Girton College Modern Languages Taster Day

Wednesday 18th October 2017

A day for Years 10 and 11 to encourage studying Modern Languages at university.

In a growing global economy, based on efficient communication and intercultural exchange, the ability to speak more than one language has never been more important. A Modern Languages degree not only develops language skills to the highest level, but offers the possibility to explore and understand other cultures, through their history, writing, art, film, thinking and language development. Studying a language at university is not just an intellectual endeavour but also develops many skills highly valued by employers, including the chance to spend a year in another part of the world.

Girton College and the Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages will be running a Taster Day aimed at pupils who are currently studying Modern Languages at GCSE, aimed at introducing the study of these courses at university level. The programme, which will take place at Girton College, will include workshops by University academics designed to inspire and enthuse Year 10 and 11 students who will already be considering languages within their A Level choices and possibly studying this vibrant subject at university.

The day will:

- Encourage students to keep and develop their interest in Modern Languages
- Demonstrate the value of studying these subjects at university
- Seek to allay any fears about starting a language ‘from scratch’ at university
- Inform them about their A Level choices and how this will affect their university applications

Students will have the opportunity to meet with current undergraduate languages students, and experience both culture and language workshops in a language of their choosing. There is no cost to attend the event. Lunch is provided, but we regret we are unable to cover travel expenses or offer overnight accommodation.

We would like to invite schools and colleges to nominate **up to two students** for our Taster Day in Modern Languages open to students currently in Year 10 or 11 at schools in the UK. Please find the nomination forms attached to this email or on the website at [https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/for-schools/modern-languages-taster-day-2017](https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/for-schools/modern-languages-taster-day-2017)

When nominating students please note that:

- Students must be nominated by their schools, with no more than **two** nominations per school, using the official nomination form.
- Students should be taking a GCSE in Modern Languages and be on track to achieve good GCSE scores, with an intention to study Languages at A Level.
- Students **do not** need to be studying the language of the workshop they wish to attend, except for the French and Spanish language workshops.
- Please would teachers first check that nominated students are available to attend the Taster Day.
The nominated school contact above will be informed by email of the successful nominations. Nominating a student is not a guarantee that they will be given a place. Previously we have received an overwhelming number of nominations. Places will not be allocated on a first come first basis but rather will be based on Widening Participation criteria, including the background of the school and the youth participation rate of the local area in Higher Education (POLAR3 data from the Higher Education Funding council. More information on this can be found at http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/).

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Draft Programme

10.00 Welcome and refreshments
10.30 Why languages? (Amanda Norman, University of Cambridge Careers Service)
11.15 Language degree overview/ Year Abroad (Girton Lecturers)
11.50 Break
12.00 Culture workshop (Spanish Civil War, French Literature, German Literature or Linguistics)
1.00 Lunch
2.00 Language workshop (Italian, French, Spanish, Russian or Chinese)
3.00 Admissions Talk and Undergraduate Q&A
4.00 Close of event

*Please note that this is a draft programme and talks and workshop options may be subject to change.

For more information, please contact the Schools Liaison Officer on access@girton.cam.ac.uk

www.girton.cam.ac.uk