Whether you have a love of Insular Latin or are minded to study medieval Welsh, the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (known at Cambridge as ASNC) is a world-leading centre for teaching and research in the field.

At ASNC, we have an international reputation for our teaching on the history, languages and literatures of the peoples of Britain, Ireland, Brittany and Scandinavia in the earlier Middle Ages.

We like to think of ourselves as a jewel in the Cambridge crown. As one of the University’s smallest Departments, we are famous for our friendly and tight-knit community.

As well as a warm welcome, our MPhil offers supervision and instruction tailored to students’ individual needs.

The course provides a thorough understanding of early Insular culture. It also allows students scope to specialise in what interests them most – from history and paleogeography to literature and linguistics. In contrast to other Master’s programmes, the MPhil in ASNC covers scholarly methods and disciplines relevant to the entire range of these subjects.

Teaching – a mix of individual supervision, seminars and classes – is led by subject specialists who are international experts in their fields. All MPhil students have an individual supervisor to advise on work, develop ideas and discuss progress. The course culminates in a 15,000 word dissertation and two examinations from the Department’s range of linguistic, literary, historical and text-cultural subjects.

At ASNC, we encourage students to meet and discuss their work with lecturers and peers alike, either formally at MPhil Research Forum events or informally.

The University Library’s extensive collections of manuscripts and printed books provide a rich background for research, augmented by the ASNC section of the English Faculty Library, and many special holdings in College libraries.

The ASNC MPhil is an excellent foundation for further research. Every year some 60% of students go on to PhD study in Cambridge or other world-leading institutions, and the analytical skills and critical thinking that our students develop mean they are also equipped for rewarding careers in the heritage sector, publishing, media and the law.

“The vibrant and friendly interdisciplinary culture of the Department and — above all else — the incredible care and attention my work received from my supervisor made ASNC a stimulating, supportive and rewarding place.”

Dr Geraldine Parsons
Lecturer in Celtic Studies, Roinn na Ceiltis is na Gàidhlig | Celtic and Gaelic, University of Glasgow

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