

What does Cambridge offer?

The Cambridge programme is well known around the world. We offer a whole-school curriculum for 5 to 19 year olds. Below is information on the curriculum for the 14 to 19 age range as these assessments qualify students for entry to university in a range of countries.

Cambridge IGCSE®

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14 to 16 year olds. Cambridge IGCSE encourages student-centred and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It also develops skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving students excellent preparation for higher-level courses such as Cambridge International AS and A Levels, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U, the North American Advanced Placement Test and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Schools can offer any combination of subjects. Each subject is certificated separately. Over 70 subjects are available, including more than 30 language courses, and they are suitable for learners of different abilities.

Cambridge IGCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, with UK GCSE qualifications. Passing grades for Cambridge IGCSE are A*–G, with A* being the highest. U is Ungraded.

There is a group award called Cambridge ICE which is comprised of Cambridge IGCSEs from five different curriculum areas. It is awarded to candidates who have passed IGCSE in at least seven subjects; two from languages, and at least one each from humanities and social sciences; sciences; mathematics and creative, technical and vocational.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge IGCSE, visit: www.cie.org.uk/igcse



Cambridge O Level

Cambridge O Level is an internationally recognised qualification equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE and the UK GCSE. Cambridge O Level provides students with excellent preparation for academic progression to Cambridge Advanced studies as well as other progression routes mentioned above.

As with Cambridge IGCSE, students can offer any combination of subjects from a range of over 40 subjects. Passing grades for Cambridge O Level are A*–E, with A* being the highest. U is Ungraded.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge O Level, visit: www.cie.org.uk/olevel

“Cambridge provides students with the edge when it comes to university acceptance. It broadens skill sets, provides deeper knowledge and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills.”

Cambridge principal, South Africa

Cambridge International AS and A Levels

Cambridge International A Levels have formed part of the Cambridge qualifications framework for over 50 years and are widely recognised for entry into higher education. Good Cambridge International AS and A Level grades can be a key to admission to the world's major English-speaking universities.

Cambridge International A Levels typically take two years to complete and offer a flexible course of study. With 55 subjects to choose from, schools can offer almost any combination from the wide range of subjects available.

Cambridge International AS Levels have half the content of the corresponding Cambridge International A Level and may be completed in one year. Schools can offer Cambridge International AS Level as a qualification in its own right, or as a stage on the way to a full Cambridge International A Level. Students can study Cambridge International AS Level alongside other Cambridge International A Level subjects to increase breadth in the curriculum and build further knowledge and understanding.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognised by UCAS and universities in the UK and overseas as equivalent, grade for grade, with UK AS and A Levels. Passing grades for Cambridge International A Levels are A*–E, with A* being the highest. There is no A* grade awarded at Cambridge International AS Level. U is Ungraded for both qualifications.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge International AS and A Levels, visit: www.cie.org.uk/alevel

“Cambridge International A Levels are the ‘gold standard’ qualification. They are based on rigorous, academic syllabuses that are accessible to students from a wide range of abilities yet have the capacity to stretch our most able.”

Mark Vella, Director of Studies, Auckland Grammar School, New Zealand

Cambridge AICE Diploma

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (Cambridge AICE) Diploma is a group award that is mainly taken in the US and South America. It requires the study of Cambridge International AS and A Level subjects drawn from three curriculum areas (mathematics and science; languages; and arts and humanities). To qualify for the Diploma students need to obtain six credits. Cambridge International AS Level qualifications earn one credit and each A Level qualification counts for two credits.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge AICE, visit: www.cie.org.uk/aice

Cambridge Pre-U

Cambridge Pre-U has a linear approach with exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are slightly bigger than an A Level in terms of size and have additional stretch and challenge. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are available in 25 subjects across the curriculum.

There are also one-year Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses available in languages, mathematics and Global Perspectives which can be taken alongside the Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects or A Levels in the first and/or second year of study. To qualify for the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, a student must pass three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR). Up to two A Levels can be substituted for Principal Subjects.

Cambridge Pre-U has an extended grading scale and so can differentiate and reward achievement more finely among the top students. There are nine passing grades – three each at Distinction, Merit and Pass: D1, D2, D3; M1, M2, M3; P1, P2, P3. U is Ungraded.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge Pre-U visit: www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

University recognition worldwide

Cambridge qualifications are accepted by universities all around the world. Many universities have sent us official statements confirming their entry policies, and examples from some of the most popular destination countries for Cambridge students can be found on the following pages. For full details of all of the official statements, check our recognition database at www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch

Many more universities will also be happy to accept Cambridge qualifications as proof of your academic ability upon application. However, before you apply to any institution, it is essential that you check the exact entry requirements for your selected course(s) on the university website and then with the university's admissions office if you still have any queries. You will also need to be aware of any language requirements in addition to the academic entry standards.

It is also very important to remember that university entry is always competitive so achieving the minimum entry requirements is not a guarantee of admission; the higher your grades and the stronger your application documents, the better your chance of being accepted to your chosen programme.

Recognition in the UK and Europe

Cambridge qualifications are valued by UK and European universities as academically rigorous qualifications which equip students with the skills they need to succeed both at university and beyond.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognised by UK and European higher education institutions as equivalent to UK GCE AS and A Levels.

University recognition for Cambridge Pre-U, an alternative to the UK A Level, is fast gaining ground. Many universities have noted the distinctiveness of Cambridge Pre-U and are pleased to accept it as equivalent to other pre-university qualifications.

“ We welcome applications from students who are studying towards the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma or certain Principal Subjects within the qualification alongside A Levels. ”

University of Cambridge

Students holding Cambridge qualifications gain places at universities in the UK and across Europe. Our recognitions database holds statements from a wide range of countries across Europe including the UK.

United Kingdom

In the UK, all students must apply for undergraduate courses through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), not to individual universities. According to the UCAS *Qualifications* handbook entry, Cambridge International AS and A Levels are: *'acceptable at grades A*-E in lieu of UK GCE A level and AS on a subject for subject and grade for grade basis'*.

Over 145 UK universities accept Cambridge Pre-U as equivalent to other Level 3 qualifications such as A Levels. The UK's most prestigious group of universities, the UK Russell Group (which includes Oxford and Cambridge), has welcomed the academic rigour of the linear approach, the retention of subject specialism and the extended grading scale which differentiates and rewards achievement more finely at the top end.

The Lisbon Convention

The Lisbon Convention is an international agreement which aims to facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications, thus promoting academic mobility among the signatory countries. The Convention has been signed by 50 countries and international organisations including the European Union, USA, Australia, Canada, Israel and New Zealand.

In terms of access to higher education studies, the Lisbon Convention guarantees that a holder of an upper secondary school or high school qualification which grants them access to tertiary education in their own home country, has the right to apply and to be considered for admission to higher education in the rest of the signatory countries: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/165.htm>

The value of this agreement is that holders of Cambridge qualifications can apply and be considered for admission to higher education institutions in signatory countries other than their own.