



Dear All,

I am getting in touch to offer further advice and some reassurance regarding your offer of admission to the University of Cambridge, given recent national developments in relation to examinations and the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Please read the message below carefully.

For UK Offer Holders (and all International Baccalaureate offer holders)

OFQUAL has recently published [guidance](#) on how GCSEs, AS and A Levels will be awarded in England this summer. Similar guidance has been issued for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), and [Northern Ireland](#). Guidance for those taking the International Baccalaureate can be found [here](#).

Please rest assured that we will be using this summer's results (as awarded) to confirm places in our normal way – if you meet all of the conditions of your offer with us by the deadline stipulated by UCAS (currently 31 August), you will be accepted to the University.

We understand that there may be an opportunity to take examinations this autumn. If you have not met the conditions of your offer this summer you may choose to sit alternative examinations this autumn. The University of Cambridge will make you an offer for entry in October 2021, if the terms of your original offer are met as a result. Where possible, this will be at the College where the offer is currently held, and the current College must be notified by 31 August of the intention to take the autumn exams.

We are very mindful that many of our mature offer holders will be taking qualifications other than A Levels or the IB and we are currently working very hard to understand the impact that coronavirus will have on the awarding of these qualifications. We are also aware that some applicants will be completing A Level qualifications independently of a school or college (please do alert the College that made you an offer to this if they are not already aware); we are liaising with relevant sector bodies to understand how A Level grades could be awarded in such circumstances. As soon as we are in a position to provide further information on these particular circumstances, we will do so.

For EU and Overseas Offer Holders (excluding International Baccalaureate)

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) has published [guidance](#) on how their qualifications will be awarded this summer. As with UK/IB qualifications, we will be using these awarded results to confirm places in our normal way - if you meet all of the conditions of your firm offer with us, you will be accepted to the University.

We are mindful that many of our EU and overseas offer holders are not completing CIE/IB qualifications. If you are such an offer holder, and if you are aware that your results are going to be awarded in a different way than originally planned (e.g. a pass/fail rather than specific grades), please could I ask you to bring this to the attention of the College that made you an offer as soon as possible. We are currently working very hard to understand the impact on the awarding of these qualifications

and our Colleges will work collectively to agree a best way forward.

You may also be having difficulty taking English Language tests. We recommend you check the following websites regularly for updates on English language test centres: [IELTS updates](#), [TOEFL updates](#). Please keep the College that made you an offer updated if you have been unable to access a suitable test by the end of May.

For All Offer Holders

If your offer has conditions including the Mathematics Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) II and III, please note that these examinations are still going to take place with a similar timetable, so you should continue to prepare for these. Further guidance on this can be found [here](#), and we will communicate with offer holders as soon as definitive arrangements are available. Our online STEP Support Programme resources for individual self-study can be found [here](#). Furthermore, MEI has made additional [resources](#) available for both teachers and students (remote teaching and self-study).

To enable us to treat all applicants equitably, we would be grateful if you could continue to keep a summary log of any disruption (which might include, but is not limited to, periods of self-isolation, disruptive teacher absences, dates of school closures and what alternatives, if any, are provided). We do not need this information now, but you may be asked to send it to us in the summer, and it will be more accurate if you start to record it systematically.

We strongly encourage you to make use of our free online study resources which can be accessed through our [HE Plus website](#).

We also encourage you to pay close attention to the [guidance from Public Health England](#) and/or issued by the authorities in your home country.

The University also has a [dedicated page](#) with the latest guidance.

We fully understand that this is a difficult time for all of you, but please be assured that we are working extremely hard on contingency planning and we will keep you informed. We will be providing Frequently Asked Questions on our [website](#) and we strongly encourage you to regularly refer to this page.

We wish you, your peers, your schools and your families the very best during this difficult period.

Best wishes,

Dr Sam Lucy
Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges