

ASNaC Freshers' Guide 2018-19



St Rumwold's Day Pub Crawl, 2017

Welcome to ASNaC!

The most important stuff:

Congratulations on making your offer, and welcome to the ASNaC community! ASNaCs are a famously friendly and supportive bunch of people, so don't worry about asking anyone for help and advice

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with either the department (for academic queries) through the secretary, Lauren Lalej [asnc@hermes.cam.ac.uk], or someone on the Society Committee (for questions about student life) - there's the Society Welfare Officer Helena Fox [hcaf2@cam.ac.uk] or the Presidents, Kate Barber [kfb27@cam.ac.uk] and Ela Sefcikova [es723@cam.ac.uk].

We look forward to meeting you all soon in October!

- The ASNaC Society Committee

The course beyond the information on the website...

Teaching Structure

Each subject will typically run one lecture per week, with an additional language class in each language subject (or two language classes in the case of Old Irish and beginners' Latin)

This means that you'll have, on average, 1-3 hours of teaching per day

Supervisions

Supervisions happen (on average) once per week

They are usually done in blocks of five, in the same subject and with the same supervisor (after which you'll move on to your next five in another subject with a different supervisor)

They're a chance to cover content of the papers in more detail than in lectures, and prepare for exam answers

You'll be given a reading list at the beginning of each week, read some of the recommended books/articles and write an essay of 2000(ish) words which you submit to your supervisor around 24 hours in advance of the supervision

Don't worry if this sounds a bit intimidating - you get to have a practice run in your first week with a 'mini-supervision', which is also a good opportunity to have a go at a subject you're considering taking but not 100% sure about, to see if you like it

Lectures take up relatively little of your time - there's plenty left for your supervision work

While it's always best to finish your work, supervisors are generally understanding if you're ill or struggle to get the work done - get in touch with them if you have an issue

The workload is quite manageable, and you'll quickly get into the swing of things

PATs

PATs are tests done around the end of March

You have PATs in two of your subjects

You don't do supervisions in these subjects in first year

PATs are an opportunity to try out subjects you're not sure about, as you'll probably drop one of them when you go into second year

It's obviously more helpful if you do your best, but please *don't fret about PATs!*

Prelims

These are exams at the end of the year (in June)

You have Prelims in your other four subjects

You will have had five supervisions in each Prelim subject by the end of first year

You choose what you take for PAT and what you take for Prelim

It's a good idea to take subjects that you definitely want to continue into second year as Prelims, as it's much easier to drop or switch PATs than Prelims



Trip to Argyll, 2018

The Subjects

The [ASNaC department website](#) is full of information about each subject, but we thought it would be nice to have some student highlights here:

Anglo-Saxon History

Ela: The maps that Simon Keynes makes to illustrate the period are amazing!

Scandinavian History

Alison: Dr Rowe's dry sense of humour, and the fact that you cover lots of cultural aspects from lots of places - it's not just history and Vikings.

Brittonic History

Lula: The paper really touches on continental matters, too, which is really interesting.

Gaelic History

Emilie: Many cameos from the Vikings!

Old English

Helena: Dr Dance (aka "Disco") reciting Old English never gets, well, old.

Old Norse

Alison: Getting to translate Loki's shenanigans.

Medieval Welsh

Melissa: Welsh is a wildcard but so worth doing! The grammar is relatively straightforward, which is good.

Medieval Irish

Paula: It may have a reputation for being hard, but we always have a lot of fun and get extremely excited over the bizarre tales.

Insular Latin

Lula: Latin fits really well with lots of other ASNC papers, plus the texts are SO much fun.

Palaeography

Emilie: Getting to visit Cambridge libraries to see actual manuscripts close-up is amazing.



Yule Play, 2017

The ASNaC Society

Entirely student run

Organises the social side of ASNaC

We'll be running a few events in Freshers' Week (see Freshers' Timetable [link]) and throughout the rest of the year

There's a weekly ASNaC Lunch in the common room on Mondays

Pub trips on Fridays

Film nights

Formals Hall dinners

Pub crawls

Christmas party

Black Tie Dinner

ASNaC trip in January!

This year's committee can be found here:
<http://asnac.soc.srcf.net/data/committee.php> on the society website.

The Common Room

Also known as 'the croom'

A work/social space on the second floor of the English Faculty

There are always at least a couple of students working (or pretending to work)

A small kitchen with tea and coffee and biscuits are available, along with a fridge and microwave if you want to bring your lunch

It's a great place to go if you like working with other people or want some advice - older students are always on hand and keen to help, so don't feel intimidated about asking

We also run social events here, like the Freshers' tea, some welfare events, and drinks receptions after guest lectures

