety

Literature, medieval to present-day

Linguistics (e.g. dialects, history of the language)

Film and visual culture

History

Art

Philosophy

‘Performance cultures’ (e.g. dance, music, theatre)

Why Cambridge?

3. More contact hours

- Lectures
- Language and translation classes (groups of 10-12)
- Supervisions (groups of 1-3)

What are we looking for?

- You don't need to have travelled the world!
- No expectation of fluency
- Commitment and curiosity
- Quality over quantity
- Independent exploration of your subject (e.g. reading novels, watching films) – super-curricular, not extracurricular!
- Taking a language at A-level or equivalent
- Standard minimum offer: A*AA

Useful resources

WhyNotLanguages (resources for teachers and pupils):

<https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/outreach-events-activities/resources/why-not-languages-resources-school-teachers-pupils>

HE+ (exercises and ideas for extended projects in many subjects):

<https://myheplus.com/subject/modern-and-medieval-languages>

University of Cambridge Language Centre Open Courseware:

<https://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk/opencourseware/opencourseware-index.html>

Cambridge Collaborative A-level Resources for Languages: CCARL
(short videos in the target language for A-level set texts in French and German):

<https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/outreach-events-activities/resources/cambridge-collaborative-level-resources-languages-ccarl>