



I'm delighted that we were able to offer you a place at Queen's, and I hope your stay here will be a happy and profitable one.

To ensure that it is, you will need to read a number of texts before you come up in October. You will spend your first year here studying them in preparation for the Preliminary Examination in June 2020. Enclosed is a list of all the prescribed texts for your first year in Spanish; you should read the four listed for study in Michaelmas (the Autumn term). You must complete this preparatory reading before this October, because otherwise you will find it impossible to keep up with your work when you come to Oxford.

The first year course in Spanish includes two literature papers, the first of which you will study in Michaelmas, and the second in Hilary and Trinity (the Spring and Summer terms). The first literature paper is designed to introduce you to a range of literary genres, while the second is a literary history paper that studies the development of the ballad form from the middle ages to the twentieth century. You will also prepare two language papers during the course of your first year, which include a range of skills including translation, grammar, and essay writing in Spanish.

In your first term you will be having tutorials on the Cervantes novella, the play by Calderon, the poetry by Machado (except 'La Tierra de Alvargonza lez'), and the novel by Vargas Llosa. This selection of texts will introduce you to the four principal literary genres (short story, drama, poetry and novel), to both the early modern and modern periods of literature, and to authors from both Spain and Latin America. You may find the vocabulary challenging, but you should not rely heavily on English translations. Learning to read texts in the original language is at the heart of the degree course you will be undertaking, and will form the basis of your studies in both literature and language.

In addition to preparing for the literary side of your course, you should make sure you are well equipped for the work you will be doing in grammar and translation. The best Spanish grammar is the one by John Butt, Carmen Benjamin and Antonia Moreira Rodríguez (6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2019), and there is a complementary workbook called *Practising Spanish Grammar* by Angela Howkins, Christopher Pountain and Teresa de Carlos (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2019), which you may find helpful for working on particular areas of difficulty.

It is useful to have your own copies of the books you will be studying, and if you keep your receipts you will be able to apply for a book grant from the college when you arrive (for further details of this please contact the college office). You should find the books are widely available online, but Blackwells bookshop in Oxford also stocks the Prelim texts in the correct editions.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing you in October, as are the students of Spanish already here. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything else you need to know.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Laura Lonsdale

Fellow in Spanish

## SUMMER TASK FOR ENTRANTS STUDYING SPANISH

You should bring with you when you arrive at the beginning of term summaries of the texts by Caldero n, Cervantes and Vargas Llosa. These should be in English and about two sides in length. Try to decide as you make the summaries what seems particularly important, paying attention not just to the story but to other aspects such as style, tone etc. But these summaries are intended to be useful to you, and you may make them as personal as you like.

You should also select any two contrasting poems (not including 'La tierra de Alvargonza lez') from the collection by Machado, devoting about a side to each one. You should comment on how typical they are of the collection as a whole, as well as considering their individual themes and images.

Please bring the work with you and hand it in to the Porters at the Lodge when you arrive. Address the work to Dr Laura Lonsdale, Fellow in Spanish.

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