



International Students

The University of Cambridge is one of the most ancient and distinguished universities in the world. It is situated some 50 miles north of London and teaching has taken place in the city since 1209. Today there are approximately 18,500 full-time students at the University including over 6,000 students from outside the UK (of which over 2,500 are undergraduates).

The University's academic year runs from October to June. The undergraduate application process starts a year in advance and is dealt with by the Colleges within the University. There are 29 Colleges who admit undergraduate students. The Colleges do not specialise in particular subjects and, in general, each admits students for all the courses offered by the University.

Before we begin to look at the University and application procedure in more detail, please note:

1. The University of Cambridge **ONLINE PROSPECTUS** includes specific information for applicants from outside the European Union (EU) and can be reached at:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/publications

2. If you would like **A PAPER COPY OF THE PROSPECTUS**, please note that there is a charge of £9.50 to mail Prospectuses to addresses outside the EU. This is to cover the cost of postage and packing and if you request a Prospectus to be sent outside of the EU, we will not mail it until we have received payment. You can order a paper copy of the prospectus here:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/order-prospectus

3. The **CAMBRIDGE ONLINE PRELIMINARY APPLICATION (COPA)** form is a required part of the admissions process for anyone applying from outside the EU. For 2018 entry and 2019 deferred entry, the COPA will be available from early July 2017 at:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/copa

4. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** For more information regarding the suitability of your academic qualifications you should, in the first instance, check to see if your qualifications are listed on our website:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/eu-and-international-qualifications

If information on your qualifications are not listed online you should contact the Cambridge Admissions Office with brief details of the courses that you have taken/are taking together with your achieved/expected grades, and indicate clearly the subject that you are intending to study at the University of Cambridge.

Choice of courses

The University offers a wide range of courses in arts, social science, medicine, science and engineering disciplines. To find out more about the courses available at Cambridge, you should study the information on the University website and in the *Undergraduate Prospectus* (see the 'Further information' section below). In most subjects, the first degree at Cambridge is the Bachelor of Arts (with Honours). In this context, the word 'arts' is used as a synonym for 'skills' and covers all subjects including the sciences. The BA degree is normally a three-year post-secondary school course but some subjects, such as Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Modern Languages, can be studied over four years.

Another means of entry to Cambridge if you have already graduated from another University is as an affiliated student. Affiliated students can normally study an undergraduate degree at Cambridge in two years instead of the usual three. In order to compete successfully for a place, applicants are required to have already achieved a first-class or upper second class Honours degree (or equivalent) in an approved undergraduate degree from another university. More information can be found here:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/why-cambridge/support/mature-students/second-undergraduate-degrees

Academic ability and entrance requirements

Cambridge is one of the most selective of all universities. About 20% of applicants are successful, and, of these, about 10% are from outside the EU. While academic strength is a prerequisite, it does not guarantee acceptance. Colleges are looking for motivated students who they feel are well matched to the course they have chosen.

Most successful UK applicants to Cambridge have obtained passes in at least five subjects at GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and top grades at A-Level (the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education). The typical conditional A Level offer will be A*AA or A*A*A depending on the course. There are also formal course requirements in some cases where applicants are expected to have studied certain relevant subjects to an appropriate standard. As a general guide to those who have not taken GCSEs and A-Levels, it would be unrealistic to make an application unless you are in the top 1-2% of your year group and are particularly excelling in the subject area that you wish to study at University. More information on entrance requirements can be found on our website:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/eu-and-international-qualifications

For more information regarding the suitability of your academic qualifications as preparation for studying at the University of Cambridge, we recommend that you contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or any of the Cambridge Colleges. A list of Colleges and the contact details of their admissions teams can be found on our website:

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

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges/college-contacts

If your first language is not English, it is essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake an intensive and challenging academic course that is taught and examined in English. As a result, you may be asked to demonstrate your English language skills through a formal qualification such as IELTS (minimum overall score of 7.5, usually with 7.0 or above in each element), Cambridge English: Advanced (grade A or B), or Cambridge English: Proficiency (grade A, B, or C).

Please note that a reasonable standard in spoken English is also required at the time of interview. For example, an overall IELTS score of 6.0 for sciences or 6.5 for arts and social sciences would normally be regarded as a reasonable score at the point of application. More information on English language requirements can be found on our website:

Costs and finance

There are three main elements to the costs involved in studying at the University of Cambridge:

- 1) University tuition fees
- 2) College fees
- 3) Living expenses

The annual University tuition fee for students with overseas fee status starting their course in 2018 will range from £19,197 to £50,130. For overseas students who'll start their course in October 2019, it's likely that tuition fees will be higher than this. It's anticipated that 2019 entry tuition fees for overseas students will be available at the end of 2017. For further details, and to check the fees for the specific course you wish to study, please see our website:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/fees

All overseas fee status students, and those Home students who aren't eligible for tuition fee support (eg because they're taking a second undergraduate degree), normally have to pay College fees in addition to University tuition fees. The College fee covers the cost to your College of providing a range of educational, domestic and pastoral services and support.

Annual College fees vary between Colleges and in many cases are fixed for the duration of your course. The fees in 2017-18 range between £6,580 and £12,264: see individual College websites for fees for 2018-19 onwards.

Living expenses are variable but you should budget for a minimum of £10,080 to cover an academic year of nine months (the Summer Vacation runs from the beginning of July to the end of September). You will also need to consider travel costs if you intend to travel home in between terms.

For overseas undergraduate students, financial support is limited and there are very few full-cost scholarships. The [Cambridge Commonwealth European and International Trust](#) provide a number of modest 'top-up' awards and individual Colleges may offer bursaries of a few hundred pounds – usually to cover specific items such as books. Occasionally, private sponsorship can be found, particularly for courses such as Engineering, and some countries offer their own scholarships but the number available is usually very small. As a result, most of the financial burden is likely to fall on applicants and their families. It is important to note that there is no possibility of Cambridge students supporting themselves, even partially, by taking a job during term time.

Choice of College

The University of Cambridge is made up of a number of Colleges, 29 of these admit undergraduate students. The Colleges provide essentially the same range of facilities: accommodation, food, pastoral care, and personal tuition. Colleges are also the centre of social life for students at Cambridge. Most Colleges admit a variety of students. However, there are some exceptions: Newnham College, Murray Edwards College and Lucy Cavendish College only admit women; Hughes Hall, Lucy Cavendish College, St Edmund's College and Wolfson College only admit students aged over 21 (often referred to as mature students). Most Colleges admit students in all subjects, although there are usually one or two courses which are not offered in each College. For further information about all the Colleges and for details of which Colleges offer the subject that you wish to study, please see the University website:

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

Probably the most important thing to consider when choosing a College is the character of its student body. Generally speaking, undergraduates on a three- or four-year course are likely to fit easily into any Cambridge College. Students over the age of 21 may prefer to consider one of the four 'mature' Colleges.

If, having read all this, you still have no preference for a particular College, you may elect to make an 'open' application. This will result in your application being allocated by computer to the College with the fewest applications for your course. The basis of the allocation is to even out the distribution of applicants across the Colleges — applicants from the UK/EU are allocated to Colleges which happen, in that year, to have received fewer applications per place in that subject than the average number across all Colleges; applicants from outside the EU are evenly distributed across Colleges in each subject. Thereafter, you will be treated in exactly the same way as any other applicant to that College and you can be assured that you will not be disadvantaged by making an open application.

If you're an applicant with unusual qualifications (eg a non-standard choice of A Levels for your subject), a mobility and/or sensory impairment, or need advice about your particular circumstances, then it's advisable to apply to a specific College having sought their advice about your circumstances at an early stage, rather than make an open application.

Before you submit an open application, be sure that you will be quite happy whatever the outcome of the allocation: your allocated College cannot be changed once it is assigned.

Application procedure

Just like other UK universities, you must apply through UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) to be considered for a place at the University of Cambridge. Applicants to Cambridge who are applying from outside the EU must **also** complete a Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA). An outline of the process and forms that must be completed can be found here:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/international-applications

When you apply through UCAS, you will be given a UCAS Personal Identification Number, which will enable you to track the status of your application to Cambridge, and any other UK universities you have applied to, via the UCAS website:

www.ucas.com

The closing date for receipt of your application is **15 October the year before you wish to commence studying at Cambridge**. In 2018, the University will conduct overseas interviews in Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, and Singapore. If you wish to be considered for interview in one of these countries, please note that some restrictions apply and there may be an earlier deadline:

	Submit UCAS application by	Submit COPA by
If you'd like to be considered for interview in China, Malaysia, or Singapore	20 September	20 September
If you'd like to be considered for interview in Canada or India	15 October	19 October

If you're domiciled, permanently resident or at school/university in the special administrative region of Hong Kong, and would like to be considered for interview in Hong Kong	15 October	19 October
If you'd like to be considered for interview in Cambridge	15 October	19 October

Please note the following **restrictions**:

- If interviews are held in your home or school country, you can only request an interview in that country or in Cambridge (with the exception of Canada, see below). You're strongly encouraged to apply for an interview in your home or school country - there's no advantage to being interviewed in Cambridge. If you're an Architecture, Classics, History of Art, or Music applicant, you're advised to apply to be considered for an interview in Cambridge; however, please check the information on the country-specific page for relevant interview arrangements before submitting your application. If in doubt, please contact the appropriate overseas interview team for further guidance:
canada@cao.cam.ac.uk
prc@cao.cam.ac.uk
hongkong@cao.cam.ac.uk
india@cao.cam.ac.uk
malaysia@cao.cam.ac.uk
singapore@cao.cam.ac.uk
- Interviews in Canada are open to all applicants but those who are resident or at school/university in Canada or who are Canadian nationals resident elsewhere will be given priority
- Interviews in Hong Kong are only available to applicants who are domiciled, permanently resident or at school/university in the special administrative region of Hong Kong

Applicants from other Asian countries (such as Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Taipei, Thailand and the Maldives), Australia, and New Zealand are invited to apply to be considered for interview either in Singapore or in Cambridge.

All applicants interviewed overseas will be required to take a written admissions assessment, either pre-interview or at-interview. For 2018 entry, the pre-interview written assessments will be taken on 2 November 2017 in the UK. If you'll be taking a pre-interview written assessment overseas, you must check the Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing website as the scheduled start times for international centres may vary. Please read through the information on their website carefully as if you're applying for a course with a pre-interview assessment your centre needs to register you by 15 October 2017, separately from your UCAS application:

www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/cambridge-pre-interview-assessments

Please note that for some overseas interview locations 'pre-interview' assessments may take place after your interview. In this situation, your written assessment will still be considered by your Cambridge College along with your overseas interview report.

For candidates interviewed overseas, 'at-interview' written assessments will usually take place in the same week as interviews in that country. Arrangements for at-interview written assessments are normally supplied to shortlisted applicants together with details of their interview. For Maths applicants interviewed overseas, a written Maths

assessment will be administered by the overseas interviewing team. Your written assessment will then be made available to the Cambridge College, along with your overseas interview report.

On your UCAS application and your COPA, you should indicate the Cambridge College to which you wish to apply. It is essential that your choice of Cambridge College on your UCAS application and COPA match. If there is a discrepancy, please note that your choice of College on your UCAS application will take precedence. If you have no preference for a particular College, you can choose to make an 'open' application (see above). Please note that affiliated applicants **must** apply to a named College – there is no open application route for affiliated applicants. It will not be possible, under any circumstances, to change your choice of Cambridge College/open application once you have submitted your UCAS application and COPA.

Date	Application process
March 2017 onwards	Research the courses available at Cambridge and consider your College or open application choice.
May 2017 onwards	If there's information that you need that you can't find on the University or College websites, please contact the relevant College admissions office, who'll be happy to answer your specific questions.
July-October 2017	Complete and submit your COPA together with the appropriate application fee. Open applications are processed by computer program and are allocated to Colleges shortly after the 15 October UCAS deadline, which thereafter take over the admissions process and will contact you directly. You must also submit a UCAS application by the relevant deadline.
20 September 2017	<p>If you'd like to be considered for interview in China, Malaysia, or Singapore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ your COPA must have been submitted ▪ your UCAS application must have been submitted
15 October 2017	<p>If you'd like to be considered for interview in Cambridge, Canada¹, Hong Kong¹ or India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ your UCAS application must have been submitted <p>¹ restrictions apply (see overseas interviews)</p> <p>If you're applying for a course which requires a pre-interview written assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ you must be registered in advance for the pre-interview written assessment – the assessment centre where you'll take your pre-interview assessment must register you (you can't register yourself); please see

	<p>the information about the pre-interview assessments for details of registration deadlines as some students must be registered for their assessment by a date earlier than 15 October</p>
19 October 2017	<p>If you'd like to be considered for interview in Cambridge, Canada¹ or Hong Kong¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ your COPA must have been submitted <p>¹ Restrictions apply (see overseas interviews)</p>
22 October 2017	<p>You must have submitted your Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ) by 6.00pm (UK time).</p>
September-December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicants are interviewed. ▪ You may be asked to submit samples of your written work to your College. ▪ Most applicants are required to sit an admissions assessment. <p>See Interviews and Admissions Assessments for further information.</p>
Late January 2018	<p>You're notified of the decision. The possibilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ you may be unsuccessful ▪ you may be made an offer of a conditional place, subject to obtaining specified examination grades ▪ you may be made an offer of an unconditional place
October 2018	<p>Academic year starts</p>

Useful links

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

www.ukcisa.org.uk

www.ucas.com

www.admissionstestingservice.org

