



Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## Note for Incoming Students of Post-A Level Spanish (Option B)

I am writing to introduce myself as your Director of Studies ('DoS') in Spanish at Emmanuel for the coming academic year. I am standing in for my colleague Dr Geoffrey Maguire while he is on sabbatical leave. I very much look forward to welcoming you all to Cambridge in the Autumn, and Dr Maguire is looking forward to meeting you when he returns in 2024. Your overall Director of Studies in Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL) at Emmanuel will remain Dr Syamala Roberts throughout the whole year.

The first year of your MMLL studies is known as Part IA (followed by Part IB, the Year Abroad, and Part II). There is a useful introduction to studying at Cambridge here: [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/offer-holders](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/offer-holders) and the relevant information and reading lists for Spanish can be found on the Faculty's website here: [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/mml/ia](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/mml/ia). Modules or courses are known in Cambridge as 'Papers'. As a student of post-A-Level Spanish, you are required to take two language papers (**SPB1** and **SPB2**) and one literature & culture paper (**SP1**). Teaching for these is made up of a combination of lectures, language classes and supervisions (i.e. small-group teaching). Further details can be found here:

- **SpB1** – 'Use of Spanish' (i.e. grammar): [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spb1](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spb1)
- **SpB2** – 'Translation from Spanish' and 'Oral': [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spb2](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spb2)
- **Sp1** – 'Introduction to the Language, Literature and Culture of the Spanish-Speaking World': [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/sp1/reading](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/sp1/reading)

The best way to prepare for arrival in Cambridge is to begin engaging with the texts and films of **SP1**. Prior to this term, please read (or watch) the following works: *También la lluvia* (film by Icíar Bollaín); *Lazarillo de Tormes* (anonymous novella); and the short stories entitled 'Un matrimonio del siglo XIX', 'El indulto', 'El encaje roto' and 'Las medias rojas' by Emilia Pardo Bazán (all readily available online). Some of these can be tricky, but you will have ample opportunity to work through them in supervisions.

Should you have any queries about this or about any other aspect of the Spanish course, please do not hesitate to get in contact by email (as above). I will be in touch again in mid-September to set up our start-of-term DoS meetings. My office is a 5-minute walk away from Emmanuel, at 25 Fitzwilliam Street. Our start-of-term meetings will take place sometime in the week beginning **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**. I will provide more detailed instructions closer to the time.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to the vibrant community of Modern Linguists at Emmanuel.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Maya Feile Tomes**  
*Lorna Close Lecturer in Spanish*