Entrance Requirements

If we offer a course you want to study and you decide to apply, then your overall chance of being made an offer of a place at Cambridge is approximately one in five.1

The following pages give more details on course requirements and typical offers. In addition, guidance on the information used to assess applications is on p7 and general information about what Admissions Tutors look for can be found on p5. Please see the Undergraduate Study2 and College websites for full conditions of entry.

Course requirements

For many Cambridge courses qualifications in certain subjects are required and all Colleges expect such subjects to be passed, normally with an A* or A grade at A Level/grade 7 or 6 at Higher Level of the IB (or equivalent).

Our other courses don’t have particular subject requirements, although the Colleges will expect high grades in your subjects most relevant to the course you’re applying for.

Essential subject requirements are given in each course entry (p40-113) and are defined as follows:

- all Colleges require – subjects that are essential for all Colleges
- some Colleges require – subjects that are essential for some Colleges
- useful preparation – subjects that aren’t required by any Colleges (so won’t affect admissions decisions) but which can provide useful preparation for the course

All undergraduate admissions decisions are the responsibility of the Cambridge Colleges so please check College-specific requirements/preferences with the College(s) you’re considering applying to.3

If you haven’t yet decided on a course, advice about subjects and subject combinations that provide an effective preparation for study at Cambridge can be found in our Subject Matters leaflet, available online at: www.cam.ac.uk/ugpublications.

Students at other UK universities

The Cambridge Colleges will only consider applications to Cambridge from students enrolled on degree courses at other UK universities in very exceptional circumstances. Any application to study at Cambridge would need strong support from your course director or other academic tutor at your current university. A reference/letter of recommendation from that person would be required before a Cambridge College could consider an application, and such applications would still be subject to the same academic assessment as any other application to the University. Contact a College admissions office for advice.

1 Of the 16,750 applications made for entry in October 2016 (or deferred entry in October 2017), 3,457 students were accepted.
2 www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/decisions.
3 Although you may be considering a number of Colleges, you can only make one application to the University in a year – either indicating one preference College or selecting the open application option in the UCAS application. Applying to more than one College, or applying to a preference College and also making an open application isn’t possible. Once the UCAS application is submitted, your choice cannot be changed.
Typical offers and requirements

Whatever system you're being educated in, we require top grades in the highest level qualifications available for school/college students – most successful applicants ultimately exceed the conditions of their offer.

If you haven't taken six or more GCSEs/IGCSEs or five or more Scottish National qualifications in the last three years, you're also required to submit a transcript outlining details of your qualifications as part of your application. See the College websites for subject requirements/preferences and admissions guidance.

One of the strengths of the Cambridge admissions system is its ability to assess all applicants individually, and all Colleges may modify offers to take account of individual circumstances. This means that some applicants may be set lower/more challenging offers than those listed below/in the course entries, and some offers may specify grades to be achieved in particular subjects.

### Entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCSEs</td>
<td>• There are no GCSE (or equivalent) requirements for entry to Cambridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Levels</td>
<td>• Refer to the relevant course entry/entries (p40-113) for typical A Level offers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Applicants may be required to achieve A* in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these qualifications and UMS in the SAQ (see p7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• We expect that students taking new A Levels in science subjects will complete the practical assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Critical Thinking is worthwhile but not acceptable as a third A Level subject for any Cambridge course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Key Skills and General Studies are not included in academic assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Project</td>
<td>• Applicants are encouraged to undertake an Extended Project but it won’t be a requirement of any offer made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB)</td>
<td>• Typical offers are 40–42 points out of 45, with 776 in Higher Level subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Advanced Highers</td>
<td>• Offers usually require AAA at Advanced Higher grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In some cases, two Advanced Highers and an additional Higher may be acceptable – contact a College for advice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Three Advanced Highers are expected within the Scottish Baccalaureate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh qualifications</td>
<td>• Offers are conditional on three A Level subjects studied as options for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma. The core may be taken into consideration in assessment for admission, and may be included as part of an offer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these and their UMS in the SAQ (see p7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>• Offers typically require H1 in three relevant Higher Level subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Medicine and Veterinary Medicine applicants may be required to take an IGCSE (or equivalent) in the science subject not taken within the Certificate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP) and Further Mathematics

- **STEP Mathematics** is used to assess aptitude for university study in mathematical subjects.
- It is used as part of almost all conditional offers from Cambridge for Mathematics and Computer Science with Mathematics. Some Colleges require/may require STEP for other courses needing strong mathematical ability.
- The STEP content is based on core A Level/IB Higher Level/Scottish Advanced Higher (or equivalent) Mathematics material, and is taken immediately after the A Level examination period. You must speak to your school/college about registering for the STEP assessments.
- More information and links to resources (including the free online STEP support programme) are available online at [www.cam.ac.uk/step](http://www.cam.ac.uk/step).
- For 2019 entry onwards, A Level Further Mathematics/IB Higher Level Physics will be an essential entry requirement for Mathematics. Further information is available online at [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/mathematics](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/mathematics).

#### AQA Baccalaureate

- Offers are conditional on achievement in the A Levels (see opposite) within the qualification, rather than the overall Baccalaureate award.

#### Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

- Conditional offers are set on an individual basis but are likely to require the achievement of Distinction level grades (D2 or D3) in Principal Subjects.

#### Access to HE Diploma

- Attainment of an Access to HE Diploma with Distinctions in all relevant subject units can be acceptable preparation for most arts subjects and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) at Cambridge.
- An Access to HE Diploma alone is not sufficient preparation to study a science subject (excluding PBS) or Economics at Cambridge.
- Some courses may have additional academic requirements (see online for details).
- In all cases, contact a College admissions office for advice.

#### Advanced Diplomas

- The Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is acceptable for Geography and Natural Sciences (Biological). Conditions apply in all cases (details online).

#### European Baccalaureate

- 85-90 per cent overall, with 90 per cent in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study.

#### French Baccalaureate

- 16 or 17 (mention très bien) out of 20, with 16 or 17 usually required in individual subjects.

#### German Abitur

- Between 1.0 and 1.3 overall, with 14 or 15 in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study.

#### Advanced Placement Tests

- Successful applicants normally have high passes in the High School Diploma and the SAT, and 5s in at least five Advanced Placement Tests in appropriate subjects.

#### VCE and Applied A Levels, GNVQs and BTECs

- These qualifications are not an appropriate preparation for most Cambridge courses, although a combination of A Levels and VCE or other qualifications may be acceptable for some courses.
- See the website for guidance and seek further advice from a College Admissions Tutor.

#### Edexcel International Diploma (Academic Route)

- Offers are conditional on achievement in the A Levels (see opposite) within the qualification, rather than the overall Diploma award.

#### English language requirements

- If your first language isn’t English, please see p37.

If the qualification you’re taking isn’t listed here, please look online ([www.cam.ac.uk/uginternational](http://www.cam.ac.uk/uginternational)) as early as possible to check that it provides an appropriate preparation for the course you hope to study.

Applicants taking a mix of qualifications from different examination systems are considered providing that the individual qualifications are acceptable and any subject requirements are met. Conditional offers are made on a case-by-case basis but are normally in line with the typical offers made when the qualifications are taken on their own.
Open Days and Events

You don’t have to visit Cambridge to apply to the University but our open days and events offer opportunities to get a feel for the place, talk to staff and students, and ask any questions.

Cambridge Open Days

6 and 7 July 2017

The Cambridge Open Days for prospective applicants in Year 12 (or equivalent) will be on 6 and 7 July (booking is essential).

All subjects will be offering course presentations and/or information stands. Tours and additional sessions may also be available in departments, for which separate booking may be required.

Many Colleges will be open all day for Cambridge Open Day visitors. However, some will be holding their own College event for which separate booking with that College is required.

See the Undergraduate Study website for more details, booking instructions and information about department and College open days.

Further information

www.cam.ac.uk/opendays

College open days

During College open days you can pick up a range of information and get a sense of College life, but remember that visiting a particular College doesn’t commit you to applying to that College. See the individual College entries (p117-45) for dates and the relevant website(s) for more information and booking instructions.

Department open days

Department open days focus on the specific course(s) in that faculty or department. You get to meet some of the lecturers, and see the library and other facilities. See the relevant course entry (p40-113) for dates and contact the appropriate department to book a place.

If you can’t attend an open day

If you can’t make an open day, you can visit at another time – College and some department grounds are open for most of the year. However, while Colleges and departments do their best to help applicants to visit them, there are restrictions and/or charges for tourists at certain Colleges and at certain times (such as during exams) so do check with the College/department before you come.

If you’d like to speak to College staff during a visit to Cambridge, please contact that College’s Admissions Office in advance to arrange this.

If you can’t make an open day – booking is required, and usually opens approximately two months before each Masterclass.

Masterclasses take place on selected days throughout the year – booking is required, and usually opens approximately two months before each Masterclass.

Subject Masterclasses

Year 12 (or equivalent)

Subject Masterclasses provide an opportunity to explore topics of interest beyond what’s covered at A Level/IB Higher Level, and to experience typical undergraduate teaching at Cambridge. Each subject-specific Masterclass involves two or three taster lectures, an overview of the admissions process and chance to speak to current undergraduates.

Other events

Subject Masterclasses

Year 12 (or equivalent)

Subject Masterclasses provide an opportunity to explore topics of interest beyond what’s covered at A Level/IB Higher Level, and to experience typical undergraduate teaching at Cambridge. Each subject-specific Masterclass involves two or three taster lectures, an overview of the admissions process and chance to speak to current undergraduates.

Masterclasses take place on selected days throughout the year – booking is required, and usually opens approximately two months before each Masterclass.

Higher education fairs

The University is represented throughout the year at higher education (HE) fairs and UCAS Conventions across the UK, and our representatives are happy to answer any queries about applying to and studying at Cambridge. Details of these events are available online.

Further information

www.cam.ac.uk/opendays

Events information for teachers and HE advisers

Events for you

A number of events for teachers and HE advisers are organised by the Cambridge Admissions Office and several of the Colleges to provide up-to-date information about the University, application procedure and outreach activities offered. Details are available in the teachers’ and advisers’ area of our website at: www.cam.ac.uk/teachers.

Events for your students

In addition to those already mentioned, we offer a number of other events that you may wish to consider or highlight to your students in the next academic year:

• The Subject Matters (Year 11 or equivalent)
• regional Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences (Year 12 or equivalent)
• subject-specific residential Sutton Trust Summer Schools (Year 12 or equivalent)
• CUSU’s residential Shadowing Scheme (Year 12 or equivalent, and prospective mature students)

Some are open to any students in the relevant school year but some have eligibility criteria, and booking/application procedures vary. See the Undergraduate Study website (www.cam.ac.uk/outreachevents) or CUSU website (www.applytocambridge.com/shadowing) for details.

College Area Links Scheme

The Scheme links every local authority area in England to a specific Cambridge College. There are also links between Cambridge Colleges and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It was established to build effective relationships with UK schools and colleges by enabling the Cambridge Colleges to develop knowledge/understanding of specific regions, and providing schools and colleges with specific contact points for the University.

If you’d like information about the University or to arrange a school visit to or from Cambridge, your link College is keen to hear from you! Each College runs its own programme of activities for schools/colleges in their link regions. For more details visit:

www.cam.ac.uk/arealinks.

CUSU Target Scheme

The Target Scheme is a student-run initiative whereby current Cambridge undergraduates visit state schools/colleges across the country (where possible, in their home region). The visits are intended to give information to Year 12 (or equivalent) students who’re considering the University, and provide an opportunity for them to hear about the University from a current student’s perspective. The Target Scheme can also offer sessions on post-A Level choices for younger students.

Information about the Scheme and how to request a visit can be found online at: www.target.cusu.co.uk or by contacting the CUSU Access Officer (see p152).
Finding Out More

Should you have any further questions after reading this Prospectus, please get in touch.

Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO)
The CAO provides general advice to prospective applicants and their advisers about applying to and studying at Cambridge. This Prospectus and information about interviews and student finance are available online or by contacting the CAO.

01223 333308
admissions@cam.ac.uk
www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk
www.facebook.com/cambridgeadmissions

Location
Map reference A (see p154-5)

Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU)
CUSU provides information and advice for prospective applicants on their main website and Alternative Prospectus website (which includes the ‘Ask a Student’ facility). CUSU also runs the Target Scheme and Shadowing Scheme (see p151).

01223 333313
enquiries@cusu.cam.ac.uk
www.cusu.co.uk
www.applytocambridge.com

Location
Map reference F (see p154-5)

Colleges
All of the Colleges have their own websites (see p117-45) providing much of the information you may wish to know. To then find out more about a College, get in touch with that College’s Admissions Office.

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges

Courses
All of the faculties and departments have their own websites providing further information. See the individual course entries for web links and contact details (p40-113).

www.cam.ac.uk/courses

Disability Resource Centre (DRC)
Students with a disability/long-term health condition/Specific Learning Difficulty are encouraged to contact the DRC and a College admissions office as early as possible for advice. Guidance can also be found on the DRC website. Information from this and other CAO publications can be provided in alternative formats on request from the CAO (see left).

01223 332301
disability@admin.cam.ac.uk
www.cam.ac.uk/disability

Location
Map reference J (see p154-5)

Postgraduate study
The University offers a wide range of postgraduate courses, including PhD, MSc, MLitt and MPhil degrees and certain Certificates and Diplomas. Information is available online and from Graduate Admissions.

01223 760606
graduate.admissions@admin.cam.ac.uk
www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Location
Map reference F (see p154-5)

Tourist Information Centre
For information about visiting the city, including guides to what’s on, accommodation, travel and parking.

0871 226 8006
info@visitcambridge.org
www.visitcambridge.org

Location
Map reference F (see p154-5)

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)
Applications to Cambridge are made online through UCAS. Once you’ve submitted your application, you’ll be able to monitor its progress using UCAS Track.

0371 468 0 468
www.ucas.com

Finding Out More to the University

Cambridge is a small and busy city that wasn’t built with modern traffic flows in mind, so it’s best to visit the centre – where many of the University buildings and Colleges are situated – on foot.

By car
If you’re planning to drive to Cambridge, we strongly recommend that you use the Park and Ride scheme as parking is limited and several city centre roads have restricted access. Information is available online at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/parkandride.

Disabled parking is available in the city’s car parks and on some streets. Please check in advance with the Cambridge Tourist Information Centre (see opposite) or on our website at: www.cam.ac.uk/disability/guide/city.

By bus
Cambridge bus station is centrally located, and there’s a ‘Universal’ bus service which runs from the Madingley Road Park and Ride site through to Addenbrooke’s Hospital (Monday to Saturday).

By train
Cambridge is well-connected by train and the main station is located about one mile from the city centre (around 20 minutes on foot). Buses run frequently between the station and city centre, and there’s a taxi rank outside the station.

By air
The nearest airports to Cambridge are Stansted (30 miles) and Luton (40 miles). There’s a direct train link to Cambridge from Stansted, and Heathrow and Gatwick are also easily accessible by train. In addition, buses regularly run from Stansted, Luton, Heathrow and Gatwick to the city centre.

Distances to Cambridge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance to Cambridge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>460 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>100 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>200 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>335 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>240 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>355 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>150 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>60 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>170 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>230 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>85 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>130 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By car
If you’re planning to drive to Cambridge, we strongly recommend that you use the Park and Ride scheme as parking is limited and several city centre roads have restricted access. Information is available online at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/parkandride.

Disabled parking is available in the city’s car parks and on some streets. Please check in advance with the Cambridge Tourist Information Centre (see opposite) or on our website at: www.cam.ac.uk/disability/guide/city.

By bus
Cambridge bus station is centrally located, and there’s a ‘Universal’ bus service which runs from the Madingley Road Park and Ride site through to Addenbrooke’s Hospital (Monday to Saturday).

By train
Cambridge is well-connected by train and the main station is located about one mile from the city centre (around 20 minutes on foot). Buses run frequently between the station and city centre, and there’s a taxi rank outside the station.

By air
The nearest airports to Cambridge are Stansted (30 miles) and Luton (40 miles). There’s a direct train link to Cambridge from Stansted, and Heathrow and Gatwick are also easily accessible by train. In addition, buses regularly run from Stansted, Luton, Heathrow and Gatwick to the city centre.
N
Natural Sciences 94
Neuroscience – see Natural Sciences
Norse, Old – see Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic

O
Open applications 6, 116
Open days – see also individual course and College entries 150-1
Organ Scholarships 17
Oriental Studies – see Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Outreach 150-1
Overseas (international) students 8, 36-2, 147-9
Pathology – see Medicine, Natural Sciences
Persian – see Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Pharmacology – see Medicine, Natural Sciences
Philosophy – see also Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion 102
Physical impairment 26
Physics – see Natural Sciences
Physiology – see Medicine, Natural Sciences
Plant Sciences – see Natural Sciences
Politics – see History; History and Politics; Human, Social, and Political Sciences
Pools – see Winter pool
Portuguese – see Modern and Medieval Languages
Postgraduate study 152
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) 104
Psychology – see Computer Science, Education, Natural Sciences, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Qualifications for entry 5, 34, 37, 147-9

R
Religious Studies – see Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
Russian – see History and Modern Languages, Modern and Medieval Languages
S
Sanskrit – see Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
Scholarships – see Financial information, Music Awards
Scottish qualifications 148
Second undergraduate degree 35, 37
Sensory impairment 26
Shopping 21
Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP) 50, 54, 62, 82, 149
Social activities 34-21, 36
Social Anthropology – see Human, Social, and Political Sciences
Societies 14-9

Your Notes
About this Prospectus

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this Undergraduate Prospectus at the time of going to print. However, changes and developments may occur, e.g., to fees, courses, staff and services described in this Prospectus. Any course changes need the approval of the University’s Education Committee, which has student representation on it and is keen to never disadvantage students. In order to ensure that you have all the important information you require to enable you to make any decisions please check the Undergraduate Study website (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk) for the most up-to-date information.

The Colleges are responsible for the information provided by them for the Prospectus, and for complying with admissions procedures and making decisions on undergraduate admissions. Any concerns about this should be directed to the relevant College.

© University of Cambridge, 2017.
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission.

Editorial
Undergraduate Admissions Committee, Cambridge Admissions Office and contributors

Design
Design Depot UK

Print
Sterling Solutions

Cover and illustrations
Design Depot UK

Photography
James Appleton, Rachael Bailey, David Bainbridge, Shubnit Bhumbra,1 Alison Carter, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Christ’s College, Churchill College, Clare College, Computer Laboratory, Contra, Corpus Christi College, Clare Cotterill, CUER, CUSU, Alan Davidson, Amelie Deblauwe, Faculty of Divinity, Downing College, Tom Earwaker, Emanuel College, Barry Everitt, Phil Ewels, Girton College, Elodie Giuge, Gonville and Caius College, Perry Hastings, Nigel Hawkes, Keith Heppell, Sarah Holt, Homerton College, Hughes Hall, iStockPhoto, Jesus College, King’s College, Simon Lock, Magdalene College, Vicky Mills, Faculty of MML, Mark Mniszko, Matt Moon, Murray Edwards College, Faculty of Music, Philip Mynott, Newnham College, Geoff Parks, Pembroke College, Peterhouse, Queens’ College, Redback, Chris Reeve, John Robb, Robinson College, Geoff Robinson, St Catharine’s College, St John’s College, Selwyn College, Sidney Sussex College, Sir Cam, Ronel Talker, University of Cambridge, Dan White, Wolfson College, Ren Hui Yoong1

Thanks
The University would like to thank the contributors, students and prospective applicants whose input has informed the development of this publication.

1 University of Cambridge student