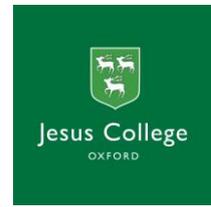


# Jesus College, Oxford



## Subject Notes: MODERN LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

### *Academic Staff*

#### Fellows

**Professor Katrin Kohl** is a Fellow and Tutor in German. She teaches German literature from 1750. Her research focuses on poetry and poetics, and on the theory and practice of metaphor. Currently she is on research leave, leading an interdisciplinary research project on Creative Multilingualism for the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages.

**Professor Caroline Warman**, Fellow and Tutor in French. She teaches and researches eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French literature and thought, and has translated novels and essays from French. She is on research leave for 2018-19 to finish a book about Diderot's theory of the human. She will be replaced by a Departmental Lecturer in French with a similar specialism and commitment to teaching!

#### Lecturers

**Dr Julie Curtis**, a Fellow in Russian at Wolfson College, is a Lecturer for Jesus. Her research interests lie in twentieth-century Russian literature, especially Mikhail Bulgakov and Evgenii Zamiatin. She has also published on the literature of the Gorbachov era.

**Dr Kirstin Gwyer** is a Departmental Lecturer in German at Jesus. She teaches German literature from the eighteenth century to the present, with a special interest in twentieth- and twenty-first-century prose fiction, and translation into and out of German. Her research interests are in the first-generation Holocaust novel, contemporary German-Jewish and American-Jewish literature, German memory writing since 1945, and postmodernism and post-postmodernism.

**Dr Elena Lombardi**, a Fellow of Balliol College, is a Lecturer in Italian for Jesus College. Her teaching interests focus on Dante, early Italian poetry, and Medieval Studies.

**Dr Daniela Omlor**, Fellow in Spanish at Lincoln College, also looks after Jesus students. Her research focuses on contemporary Spanish literature, with a particular emphasis on memory, trauma and exile. Her first book examined the role of memory and self-representation in the works of Jorge Semprún. Currently, she is exploring the interaction between memory and fiction in recent novels by Javier Cercas, Javier Marías and Antonio Muñoz Molina and others, in order to investigate how the recovery of historical memory in Spanish novels increasingly extends beyond the Spanish Civil War.

### *About the Course*

The Modern Language element of the Modern Languages and Linguistics course will be like one half of the main Modern Languages course, i.e. students of a particular language follow the same programme, regardless of the combination of languages or other subjects taken. Please note that Czech, Polish, and Beginners' Russian are not available in combination with Linguistics. You will receive both practical linguistic training and an extensive introduction to the literature and thought of the European language you choose. The other half of the course allows you to focus on language itself.

You will be introduced to the analysis of the nature and structure of human language in all its aspects, which is linguistics. Oxford offers facilities for the linguistic and philological study of European languages that are unmatched anywhere else in Britain. The University has particular expertise in general

linguistics, phonetics, syntax and semantics, and in the history and structure of many individual European languages and families of related languages.

Modern Languages and Linguistics is a 4-year course involving a year abroad. Many students spend the year abroad as a paid language assistant in a foreign school, though you may do work abroad or study at a foreign university. If you need further information, you can consult with the college of your choice. We encourage you to spend as much as possible of your vacations in the countries whose languages you are studying. Financial support, including travelling scholarships, may be available from your college and/or the Faculty.

### *Joint Schools*

Modern Languages and Linguistics is a Joint Schools course combining study of one European Language with Linguistics. Modern Languages can be studied as a Single Honours course (one or two European languages), or as a Joint Schools course with Classics, English, History, Philosophy or a Middle Eastern language. Linguistics may be studied with either Philosophy or Psychology.

### *Admissions*

We expect candidates to be motivated to do a course with a focus on literature, but do not assume that they will have studied literature formally. Linguistics is a subject which virtually everybody starts from scratch at University, and our primary requirements are enthusiasm for exploring the nature of human language; willingness to acquire the formal tools for describing and analysing language; enthusiasm for acquiring a detailed and rigorous understanding of the structure, use and history of the language you are studying.

Candidates are selected on the basis of academic record (e.g. GCSEs) and potential, as shown by their UCAS reference, submitted written work, and performance in written tests and in interviews if shortlisted.

**Written test:** all candidates must take the **Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)** in schools on **Wednesday 31 October 2018**. The language tests consist of a monolingual exercise and a number of non-consecutive sentences for translation from and into the language, and are primarily intended to test knowledge of grammar rather than vocabulary. Please note that the MLAT is a booklet containing several different papers: please check the following link to see which papers are required for your course:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/tests-students-applying-study-modern-languages-or-linguistics>

Candidates will also be required to take the **Linguistics Aptitude Test**. This test is designed to assess how you approach various kinds of unfamiliar linguistic data and set about analysing them. While there are 'right' and 'wrong' answers, how you go about finding the solution is as important to us as producing one which is completely correct. N.B. All written tests are administered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, and the deadline for completing registration is **15 October 2018**.

**Written work:** Candidates are required to submit marked pieces of recent school or college work: one piece written in the Modern Language applied for, plus one piece written in English (perhaps on literature, or history, or some other subject you are studying at school or college) to show how you construct an argument and express your ideas in English. If candidates have taken, or are taking, an A-level involving linguistic analysis, such as English Language A-level, they should also submit one piece of written work from that. The deadline to submit written work is **10 November 2018**.

**Interviews:** All shortlisted candidates will have an interview lasting approximately 30 minutes with our Modern Languages tutors, with an additional interview with the lecturer in the chosen language if it is not French or German. Interviews will be mainly in English, but will include a brief conversation in the language offered. You may be asked questions about a short passage in English or the relevant foreign language. There will also be an interview with the Linguistics tutor.

In a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates; 9-10 are offered places in a typical year to read Modern Languages and related joint schools. Offers made to pre-A level candidates will be conditional upon A level results (normally AAA, with an A in the language applied for). Offers made to post-A level candidates will usually be unconditional.

**Deferred Entry:** Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are welcomed. You must apply for deferred entry at the time of application to Oxford: you cannot change your mind after an offer has been made. Please refer to departmental web sites for subject-specific advice. You should be aware that applicants who are offered places for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. We would not usually offer more than one or two deferred places per subject in order not to disadvantage the following year's candidates. In some cases, an applicant for deferred entry may be offered a place for non-deferred entry instead. If you require any further advice, please contact the Admissions Officer via [admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

### *Postgraduate Studies and Careers*

Oxford has a large, varied, and active teaching and research community in Modern Languages. There are over ninety members of the Faculty, with research interests spread across the full chronological range of the languages and into most areas of linguistics and literary study. The College welcomes applicants for the following postgraduate degrees:

- MSt or MPhil Modern Languages
- DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages
- MSt or MPhil Slavonic Studies
- MSt Women's Studies
- MSt Yiddish Studies
- MSt, MPhil or DPhil General Linguistics and Comparative Philology

The undergraduate course in Modern Languages and Linguistics at Oxford is intended to transmit an awareness of one or more foreign cultures in relation to students' native culture and to equip students with a sophisticated command of the language or languages they study. Beyond these subject-specific aims, the course trains students' critical faculties and gives them a wide range of other 'transferable skills'. Students learn to organise their time and cope with working under pressure, and the course provides intensive training in communication skills: weekly essays demand quick assimilation of material and foster writing skills, while discussion in tutorials and classes develops confidence in presenting an independent view clearly and comprehensibly. Recent studies indicate that an increasing number of British employers are realising the value of recruiting trained linguists, and Oxford Modern Languages and Linguistics graduates regularly go into highly competitive areas such as law, management consultancy, accountancy, international press agencies, the media, advertising, the Foreign Office and the performing arts.

### *Preliminary Reading and Further Information*

Further information about Modern Languages and Linguistics at Oxford can be found at: [www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/pros\\_linguistics](http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/pros_linguistics)

Information about Admissions is available at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/modern-languages-and-linguistics>

### *Contact details*

If you have any questions about our entrance requirements, or about applying to study at Jesus College, please contact the Admissions Officer:

Tel: 01865 279721  
Email: [admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here)

*Last updated: May 2018*