

Hebrew Studies at the University of Cambridge

- 4-year course including a year abroad in Israel
- Intensive language training and a wide range of content courses
- Combine with Arabic, Persian or a modern European language



Hebrew Studies

Studying Hebrew will give you access to one of history's most influential languages, with its related literature and cultural expressions—dating from 3000 years ago and extending to current Middle East affairs. Hebrew is the language of most of the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Late Antique and medieval Jewish literature and remains the most important language of Jewish expression as well as the main official language of modern Israel. Knowing Hebrew enables you to read the Torah, Psalms, and Prophets, to appreciate gems of medieval Jewish and modern Hebrew literature, as well as to communicate with Israelis in the revived tongue of Modern Hebrew, which is used in Israel for all aspects of life, artistic, scholarly, and mundane. And Hebrew gives you access not only to ancient and modern Israel, but to the ancient and continuing diaspora experience of Jews and Judaism.

At Cambridge you will benefit from learning both Classical and Modern Hebrew:

- Classical Hebrew gives you not only the grammatical basis on which Modern Hebrew rests, but familiarises you with themes and motifs that recur throughout Hebrew and Jewish art and literature.
- Modern Hebrew allows you to communicate with Israelis and to access modern Israeli scholarship and also enables internalisation of Classical Hebrew vocabulary and grammar.
- Other Semitic languages: Hebrew is an excellent entry point for the study of other Semitic languages offered at Cambridge and elsewhere, including ancient and Neo-Aramaic, Arabic, Syriac, Akkadian, and Ugaritic.

Middle Eastern Studies staff conduct research in the areas of anthropology, history, manuscript studies, linguistics, cultural history, literature, media and popular culture. Between us we teach and research the Middle East from ancient times right the way through to the present day.

UCAS Code	Course duration	Typical A Level offer:
TT46 BA/ AMES	Four years (Year 3 spent abroad)	A*AA IB: 40-41 points, with 776 at Higher Level

Required subjects for entry

No previous knowledge of Hebrew is required to study with us. If you want to combine with a modern European language you need to be taking the European language at A-Level/IB Higher Level or equivalent.

Our course is not suitable for native speakers of Hebrew.

Subject combinations

Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian can be combined in any combination of two or with a modern European language which you have studied to A Level/IB Higher Level or equivalent*. Hebrew (and Arabic) can also be taken as single subjects (Persian must be combined with another Middle Eastern or European language in Years 1 and 2). Students taking one of the Middle Eastern languages will have the option of studying Hindi from Year 2 or Sanskrit in Year 4. Students take a maximum of two languages in any one year.

Students who combine with a modern European language spend their Year Abroad (8 months) in the Middle East.

* Modern European language courses are run by the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL) www.mml.cam.ac.uk

An overview of our course

Our course ('Tripos') is unique for combining intensive and fast-paced study of the Hebrew language with the chance to specialise in specific areas of the Middle East according to your own interests. Lectures and seminars are combined with personalised supervisions to create a catered form of education that empowers each of you as active learners while providing caring support and thoughtful guidance.

First year (Part IA): Gaining a solid grounding

The focus in the first year is on language learning. If taking single subject Hebrew, you will devote over half of your time to the study of all aspects of the language and by the third term you will be able to read real-world texts. You will also take two content papers on the history and culture of the Middle East. If you combine Hebrew with Arabic, Persian, or a European language, you will take one history/culture paper.

Second year (Part IB): Going deeper and broader

Language classes in the second year take you from intermediate to early-advanced Hebrew. You also have the opportunity to take various courses in pre-modern and modern Hebrew literature and a variety of other disciplines, including pre-modern and modern history, anthropology, film and linguistics. If you combine Hebrew with Arabic or Persian, you will take papers in that language. You may also commence Hindi. If you combine Hebrew with an MMLL language, you will select your papers from both faculties. You will also identify a fourth-year undergraduate dissertation project with your instructors' help.

Third year: Year abroad

You develop your Year Abroad with the assistance of the Hebrew Year Abroad Co-ordinator. You are able to choose from a selection of destinations in Israel and take courses and/or arrange voluntary work placements. This often happens once you arrive in the region and make local contacts. We review FCO travel advice regularly and you may only go to destinations deemed safe for travel. As circumstances can change rapidly, you will prepare a Plan A and a Plan B for the Year Abroad.

Fourth year (Part II): Generating knowledge

Fourth year advanced Hebrew language classes prepare you for professional Hebrew-speaking environments and you will read, discuss and analyse advanced texts of many kinds. You will also choose from a selection of advanced and specialised courses based on your instructors' research, covering literature, history, linguistics, and social science. If you continue to combine Hebrew with Arabic or Persian, you will take advanced papers in that language. If you continue to combine Hebrew with an MMLL language you will select your papers from both faculties. You will also write your dissertation based on your own independent research and make an original contribution to Middle Eastern Studies.

The admission process: a few simple steps

Submit your UCAS application by **15 October**, followed by your supplementary questionnaire

Wait to hear if you have been invited for an interview

Interview in Cambridge
(early **December**)

Wait to hear whether you have a conditional offer (**January**)

Get the necessary grades in your exams