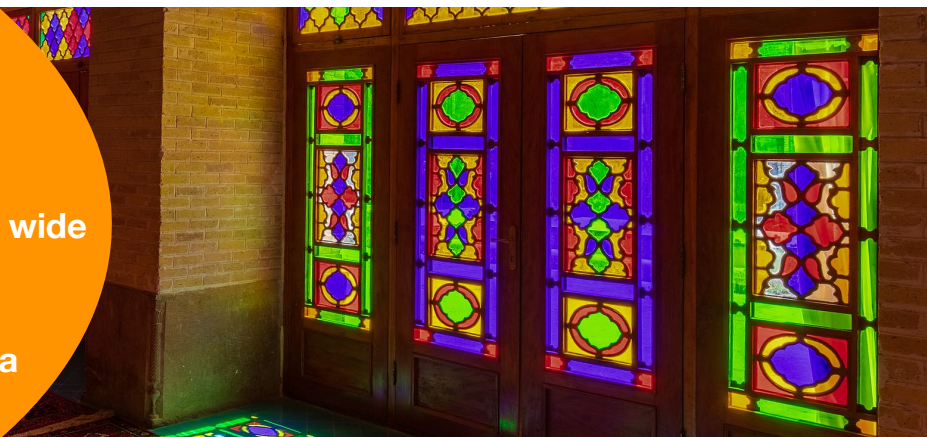


# Persian Studies at the University of Cambridge

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



## Persian Studies

Studying Persian will give you access to one of the world's great languages and literary traditions in the context of the culture and history of its region of origin. Knowing Persian enables you to read the poetry of Rumi, Hafez, Sa'di, and Ferdowsi, along with modern writers like Forugh Farrokhzad, Simin Behbahani, and Sohrab Sepehri. Persian is one of the main languages of the Middle East and variations of the language are spoken today in Iran, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia. Historically, it was a lingua franca of the eastern Islamic world, second in importance only to Arabic.

At Cambridge you will learn Persian in a way that mirrors its use across this varied world:

- Persian is spoken in contemporary Iran, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia
- Learning modern Persian is an excellent entry into both classical and modern Persian literature, one of the world's great literary traditions
- Your year abroad will give you the opportunity to learn local dialects, giving access to the vitality and warmth of everyday life in the region of your choice.

Staff in Middle Eastern Studies are actively researching 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 pre-Islamic times right the way through to the present day.

**UCAS  
Code**  
TT46 BA/  
AMES

**Course  
duration**  
Four years  
(Year 3 spent  
abroad)

**Typical A  
Level offer:**  
**A\*AA**  
IB: 40-41 points,  
with 776 at  
Higher Level

## Required subjects for entry

No previous knowledge of Persian 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 Persian.

## Subject combinations

Arabic, Hebrew and Persian can be combined with each other or with modern European language which you have studied to A Level/IB Higher Level or equivalent\*. Arabic and Hebrew 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 to study 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](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk)

## An overview of our course

Our course ('Tripos') is unique for combining intensive and fast-paced study of the Persian 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. Persian must be combined with another Middle Eastern language or a modern European language. You will devote the majority of your time to the study of all aspects of the languages and by the third term you will be able to read real world texts. If you combine Persian with Arabic or Hebrew language, you will take 1 history/culture paper. If you combine Persian with a European language, you will take the Persian language papers plus Part IA papers in your MMLL language.

### Second year (Part IB): Going deeper and broader

Language classes in the second year take you from intermediate to early-advanced Persian. You also have the opportunity to take courses in literary Persian and a variety of other disciplines, including premodern and modern history, anthropology, film and linguistics. If you combine Persian with Arabic or Hebrew you will take papers in that language. You may also commence Hindi. If you combine Persian 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 Persian Year Abroad Co-ordinator. You are able to choose from a selection of Persian-language destinations 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 Persian language classes prepare you for professional Persian-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 Persian with Arabic or Hebrew you will take advanced papers in that language. If you continue to combine Persian 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