

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 has just she finished a book about Enlightenment philosopher Diderot and co-organised a congress on the Enlightenment for 1500 people from all over the world. She teaches French literature and thought and also translation to all years.

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.

Dr Jamie Findlay is a Departmental Lecturer in Syntax at the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, and a Lecturer in Linguistics for Jesus. He teaches general linguistics at all levels, as well as syntax and sociolinguistics. His research focuses on constraint-based theories of grammar, and issues at the syntax-semantics interface.

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 Linguistics 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. 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.

The College has an exchange scheme with the University of Trier, which accommodates one student a year. All undergraduate members of the College are eligible to apply for this exchange.

Joint Schools

Modern Languages and Linguistics is a Joint Schools course combining study of one European Language with Linguistics. Modern Languages can alternatively 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 alternatively be studied with either Philosophy or Psychology.

Admissions

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. 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.

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.

Academic requirements: Offers made to candidates will be conditional upon A-level results (AAA, with an A in each of the languages the candidate is applying to study to degree level) or equivalent qualifications.

Written test: All candidates must take the **Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)** in schools on **4 November 2020**. Please note that separate registration is required and the deadline for doing this is **15 October 2020**. Each language-specific test is taken only if the candidate is currently studying the language to A2 level or equivalent. The 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 information on the University's website carefully to see which papers are required for your course: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/mlat>

Written work: Candidates are required to submit marked pieces of recent school or college work: one piece in each of the languages they are currently studying, 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. Additionally, if candidates are studying an A-level or other qualification involving linguistic analysis (e.g. English Language), they should also send in a piece of written work from that. The deadline to submit written work is **10 November 2020**. Further information can be viewed here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/written-work>

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.

Deferred Entry: Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are accepted. 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 deferred place 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

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 Women's Studies
- MSt, MPhil or DPhil Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

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

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
Web: www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here

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