We are delighted you are considering applying to Cambridge. Our Arts and Humanities subjects are consistently rated among the best in the world for teaching and research. In 2017, we were second overall in the QS World University Rankings. Our aim is to foster academic excellence, to encourage original thinking, to set agendas, and to answer the biggest questions in our fields.

From Architecture and Music to Philosophy and Comparative Literature, our courses equip the brightest students for life ahead. For some, that will involve further study here or at other leading universities. Others will use Cambridge as a stepping stone to their chosen careers in different professions.

At Cambridge you will find an intellectual life that is second to none. Our Faculties are home to leading thinkers in many different fields - and you will have direct access to them. The University’s structure also allows students to build strong, lasting relationships both within and across disciplinary boundaries. Cambridge gives you the opportunity to engage with some of the most brilliant minds of this generation – and meet and learn with the leaders and scholars of the next.

Cambridge is renowned for innovation and we apply this forward thinking to our teaching and learning. Our Master’s courses are distinctive for the intellectual freedom that they offer. Students design their own research questions, together with their personal supervisor, and are given space to immerse themselves in their chosen lines of enquiry.

Cambridge scholars have defined their disciplines for generations. Our unique research environment is key to our success, and graduate students play a vital role in it. We hope you might want to join us. Choosing one of our Master’s courses is a great place to start.

“"The best part about Cambridge is the exposure you get to other brilliant minds in other subjects. I learned so much from conversations around the dinner table in my College. I had the opportunity to engage in informal conversations with the most fascinating people doing incredible research – everyone from the Master to leading economists to scientists working on the Hadron Collider.”

James Pearson
Correspondent for Reuters in Seoul, South Korea
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.

www.asnc.cam.ac.uk

“The range of MPhils available in Cambridge provides the ideal extension to undergraduate study, allowing students to become independent producers of knowledge. Whether taken as a free-standing year of high-level focussed study, or as the first step to a PhD, a Cambridge MPhil develops a confident understanding of the nature of advanced research, formed alongside a diverse and international group of fellow-students and guided by world-leading authorities in their field.”

Steven Connor
Graca 2 Professor of English

“Our MPhil students carry out research into a stunning array of topics, often travelling to see the original works in situ across the globe. They are embraced in our Department’s lively community, supported by passionately interested supervisors, and thrive in Cambridge’s outstanding research environment.”

Rosalind Polly Blakesley
Reader in Russian and European Art

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
MAUS is a programme of advanced study on modern and contemporary architecture and the development of cities around the world. It attracts students from many academic backgrounds to work in an interdisciplinary environment, enabling them to advance their careers in professional practice as well as embarking on PhD research. We aim to make a difference to cities worldwide, as well as contributing to academic discourse. By exploring a wide range of ideas, research methods and theoretical approaches, you will be able to analyse issues relating to architecture and the complex challenges of the world’s rapidly changing cities.

MAUS offers a flexible structure tailored to your interests and research needs. Seminars and lectures cover two main strands. One emphasizes the socio-political and cultural contexts of architecture and the city. The other addresses the technical issues central to urban development today. Each year we organize a voluntary field trip to analyse urban development in a particular region. Over the past five years, our students have produced in-depth studies on urban conditions in Africa, China, Europe, North America, Latin American and South East Asia.

“MAUS is a unique opportunity for students to develop an individual dissertation topic and design direction, and undertake an extended fieldwork period. Work in studio is complemented by seminars from world-leading specialists and supported by studio staff and a dedicated dissertation supervisor.”

www.arct.cam.ac.uk

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is a vibrant intellectual environment with an international reputation. Our research is unique in its breadth, covering pre-modern topics as well as contemporary East Asian and Middle Eastern studies and global challenges.

As an MPhil student, you will join one of the Faculty’s research groups. These give you an opportunity to work alongside staff, postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars. We put on an exciting programme of lectures, and a huge range of relevant academic and cultural events make Cambridge a uniquely stimulating intellectual environment for graduate students.

We offer an MPhil by Advanced Study and an MPhil by Research in East Asian Studies (Chinese and Japanese), Middle Eastern Studies (Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Semitic) and South Asian Studies (Sanskrit and Pali). The advanced study MPhil comprises three modules assessed by exams or a long essay, plus a 15,000 word dissertation. The research MPhil is assessed by a 25,000 word dissertation.

“We place great emphasis on exploring our field through the local languages. As an MPhil student, we expect you to have good reading skills in the language you want to work with. This ensures that you can focus on developing your analytical and research skills to the full.”

www.ames.cam.ac.uk

At Cambridge, I was taught how to become a researcher. It was more like being a PhD student and I was able to reach out to experts in other fields. I had access to a broad network of related disciplines, all of which were completely accessible. I went to a lecture given by the Head of one of the major science departments. We went out for coffee afterwards and he was very encouraging about my topic. My research benefitted from the critical perspective and collaboration with other disciplines, namely Earth Sciences, Engineering and Physics.”

Mehrnaz Ghojeh
Senior Urban Development Specialist & EPSRC PhD Candidate at UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy

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“We had weekly seminars in my MPhil group which focussed on Latin and Greek Literature. It was amazing to have the opportunity to learn from other students. They all had wide, ranging interests which introduced me to areas I hadn’t considered before. And we had a very international cohort. I would say about 75% of us were from outside the UK, which meant that I was exposed to different research methodologies and ways of thinking that we taught elsewhere.”

George Jenkins

Working in tax consultancy and studying for accountancy qualifications

Many of our graduates pursue PhD research and academic careers in Classics throughout the world. Others go on to a wide range of non-academic careers. They leave the MPhil as astute readers of texts able to compose lucid and persuasive academic arguments, with the tools to ask – and answer – the most wide-ranging and ambitious research questions.

www.classics.cam.ac.uk

The Faculty of Classics was ranked first among Classics Departments in the UK’s two most recent research assessment exercises. Its 30 academic staff are world leaders in fields that range over all areas of classical culture and the classical tradition.

The MPhil in Classics is an ideal preparation for PhD research and a rich, rewarding degree in its own right. By joining us, you will be encouraged to identify and develop research questions tailored to your own interests; whether those lie in literary studies, ancient philosophy, ancient history, classical art and archaeology, classical philology and linguistics or reception.

The MPhil is taught through lectures, individual supervisions and seminars. These provide weekly opportunities to explore your ideas and test your arguments both in writing and orally. Your specialist supervisor will help you choose a research topic, give guidance on approach and bibliographical resources, and critique your writing. Most MPhil students do three short essays and a 12,000-word dissertation. Some replace an essay with an examination in, for example, Mycenaean epigraphy, ancient Greek or Latin.

The University Library is nearby, as is the Fitzwilliam Museum, whose world-class holdings include major collections of Greek and Roman antiquities.

Websites: www.classics.cam.ac.uk

Divinity

The Faculty of Divinity is a centre of excellence for teaching and research in Theology, Biblical Studies, Religious Studies, and the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. With more than 300 students – including 110 postgraduates – you will be joining a vibrant, international community which combines outstanding research with excellent teaching.

As well as 25 full-time lecturers, the wider Faculty includes many college deans and chaplains, and leading thinkers such as Professor Rowan Williams. Many of our lecturers work across disciplinary borders. Between them, they bring a wealth of experience to the community.

Our MPhil attracts students with diverse interests – from internet religious cults to Paul and Hellenism and medieval Islamic logic. We offer varied streams, which allow you scope to create a tailor-made course.

Current streams include Philosophy of Religion; Christian Theology; New Testament and Early Christianity; Old Testament, Religions in Antiquity (including Rabbinic and Hellenistic Judaism and the origins of Islam); Study of World Religions; and World Christianity. Our newest stream is Anglican Studies, which is ideal for new ordinands as well as those taking a study break during their ministerial career.

Each stream offers at least two modules, although you can select modules from different streams. To develop your research skills, you will work one-to-one with your supervisor to complete a 15,000 to 20,000-word dissertation.

At Cambridge, you will have access to superb library facilities, including the Taylor-Schechter Cairo Genizah and Tyndale House (for Biblical Studies). Your MPhil will be enriched by our close teaching links with the Cambridge Theological Federation, the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, the Von Hügel Institute (Catholic Thought and Culture), the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, and the Faraday Institute for Science and Theology.

The MPhil is traditionally a bridge to a PhD, but many students come to Cambridge for a year of advanced study before or after working for non-governmental organisations, for example. Our MPhil graduates go on to work in a wide range of fields and professions, including law, journalism and the civil service, as well as to doctoral research and teaching careers at many of the world’s most highly regarded universities.

“I didn’t go straight into my MPhil after my undergraduate degree because I was a bit concerned about ivory towers. But coming back for my MPhil, I’ve been reassured by my interactions in the Faculty of Divinity – people see Theology as outward facing and offering wisdom to think about things that really matter.”

Jess Scott

PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge

www.divinity.cam.ac.uk
Studying for an MPhil in English is a challenging and rewarding experience. As an MPhil student, you will join a large, flourishing Faculty that is internationally renowned as a centre of excellence for teaching and research.

The Cambridge English Faculty is exceptional in the breadth and diversity of its members’ interests – from ecocriticism and digital humanities to poetics and song. Our expertise covers all periods of literary study and many different approaches.

With five MPhil programmes in English – Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies, Modern and Contemporary Literature, American Literature, and Criticism and Culture – our goal is to help you develop your knowledge and critical skills as you pursue independent research.

Each programme includes core teaching and skills training, plus a set of options shared across the MPhil, allowing you to tailor your course to your research interests. Our MPhils offer both rigorous grounding and flexibility to encourage innovative research.

Your research will be supported by expert one-to-one supervision, small graduate discussion classes, and world-class resources.

During the nine-month course, you will work closely with your supervisor to design and research your dissertation and write two or three assessed essays.

"During my MPhil, I gained skills in palaeography and early modern book studies, as well as an introduction to Literary Critical Coding which demonstrated ways of using the Python language for digital humanities projects. These rich experiences, and the wonderful people I met through them, prepared me for the job I’m in now, where I work on digital initiatives in early modern studies."

Gabrielle Linnell
Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.

Cambridge thrives by being open to new ideas and new people, and graduate students are central to the life of the Faculty. Intellectual activity is intense, both within the Faculty and beyond. From seminars and talks to reading groups and interdisciplinary events, there are myriad opportunities to engage with peers, teachers, visitors and the wider academic community.

Cambridge has outstanding research facilities, including a copyright library and extensive collections of rare books and manuscripts. Its nine University museums support research into visual, material and historical culture.

An MPhil in English will prepare you for further study, if that is your goal. Many of our graduates have pursued doctoral research at leading international universities. But an MPhil is also an opportunity to pursue a passion, which also equips you for a range of other careers. Our graduates have succeeded in academia, writing, media, law, journalism, secondary education and business.

Cambridge offers an exceptionally rich and varied extracurricular programme. The University has nine constituent Colleges, each with a distinctive character and history. In a year, Cambridge students will face a range of challenging and rewarding experiences.

A good library, intellectual freedom, an inspiring supervisor and funding. Cambridge offered me all of it."

Luis Castellví Laukamp
MPhil and PhD (Cambridge), Hispanic Studies José Amor y Vázquez Fellow, John Carter Brown Library

Thurd, alongside this wide variety of options, the MPhil has three dedicated pathways if you are particularly interested in Medieval and/or Early Modern Studies, Russian and East European Studies, and Latin American Studies – allowing you to focus in detail on the literature and culture of one or two language areas over a wide range of periods from the medieval to the contemporary.

Assessment is via written essays, one in the first and two in the second term, for which students receive individual supervision. In the third term, students complete a piece of original research for a 15,000-word dissertation. Students are given four hours of individual supervision on this by a specialist in the broad area of their research.

At Cambridge, you will find a Faculty with a dynamic and diverse community of graduate students from around the world, as well as world-class libraries and facilities.

The MPhil offers students an intense and intellectually demanding experience that is an excellent preparation for further PhD research, either in Cambridge or elsewhere, or as a stepping stone to careers in journalism, non-governmental organisations and management roles in businesses where the combination of intelligence and a second language is always in demand.

"I had studied Law for my undergraduate in Spain and was working in a British law firm in Barcelona for 3 years specialising in intellectual property. The MPhil was intense but well designed. My supervisor was a successful scholar, but he was also very approachable and responsive. What do you need to study properly? A good library, intellectual freedom, an inspiring supervisor and funding. Cambridge offered me all of it."

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The carefully tailored core course consolidated my interests in philosophy, aesthetics, film form and Centre's expertise in the areas of European cinema and critical theory. The broad range of research events in both film studies and cognate disciplines makes Cambridge a particularly exciting place to undertake graduate study.

We offer ambitious students the chance to study cutting-edge works of moving image art and theory in a scholarly environment that nourishes independence and freedom of intellectual inquiry.

The MPhil in Film and Screen Studies is one of the most innovative and rigorous postgraduate degree programmes of its kind. Cambridge is an ancient university, but we have taken film seriously as an object of study for more than half a century.

Our resources are outstanding. As well as the University Library, we have specialist research and DVD collections. Cambridge has excellent rail links to London: you can be at the British Film Institute in one hour.

MPhil graduates go on to doctoral research here or at other world-leading universities. Many hold academic posts at UK universities, while others work in filmmaking and other creative industries.

By pursuing the MPhil in History of Art at Cambridge, you will be joining one of the world's best research Departments in the field. The research we do is internationally renowned. It covers a rich variety of topics and periods, from medieval art and architecture to the Renaissance, the early modern period, and 19th- and 20th-century art.

Our staff are all engaged in international and interdisciplinary research projects, often in collaboration with other universities, museums and galleries in Europe and the United States.

We have close ties with other leading research centres including Columbia University and the Courtauld Institute of Art. The MPhil is a self-driven research degree. Our students are supported to formulate their own research questions, and they work closely with supervisors who are leading experts in their field. Students also benefit from feedback and appraisal from lecturers and peers across the Department.

In contrast to many other one-year MPhil courses in the UK, our students embark directly on advanced research, developing and pursuing their own lines of inquiry. This means our MPhil is an intense and intellectually demanding research experience, and our MPhil graduates leave Cambridge as more mature scholars, skilled researchers and refined writers.

Cambridge offers students unrivalled access to art and architecture.

Collections in Cambridge are among the most important in the UK, with several million objects concentrated within a single square mile.

Founded 300 years ago, the Fitzwilliam Museum is considered the finest small museum in Europe, while Kettle's Yard, which has just undergone a major renovation, provides a dynamic center for the study of modern art.

Graduate student life at Cambridge is equally rich. The Department’s recently refurbished Graduate Centre provides convivial work and social spaces. Its library houses one of the strongest collections in the discipline outside London, including rare books and outstanding holdings in the Department's areas of research expertise.

The benefits of a Cambridge degree extend far beyond thesis submission. The MPhil’s emphasis on independent research means our graduates are ideally placed for PhD study, whether at Cambridge or another top-ranking university, as well as embarking on rewarding professional careers in prestigious galleries and museums throughout the world.

www.hoart.cam.ac.uk
The newly developed MMus in Choral Studies offers the opportunity to work with college choirs as well as leading professional artists such as the ensemble Voces8. Cambridge and its world-famous collegiate choirs provide an exceptional environment for aspiring singers, conductors and organists to develop practical skills and scholarly expertise for a professional career.

Cambridge has exceptional resources and facilities for musicians, including the Centre for Music and Science; the Cambridge Centre for Musical Performance Studies; a 500-seat Concert Hall; and a specialist music library. We have an extensive collection of music scores, books, sound recordings, videos, periodicals, microfilms, rare books and facsimiles. We also have an extensive collection of historical instruments, from Baroque string instruments and Renaissance flutes to harpsichords and a Javanese gamelan.

"As part of the MMus, we were assigned several placements in different colleges to conduct portions of evensong. These placements provided the challenge of rehearsing a choir in a limited timeframe with the necessary goal of a world-class performance shortly afterwards. I had the opportunity to conduct King's College Choir, which was thrilling, as I had grown up listening to many of their CDs and broadcasts in the U.S."

Margaret Carpenter Haigh
DMA candidate at Case Western Reserve University, US

Cambridge was the birthplace of analytic philosophy last century, and the home of intellectual giants such as Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Elizabeth Anscombe. We have been at the forefront of the field ever since, training generations of philosophers from all over the world.

Today, our MPhil offers a rigorous introduction to philosophical research. For those considering a PhD it provides the skills needed for doctoral studies, and an opportunity to pursue selected philosophical topics in considerable depth. Some of our students stay for a PhD in Cambridge; others go on to PhD programmes elsewhere. Many take it with other careers in mind; simply for the opportunity to broaden their philosophical knowledge in one of the world's leading centres.

Outside the MPhil course itself, you will find the resources of one of the world's richest philosophical communities. The Moral Sciences Club meets weekly during term, as it has since the 1870s, for a talk by a visiting philosopher. There are many specialist seminars, lectures, reading groups, and workshops. Almost all of them welcome MPhil students, and you will be encouraged to take advantage of as much as your timetable allows.

“...I wanted to do something for myself and explore what it would be like to do more research-based study. The lecturers at Cambridge are among the best in the world and there's a real community for philosophy graduate students in the faculty, based in the graduate centre.”

Joe Sturge
Works at Experian

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whwww.mus.cam.ac.uk

whwww.phil.cam.ac.uk
This MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics is unique in its range and flexibility. We offer students a combination of theoretical and applied linguistics, and a range that spans philosophy of language and the history of linguistics, through areas such as grammar and semantics to the psychology of language and the production of speech. Whatever your interest, you will be part of a vibrant, international community of experts and peers.

We offer two routes to an MPhil – a combined route of essays and dissertation, and, for a minority of students, a recently introduced dissertation-only option. Our combined route is for students wanting a broader and deeper knowledge of language sciences and their application. You will be assessed through a mix of shorter pieces of work and a 20,000 word dissertation.

The dissertation-only option caters for students with a substantial knowledge of linguistics and a firm idea of their topic. By taking this pathway, you will follow some elements of the combined MPhil programme. Formal assessment is by a 30,000 word dissertation.

The MPhil enables you to explore theoretical and descriptive linguistics, such as the syntax of different languages; to learn how linguistics and phonetics can be applied to language processing or forensics, for example; and to look at linguistics from the point of view of a specific language or language family.

At Cambridge, you will be part of a community that is culturally diverse. The range of languages studied is enormous, the teaching is outstanding, and the opportunities for peer-to-peer learning are vast.

The MPhil is an excellent bridge between undergraduate study and doctoral research. Around half of our graduates go on to a PhD. In the internet age, linguistics is of relevance to the burgeoning speech and language technology industry. So as well as higher education teaching, our graduates go on to work in world-leading technology companies such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft.

“My research interest is in discourse particles – where do they appear in sentences, and what is their purpose? The research for my dissertation required me to synthesise theories from disparate areas and then apply them to a completely new context. I was really able to work on something cutting edge – I was reading proofs of book chapters that weren’t even published yet, and I was able to contribute to a previously understudied area of linguistics!”

Yingjie Lan
Secondary School Teacher with the Ministry of Education, Singapore

“Our courses offer an excellent range of theoretical and empirical research in a broad spread of fields. Students are taught by world-leading experts with a strong interdisciplinary approach who support the development of both academic and practical skills in the MPhil programme.”

Ianithi Tsimpli
Professor of English and Applied Linguistics

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“My research interest is in discourse particles – where do they appear in sentences, and what is their purpose? The research for my dissertation required me to synthesise theories from disparate areas and then apply them to a completely new context. I was really able to work on something cutting edge – I was reading proofs of book chapters that weren’t even published yet, and I was able to contribute to a previously understudied area of linguistics!”

Yingjie Lan
Secondary School Teacher with the Ministry of Education, Singapore

“Our courses offer an excellent range of theoretical and empirical research in a broad spread of fields. Students are taught by world-leading experts with a strong interdisciplinary approach who support the development of both academic and practical skills in the MPhil programme.”

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Nowhere in Cambridge is more than 20 minutes away by bike.

The City of Cambridge

Cambridge is one of the world’s most beautiful and historic university cities, with a unique mix of cultural heritage and modern urban living. With more museums, galleries and collections in a square mile than anywhere in the UK outside London, Cambridge is an inspiring place. This rich environment has produced innovation on a global scale. Known as ‘Silicon Fen’, the city and surrounding county is home to more than 1,200 companies in education, arts, charities and social care. Together, these organisations employ more than 17,000 people and have strong links across the University. Cambridge is less than an hour by train to London, so students can enjoy the extraordinary cultural life of two of the most creative cities in the world.

Research Facilities

Cambridge offers MPhil students access to resources for advanced study. The University Library, one of the world’s leading research libraries, has extensive and diverse holdings - from rich manuscript collections to cutting-edge digital materials. Colleges and Faculties provide additional study space and further extensive collections. Founded in 2001, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) is one of the world’s largest interdisciplinary research centres. CRASSH’s vibrant research community has more than 50 researchers working on around 10 major research projects at any one time. Research activities are complemented by a researcher development programme for graduate students, including some 300 events a year.

Colleges

The Faculties are complemented by the University’s 31 Colleges. College life creates an intellectual and social community that crosses disciplinary boundaries and brings staff and students together at formal events and informal gatherings. Most Cambridge Colleges are located in the heart of the historic centre, within easy reach of the University’s academic and leisure facilities. Colleges provide everything our Master’s students need to get settled in Cambridge, including accommodation. They also offer non-academic facilities, and a wide range of sporting and social activities.

“The City of Cambridge is a unique place. I was inspired by the culture of the city, which was rich with history and culture. The academic community was very supportive, and the research opportunities were incredible.”

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Alexander Gabrovsky

Currently studying paleopathology and medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Medicine, US.