

# Eligibility Criteria Guidelines for Applicants to the Cambridge Foundation Year

2022/23 Entry

# Overview

To make a valid application to the University of Cambridge Foundation Year, applicants must meet certain eligibility criteria. Ineligible applications will not be considered. The purpose of this document is to help potential applicants understand whether they meet these eligibility criteria.

The Foundation Year intends to address educational disadvantage and disruption; this may manifest in various forms for applicants. To be considered for the programme, you should meet **one or more criteria from at least two of the categories detailed below** (unless you are care-experienced) and will be ordinarily resident in the UK. The criteria are a gateway to consideration.

This document provides a full explanation of all the criteria across the three categories. It also details how applicants will be asked to evidence their eligibility during the application process. Applicants should remember that they need to meet one (or more) criteria in two (or more) categories to be eligible. Further information about the course is available at [cam.ac.uk/foundationyear](https://cam.ac.uk/foundationyear).

We appreciate that some of the information provided in this document may seem complicated. We are providing this to ensure that applicants only use one of their UCAS choices on the course if they are eligible. If you are eligible, interested in the course and can meet our academic entry requirement of 120 UCAS Points, please do not be deterred from applying.

We advise using the contents list on the next page to skip directly to sections that are relevant to you. If you have any further questions, you can email [foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk) for advice.

If you are a mature student and are unclear on how some of these guidelines apply, please visit our website for further information.

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## Verification process

Verifying eligibility is an important part of ensuring that the programme can support the students it has been designed for. In some cases, we will be able to use datasets and publically available information, but in many cases, the circumstances are so individual to you that we will need you to tell us more and possibly provide us with copies of original documentation we would otherwise be unable to see.

The first stage of your application is to apply through UCAS. There is nothing additional that you will need to do as part of your UCAS application (unless you have been in care – see page 5).

After applying, you will receive an email with a link to the Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire (FYSAQ) that we will ask you to complete online. You must complete it in the set timeframe so we can consider your application further. Only applications we have verified as eligible can be assessed further.

When completing the FYSAQ, you will be asked to indicate which criteria you meet, and to upload evidence if required. You will be able to see below the kind of documentation that might be required. After consulting this document, you may also wish to familiarise yourself with the FYSAQ format at [www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk/fysaq](http://www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk/fysaq)

In some instances, you may need to find the relevant documentation or request it from your parent(s)/carer(s), school/college or other services such as your GP or social worker. It is advised that you speak with them as soon as possible to ensure they can provide you with what you need on time. In some cases, for example, where the required evidence could be conveyed in a letter from your school, the same letter could cover a number of the criteria. If the document requested is a letter, we expect this to be on letter-headed paper including a point of contact name as we may follow up to verify.

While to be eligible you only need to meet one criterion from two of the three categories, we recommend you check all criteria that you meet and provide the requested evidence for all.

We appreciate that the documentation you provide is personal and may contain sensitive information about yourself or your family. The information is only used to verify eligibility and will never be shared or used for any other purpose. The exact nature of your circumstances has no bearing on admissions decisions and places are ultimately awarded on academic suitability. Documentation is held securely following our Data Protection policies.<sup>1</sup>

If an applicant or referee was found to have been misleading or have made false claims in their application, the applicant would be removed from consideration. If they had already been admitted and started or completed their studies, the applicant could be liable for the full delivery cost of the course.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/applicant-data>

## Eligibility Guidelines

You should take care to read the guidance carefully to ensure it applies to your circumstances. If you choose to apply but we find you do not meet our criteria or do not provide the evidence we need to verify your eligibility, we will not consider your application further and you will have used a UCAS choice unnecessarily.

Throughout this document, we may mention certain time periods that the circumstances must have occurred within. These may relate either to periods of schooling (such as 'while in secondary education') or periods of time (such as 'in the last four years'). Where periods of time have been specified, this is as of the last possible date for applications. For 2022 entry, this is 26 January 2022.

After you have ascertained your eligibility, you should prepare to provide any evidence we require to verify your eligibility through the FYSAQ form. See [www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk/fysaq](http://www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk/fysaq) for more information.

## Care-experienced applicants

Those who are currently in local authority care, or who have been in care previously while in education for any length of time, are automatically eligible for this programme. This means that you do not have to meet the criteria in any of the other categories (although you may do so and provide evidence if you wish).

Care-experienced may mean you have been placed in foster care, a residential home, kinship care or have been looked after at home under a supervision order.

There is a field on your UCAS application that you should fill in if you've spent time in local authority care. It also asks you to provide the duration of time you have spent in care.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. This would ideally be a letter from someone in the Local Authority responsible for your care and should reflect briefly on the circumstances they have on record. Alternatively, another original formal document from the Local Authority relating to your placements or circumstances dated from the time you were in care would be sufficient.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about your time in care such as the length of time you were in care and the nature of the care.

## Category 1: Individual Characteristics

Many of these criteria refer to 'secondary education'. This means pre-university education, usually between the ages of 11 and 18/19, but may apply to some mature students who have returned to education later. It includes the full range of school/college types. We also refer to 'school/college', meaning any educational institution you attended such as a Further Education college, sixth form college or secondary school.

The criteria in this category reflect disrupted education, qualification availability and Special Educational Needs.

*You have experienced medical/health issues that have resulted in long or extended periods of absence (over 8 weeks) from school/college whilst in secondary education*

There are no limitations on the kind of medical/health issues that you have experienced, so it could include physical or mental health issues and either chronic or acute conditions. Anything that has caused extended periods of absence counts (8 weeks or more), although we would expect that the extent of the disruptions will mean this is something that has resulted in you seeking medical treatment.

The 8 weeks (or longer) could have been in one block or could have been a series of shorter but recurring absences due to a single condition.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. You could ask your GP or another medical professional who knows about your history to provide a letter that details long term sickness certification they have provided to your school/college. Alternatively, you could ask your school/college to provide a letter based on their knowledge of your attendance and reasons for absence which includes detail about the length of your absences.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about the nature of your absences and the stage of your secondary education that they occurred in.

*You have experienced bereavement due to the death of a close family member whilst in secondary education (for example your parent/carer)*

In this context, close family members mean your immediate family such as siblings, parent(s) or carer(s). It also includes anyone who shared the same household as you at the time of their death (for example a step-sibling).

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. You may ask your school/college to write a letter based on their awareness of your family situation. Alternatively, if this is not possible or you would prefer, we would also accept other documentation such as a copy of the death certificate accompanied by your explanation of the nature of your relationship (for example, they were your father, or they were your grandmother but your primary carer). If you are unable to provide this, please contact us for further guidance.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about the nature of your relationship with the person who died and at what stage of your secondary education this happened.

*You have been a young carer while in education*

A young carer is a person under 18 who regularly provides emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally unwell or who misuses substances.

There is no requirement for you to provide documentary verification for this criterion via the FYSAQ. We appreciate many young carers are not recognised by authorities as such. However, if you have been assessed by your Local Authority you could provide correspondence or evidence of that if you wish. If your school are aware of your responsibilities, they could also write a letter which you could attach in support. We would also accept a letter of support from a registered young carers charity if they have been supporting you.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about the situation, although detail is not necessary.

### *You have become a parent while in education*

To be eligible under this criterion, you will have become a parent (either mother or father) while in education.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. This should be evidence of your relationship with your child. A birth certificate showing your name as one of the child's parents will suffice.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about the stage of your education you were in when you became a parent.

### *You became homeless while in education*

If you became homeless while in education, you might have had nowhere to stay and been living on the streets. You would also qualify under this criterion if you, for example, ended up staying with friends; stayed in a hostel, night shelter or B&B.

There is no requirement for you to provide documentary verification for this criterion via the FYSAQ. However, if you have evidence of being 'legally' homeless such as correspondence with your local council relating to short-term emergency housing you may wish to provide this.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide some information about the length of time you were homeless for and the stage of your education you were in when you became homeless.

### *You have Refugee status or Humanitarian Protection in the UK or are an asylum seeker in the UK*

The University defines a refugee as someone whose claim for asylum has been recognised and they have been granted official 'refugee' status. You will also be eligible under this criterion if you have been granted

humanitarian protection which has resulted in permission to stay in the UK for humanitarian reasons. An asylum seeker is defined as someone who is in the process of seeking asylum, or the decision is still pending. Asylum seekers are also eligible for the course but are advised to consider their fee status for further study.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. This could include official documentation reflecting your (or your parent(s)/carer(s)) limited or indefinite leave to remain such as a copy of a Biometric Residence Permit (previously Immigration Status Document). We appreciate that there can be delays in obtaining formal documentation from the Home Office or other authorities. We would also accept a letter of support from a registered educational charity such as Refugee Education UK if they have been supporting you.

We do not require any additional information about the circumstances of your forced migration.

Additional guidelines for refugees or asylum seekers in assessing their eligibility under other categories are available in a short [guide available on our website](#).

### *You became estranged from close family members (e.g. parents/carers) whilst in secondary education*

Estrangement means that you were completing all or part of your secondary education without the support of a family network. This is typically understood as having had no contact at all with your parent(s)/carer(s) for at least 12 months and that this is unlikely to change. You would likely be assessed as an independent student by student finance bodies because of this.

You would not qualify under this criterion if you live separately from your parents but communicate with them. You also would not qualify if have recently fallen out with them, or your parents do not support your decision to study at university. These are challenging circumstances but are not classed as estrangement.

There is no requirement for you to provide documentary verification for this criterion via the FYSAQ. We appreciate that social service intervention due to estrangement is not common and your school/college may also be unaware of your circumstances. However, if your school or a social worker is aware of your situation, we would appreciate a letter from them reflecting this.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide a short description of the situation including the stage of your education when you became estranged, although detail on the reasons for the breakdown of the relationship is not necessary.

### *You moved state schools two or more times whilst in secondary education*

If you have moved state schools two or more times whilst in secondary education, you would meet this criterion. You do not need to provide us with your reasons for moving from each school/college, but this could be because you have moved home regularly because you were the dependent of someone serving in



the armed forces, were in care, or because you are from a traveller background. You may also have experienced issues during your time in previous schools which meant you had to move.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide the names and postcodes of the schools you attended and the dates you attended them.

If you are a standard age applicant (i.e. you are applying while you are still in full-time education), you will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. This could be a letter from your current school/college detailed when you started and their understanding of your educational history. Alternatively, you could provide copies of school reports from different schools.

If you have left education already and/or are applying as a mature student, there is no requirement for you to provide documentary verification for this criterion via the FYSAQ. However, we would welcome it if you can supply it. For example, you might have copies of school reports from different schools.

### *You have been delayed in completing qualifications because you were working while studying part-time*

This criterion specifically looks at those who have been delayed completing their qualifications because they have been working simultaneously. This could mean studying part-time while working part-time or full-time. You would not be eligible if you have been studying full-time but had a part-time job because your work has not delayed your qualification completion.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. You should provide evidence of your job or income. For example, you could provide us with a P60 for your job(s) in the year that you completed your qualification. Alternatively, a self-assessment income tax return is another option or SA302 form covering the years you were studying. If you are still studying, your most recent P60 or similar form will suffice, or copies of payslips for the months you have been studying full-time.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide a summary of the qualification you have been studying part-time and the job(s) you held while doing this.

### *You experienced a gap of more than one year (for example leaving school at 16 but returning to complete Level 3 qualifications after several years of work)*

This criterion looks at those who have experienced time out of education and then returned. This gap must be more than one year, but there is no upper limit on the length of time between your qualifications.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you upload the transcript from your qualifications to show the year in which they were attained. A transcript is the record of your academic achievement. If you do not have one, you can request a certified statement of results from the exam board responsible for the qualification(s) you took.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide a summary of the years in which you received your qualifications and the length of the gap between them.

### *Your school/college does not offer the subject in A Level or equivalent qualification that you require for entry to Cambridge*

You will qualify under this criterion if your school/college was unable to offer a qualification you would require for entry to Cambridge for the degree courses in scope for progression from the Foundation Year. This includes being unable to take appropriate qualifications in English Literature, History, Modern Languages or Music. You will be asked in the FYSAQ to provide a summary of the qualification you wished to take and the school/college that did not offer it.

This does exclude the required subjects for the three-year Classics course (Latin and Classical Greek) since the four-year Classics course has no specific subject requirements. It also excludes any required subjects for courses that are not possible progression options (for example access to Further Mathematics). You can find the subject requirements on the course page at [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses) under the 'Entry Requirements' tab on each course page.

If you attend a school/college in England, you will not be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ as we can verify your eligibility using data from the Department for Education but you will still need to give us the details above so we can cross-reference it with the data we hold.

If you attend a school/college in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, you will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you upload a letter from your school/college that mentions the subject you weren't able to study, or a letter or other document that includes the full list of qualifications on offer in the school/college.

### *Late diagnosis of Special Educational Needs*

You will be eligible under this criterion if you have been diagnosed with Special Educational Needs in the past two years as of the final application deadline (26 January 2022). This includes but is not limited to dyslexia, dyspraxia, autism or mental health difficulties.

If you have Special Educational Needs but were diagnosed more than two years ago, you will not qualify under this criterion as we are looking for those who were unable to access the support they needed earlier in their education.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you attach a letter from your school. This could come from your SEN Coordinator or anyone else who understands your needs. Alternatively, you could attach a copy of your Educational, Health and Social Care Plan (ECHP). If this will not be possible, a letter from your GP or another medical professional that mentions the diagnosis and is dated within the past two years would also be appropriate evidence.

## Category 2: Family Characteristics

The criteria in this category relate to your family or household background and are primarily based on income measures.

### *You are currently eligible for Free School Meals*

Free School Meals are available for anyone attending a state school/college, aged under 19, whose parent(s)/carer(s) receive certain benefits. As such, we can use it as a proxy for your household income. You will qualify under this criterion if you are currently eligible for Free School Meals, even if you are not currently claiming them. Free School Meals are available in [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Wales](#), but you should check the guidance where you live as there may be minor differences in eligibility. If you are unsure if you qualify, you should ask your school/college.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you attach a letter from your school/college that mentioned your eligibility for Free School Meals. If that can't be provided, evidence of the benefits you or your family receive that would make you eligible for Free School Meals would suffice.

### *You have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the previous 6 years*

See above for a description of Free School Meals.

You will qualify under this criterion if you have been eligible for Free School Meals in the past six years as of the final application deadline (26 January 2022). For example, you might have been eligible for some time earlier in your school career but as your parent(s)/carer(s) no longer receive the benefits that made you eligible, you are no longer able eligible to receive Free School Meals.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you attach a letter from your school/college. If that can't be provided, for example, because you have left school/college, evidence of the benefits you or your family received that made you eligible within the past six years would suffice.

### *You have a combined household income of £25,000 or less*

Your household income includes your own income (if you have any), as well as your parent(s)/carer(s) income if you are under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially. If you live in the same household or depend on the partner of one of your parents, their income is also included. If you are over 25 and live with a partner or spouse, your partner's income is included in your household income.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. We ask that you provide a copy of documentation that shows the income of relevant members of your household. A P60 from the last tax year would be ideal, but other documentation could suffice such as self-assessment income tax returns or an SA302 form. In all cases, the most recent form of evidence you can provide is expected.

### *You or your parent(s)/carer(s) are eligible for Universal Credit*

Universal Credit is a payment for people over 18 and under State Pension age who are on a low income or out of work. It is available in all parts of the UK. This will be your status if you live independently or are over 25 and will relate to your parent(s)/carer(s) if you are under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.

You will also be eligible under this criterion if you or your parents(s)/carer(s) receive another means-tested benefit that will make you eligible for Universal Credit but you haven't yet been moved onto Universal Credit itself. This includes the so-called 'legacy benefits': Housing Benefit, income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Child Tax Credits (CTC), Working Tax Credits (WTC) and Income Support.

You will not be eligible under this criterion if the only benefits you or your parent(s)/carer(s) receive are not means-tested. This means benefits that do not reflect income or savings. This is because they do not provide us with satisfactory evidence of the financial circumstances.

You will be expected to provide evidence via the FYSAQ so we can verify your eligibility under this criterion. You will need to attach a copy of documentation that proves your parent(s)/carer(s) eligibility. A proof of benefits letter or similar documentation would be ideal. This can be obtained through your online account or by contacting your benefits office.

## Category 3: School/College Characteristics

The criteria in this category refer to the school/college that you currently attend or may have attended in the past. The criteria listed apply only to your secondary education. This means pre-university education, usually between the ages of 11 and 18/19, but may apply to some mature students who have returned to education later. It includes the full range of school/college types. We can only consider schools/colleges that you have attended within the UK.

### *A school or college you attended has performed poorly in an inspection in the past four years*

All state schools/colleges in the UK are inspected regularly and rated on a scale based on their overall performance. You will be eligible under this criterion if you have attended a school or college that has performed poorly in an inspection in the past four years as of the last possible application date (26 January 2022). This applies to all the secondary schools/colleges you have attended in the past four years. For example, you might have completed your GCSEs at one school and moved elsewhere for sixth form and you should check the recent inspection rating for both these schools.

Different government bodies are responsible for inspections in different parts of the UK, and they use slightly different scales.

- For schools/colleges in England, you can check your inspection report at <https://www.gov.uk/find-ofsted-inspection-report>. To qualify, your school/college would be rated 'Requires improvement', 'Inadequate' or 'Special Measures'.
- For schools/colleges in Wales, you can check your inspection report at <https://www.estyn.gov.wales>. To qualify, your school/college would be rated 'Adequate and needs improvement' or 'Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement'.
- For schools/colleges in Scotland, you can check your inspection report at <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports>. To qualify, your school/college would be rated 'Weak' or 'Unsatisfactory'.
- For schools/colleges in Northern Ireland, you can check your inspection report at <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/type/inspectionreports>. To qualify, your school/college would be rated 'Inadequate' or 'Unsatisfactory'.

Independent school inspections may be available from government bodies or have been conducted by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The report is usually available on the school website.

You are eligible under this criterion for ratings received while you were at the school (in the past four years), even if you have since moved schools or left. You are also eligible even if your school has subsequently improved its rating in the past four years. However, you are not eligible under this criterion if you attend a school that had a lower rating within the last four years but you joined after it improved its rating.

This information may not be available for new schools or schools that have closed or merged. We recommend trying to search by postcode. If in doubt, you can contact us at [foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk) for support.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide the names and postcodes of the schools/colleges that you attended and the dates that you attended them. If your school is an Independent School you will need to provide a link to where we can view the report.

### *You have attended a school or college with below-average attainment*

Attaining below average attainment means that average examination results at your school or college are lower than the national average. This applies to all the secondary schools/colleges you have attended. For example, you might have completed your GCSEs at one school and moved elsewhere for sixth form; for this, you should check the records for both schools.

This information may not be available for new schools, schools that have closed or merged, or sixth form colleges. Unfortunately, this data is not published for schools/colleges in Northern Ireland.

You will qualify under this measure for any school/college that you currently attend, or we will consider the current score available for schools/college that you have attended in the past 10 years (for example if you have left school already). This is because this measure is not released for post-16 only institutions such as sixth form colleges in England.

- For schools/colleges in England, we will use the Attainment 8 measure. This is a score based on how well pupils perform in up to 9 qualifications.

You can check if your school/college has a below-average Attainment 8 score at the [Compare School Performance Service](#) from the UK Government. Input your school name or postcode to find the record. On the page for your school/college, scroll down to find the Attainment 8 score listing. You should compare the school score (pink bar) to the England average (pale grey bar).

To qualify, your school Attainment 8 score must be below the England average. This only applies to the most recent score and not historical records from prior years.

- For schools/colleges in Wales, we will use two measures: Capped 9 points score and Average points score.

You can check if your school/college has a below-average points score at KS4 or Sixth Form using the [My Local School Service](#) from the Welsh Government. You should find your school using the school postcode. On the school profile, use the 'Attainment' tab to check the 'Capped 9 points score' at KS4 and the 'Average Points score' at sixth form. You can compare the 'School – Total' to the 'Wales – Total'.

To qualify, your school Capped 9 points score (KS4) or Average Points score (sixth form) must be below the Wales average. This only applies to the most recent score and not historical records from prior years.

- For schools/colleges in Scotland, you can check if your school/college has a below-average school leavers' average total tariff score.

You can find this on the [School Information Dashboard](#) from the Scottish Government. You should navigate to the third tab from the left, then select your local authority and your school/college in the drop-down menus at the top of the tab. The data you need is at the bottom right of the four charts on this page, titled 'School leavers' average total tariff score'. You should compare your school figures in the light blue column to the national average (not to the virtual comparator column in the dark blue). The national average is currently 151 for the lowest 20%, 889 for the middle 20% and 1930 for the highest 20%.

To qualify, your school will score below the national average on any of these measures. This only applies to the most recent score and not historical records from prior years.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide the names and postcodes of the schools/colleges that you attended and the dates that you attended them. This will then be verified using the same dataset.

*You currently attend or have attended a school or college with a below-average progression to Higher Education, to Russell Group universities or to Oxford or Cambridge*

This means that your school or college sends fewer people to university or highly selective universities than average.



This information may not be available for new schools, schools that have closed or merged, or some sixth form colleges. Unfortunately, this data is not published for schools/colleges in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland so we are unable to use this criterion for those educated there.

If you have already left school/college (for example you are a mature student), you will only qualify under this criterion for those schools or colleges which you left within the last four years as of the application deadline (26 January 2022). This is because we are simply unable to reliably verify data from longer ago and because current data might not reflect the situation when you attended.

For schools/colleges in England, you can check if your school/college has a below-average progression rate at the [Compare School Performance Service](#) from the UK Government. Input your school name or postcode to find the record. On the page for your school/college, navigate to the '16-18' tab, then to 'Student destinations'. On this next page, select 'Progression into higher education or training' and then 'Breakdown of destinations'. To qualify your school/college average for 'Degrees' or 'Of which Russell Group institutions' must be below the average for England. Alternatively, the average 'Of which Oxford or Cambridge' could be less than or equal to the national average.

This only applies to the most recent figures published and not historical records from prior years.

You will also be asked in the FYSAQ to provide the names and postcodes of the schools/colleges that you attended and the dates that you attended them. This will then be verified using the same dataset.

## Summary Table

Category	Criterion	Evidence?	Type of evidence required
None	Care-experienced	✓	Letter from Local Authority or other original formal documentation reflecting care arrangements
1	You have experienced medical/health issues that have resulted in long or extended periods of absence (over 8 weeks) from school/college whilst in secondary education	✓	GP/medical professional letter or school/college letter
1	You have experienced bereavement due to the death of a close family member whilst in secondary education (for example your parent/carer)	✓	Death certificate, funeral programme/order of service or newspaper death notice, or letter from school/college
1	You have been a young carer while in education	✗	
1	You have become a parent while in education	✓	Birth certificate
1	You became homeless while in education	✗	
1	You have Refugee status or Humanitarian Protection in the UK. Asylum seekers may be able to be considered	✓	Biometric Residence Permit/evidence of leave to remain or ongoing asylum claim, or letter of support from a registered education charity if applicable
1	You became estranged from close family members (e.g. parents/carers) whilst in secondary education	✗	

1	You moved state schools two or more times whilst in secondary education	✓	Letter from school/college or copies of school reports or transcripts from different schools
1	You have been delayed in completing qualifications because you were working while studying part-time	✓	P60 or similar evidence of work
1	You experienced a gap of more than one year (for example leaving school at 16 but returning to complete Level 3 qualifications after several years of work)	✓	Qualifications transcripts
1	Your school/college does not offer the subject in A Level or equivalent qualification that you require for entry to Cambridge	✓ (if not in England)	Letter from school/college
1	Late diagnosis of Special Educational Needs	✓	Letter from school/college or EHCP or GP/medical professional letter
2	You are currently eligible for Free School Meals	✓	Letter from school/college
2	You have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the previous 6 years	✓	Letter from school/college
2	You have a combined household income of £25,000 or less	✓	P60 or income tax returns
2	You or your parent(s)/carer(s) are eligible for Universal Credit	✓	Proof of benefits letter or other original evidence of means- tested benefit receipt or assessment
3	A school or college you attended has performed poorly in an inspection in the past four years	✗	
3	You have attended a school or college with below-average attainment	✗	
3	You currently attend a school or college with a below-average progression to Higher Education, to Russell Group universities or to Oxford or Cambridge	✗	

## Further Help

If you have any further enquiries or you have a specific question about how these criteria relate to your circumstances, please consult the Foundation Year team (email: [foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk))

Details are correct at the time of publication (November 2021) but should be checked against the Undergraduate Study website for the most up-to-date information. © University of Cambridge, 2021.