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.

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

Transcripts
If you haven’t taken six or more GCSEs/GCSEs or five or more Scottish National qualifications in the last three years, you’re 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.

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. Additional guidance is available on p8-11, including information used to assess applications and general information about what Admissions Tutors look for in applicants.

Please see the Undergraduate Study and College websites for full conditions of entry (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/decisions).

1 Of the 18,377 applications made for entry in October 2018 (or deferred entry in October 2019), 3,465 students were accepted.

Entry requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| GCSEs                  | • There are no GCSE (or equivalent) requirements for entry to Cambridge.  
                         | • GCSE results are looked at as a performance indicator, but within the context of the performance of the school/college where they were achieved. |
| A Levels               | • Refer to the relevant course entries (pp44-117) for typical A Level offers.  
                         | • Applicants may be required to achieve A* in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances. |
                         | • Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these qualifications and UMS in the SAQ (see p7). |
                         | • We expect that students taking new A Levels in science subjects will complete the practical assessment. |
                         | • Critical Thinking is worthwhile but not acceptable as a third A Level subject for any Cambridge course. |
                         | • Key Skills and General Studies aren’t included in academic assessment. |
| Extended Project       | • Applicants are encouraged to undertake an Extended Project but it won’t be a requirement of any offer made. |
| International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) | • Typical offers are 40-42 points out of 45, with 776 in Higher Level subjects.  
                          | • Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances. |
| Scottish qualifications | • Offers usually require AAA at Advanced Higher grade; bands may be specified.  
                          | • In some cases, two Advanced Highers and an additional Higher may be acceptable – contact a College for advice. |
                          | • Three Advanced Highers are expected within the Scottish Baccalaureate. |
| Welsh qualifications   | • Offers are conditional on three A Level subjects studied as options for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma. The Skills Challenge may be taken into consideration in assessment for admission, but would not normally be included as part of an offer. |
                          | • Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these and their UMS in the SAQ (see p7). |
| Irish Leaving Certificate | • Offers are based on achievement in Higher Level subjects, with H1 in subjects most relevant to the course.  
                             | • Courses with a typical A Level offer of AAA generally require H1, H1, H1, H2, H2, H2; and for courses with a typical A Level offer of A*AA, Leaving Certificate offers are usually H1, H1, H1, H2, H2. |

Continued overleaf
### Frequently Asked Questions

**What extracurricular activities will help my chances of admission?**

As our admissions decisions are based on academic criteria (ability and potential), your participation (or not) in specific extracurricular activities isn’t taken into account (unless it’s relevant to the course you’re applying for) and doesn’t affect your chances of being made an offer of a place at Cambridge.

However, when composing your personal statement you should consider the importance that your other university choices may place on extra-curricular activities.

**What work experience do I need to have?**

Work experience isn’t expected or required. However, for vocational courses, such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, having some relevant work experience is useful and recommended. It demonstrates commitment to your intended career and gives you the opportunity to acquire greater understanding of the realities and pressures associated with that career.

**I go to a state/private school – will this disadvantage my application?**

No. The University and its Colleges are committed to offering admission to students of the highest intellectual ability and potential, regardless of background ([www.cam.ac.uk/admissionspolicy](http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissionspolicy)).

We don’t discriminate for or against applicants because of the type of school they attend, and research shows that students from different educational backgrounds do equally well at Cambridge.

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### Qualification Notes

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<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP) | • STEP Mathematics is used to assess aptitude for university study in mathematical subjects.  
  • It’s used as part of almost all conditional offers from Cambridge for Mathematics.  
  Some Colleges require or 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). |
| AQA Baccalaureate                              | • Offers are conditional on achievement in the A Levels (see p151) 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 for sciences (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 Diploma                               | • 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, scores of 9 or more 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 1.2 overall, with 14 or 15 in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study. |
| Advanced Placement (AP) Tests                 | • Successful applicants normally have high passes in the High School Diploma and the SAT, and 5s in at least five AP Tests in appropriate subjects. |
| VCE and Applied A Levels, GNVQs and BTECs       | • These qualifications aren’t 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. |
| English language requirements                  | • If your first language isn’t English, please see p39. |

If the qualification you’re taking isn’t listed here, please look online ([www.cam.ac.uk/qualification](http://www.cam.ac.uk/qualification)) 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

4 and 5 July 2019

The Cambridge Open Days for prospective applicants in Year 12 (or equivalent) will be on 4 and 5 July (booking is essential).

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

Many Colleges will be open all day for Cambridge Open Day visitors. However, some will be holding their own College-specific event, for which a 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 (p121-48) for dates confirmed at the time of going to print, and refer to the relevant website(s) for more information and booking instructions. Additional dates may be offered so please check online for updates.

Department open days

Department open days focus on the specific course(s) in that faculty or department. You get to meet some lecturers, and see the library and other facilities. See the relevant course entry (p44-117) for dates and contact the appropriate department to book a place.

Other events

Subject Masterclasses

Subject Masterclasses provide an opportunity to explore topics of interest beyond what’s covered at A Level/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 are for students in Year 12 (or equivalent) and take place on selected days throughout the year – booking is required, and usually opens approximately two months before each Masterclass.

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 procedures 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 10 and 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 and understanding of particular 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 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 from a current student’s perspective.

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 p156).
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 also available online:

01223 333308
admissions@cam.ac.uk
www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU)
CUSU provides information and advice for prospective applicants on their main website and Alternative Prospectus website (see p155).

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

Location
Map reference (see p158-9)

Colleges
All of the Colleges have their own websites (see p121-49) 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.cam.ac.uk/ugcollegs

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 (p44-117).
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

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.
www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk

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 (see p158-9)

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

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.

By bus
Cambridge bus station is centrally located, and there’s a ‘Universal’ bus service which runs from Eddington, next to the Madingley Road Park and Ride site, through to our Biomedical Campus from Monday to Saturday, and from Eddington to Cambridge Railway Station on Sundays.

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 from Cambridge to 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.

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.

Distances to Cambridge

Aberdeen 460 miles
Cardiff 200 miles
London 60 miles
Manchester 170 miles
Newcastle 230 miles
Nottingham 85 miles
Perth 75 miles
Southampton 130 miles
Edinburgh 335 miles
Glasgow 355 miles
Leeds 150 miles
Leicester 75 miles
Manchester 170 miles
Newcastle 230 miles
Nottingham 85 miles
Perth 75 miles
Southampton 130 miles
Travelling to Cambridge

The Universal bus service runs between Madingley Road P&R (J7) and Cambridge Central Station (CBG). It takes approximately 35 minutes to reach Cambridge Central Station from Madingley Road P&R.

By train

Cambridge North (CMB) railway station is approximately a mile / 1.2 km (approx 10 minute walk) from Emmanuel Street (H5). Some streets are often congested and parking is limited. Getting a sense of the city.

By car

Visitors arriving by car can use the Park and Ride services (www.cambridgeparkandride.info). Visitors can also use the Guided Busway P&R – follow the signs for Longstanton P&R from Junction 29 of the A14 or Silver Street (G5), see below).

Disabled parking is available in the city’s car parks and on the Undergraduate Study website (www.cam.ac.uk/opendays).

By bus

Details of open days and booking instructions can be found on the Undergraduate Study website (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk).

Applicants at other times of the year but there are restrictions so you should check with the relevant College/department in advance (www.cam.ac.uk/map). Students

Therefore, it’s best to travel into the city by public transport. As Cambridge is fairly compact and better suited to pedestrians and cyclists than vehicles, wherever practical and possible we recommend getting around the city on foot or by bike – these are often the quickest means of transport and also are best for getting a sense of the city.

Getting around Cambridge

The University’s faculties/departments and the Colleges are situated across Cambridge, though most are within walking distance of the city centre. There are bus stops and other local bus services, see: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/buses.

Travelling to Cambridge

Travelling to Cambridge is easy. The Universal bus service runs between Madingley Road P&R (J7) and Cambridge Central Station (CBG). It takes approximately 35 minutes to reach Cambridge Central Station from Madingley Road P&R.

Cambridge North (CMB) railway station is approximately a mile / 1.2 km (approx 10 minute walk) from Emmanuel Street (H5). Some streets are often congested and parking is limited. Getting a sense of the city.

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While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate at the time of going to press, changes are likely to occur given the lengthy interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important that you check the University and College websites for any updates before you apply for the course by visiting [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk) and again before accepting any offer to study at the University. There is a difference between the contents of this prospectus and these websites, the contents of the websites take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our educational services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at the University is subject to terms and conditions which can be found at [www.cam.ac.uk/termsofadmission](http://www.cam.ac.uk/termsofadmission). The terms and conditions set out, for example, your key obligations as a student and when we might make changes to your course, the fees payable and the student regulations with which all students are required to comply. Again, it is important that you do read these before making an application.

If you are unable to access our website for any reason, please contact us on +44 (0) 1223 333308

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**Thanks**

The University would like to thank the contributors, students and prospective applicants whose input has informed the development of this publication.
You might come across many new and unfamiliar words, terms and expressions when you are researching your university options. Some universities mention things that are particular to their institution, and Cambridge is no exception! Listed below are some of the terms you might come across in the prospectus or on our website with a quick guide to what they mean.

**Collegiate university** – a university made up of faculties and departments in different academic subjects and Colleges. Find out who does what on p3.

**DoS** – Director of Studies. All undergraduates have a DoS who’s an expert in their subject and who is responsible for their academic welfare.

**Formal (hall)** – a College meal with waiter service, normally three courses and formal clothing (and gown) is worn. The regularity and price varies from College to College. You can find more information on the College websites.

**May Week** – confusingly, this refers to the fortnight at the beginning of June after exams finish. Most end of year celebrations (including May Balls) are held at this time.

**Matriculation** – this is the formal admission of a student to the University.

**Paper** – an individual module, unit or topic on an undergraduate course. You will usually take a number of papers each year, some compulsory and some chosen from several options. See your chosen course page for more details (p4-117).

**Pools** – if your College is impressed by your application but does not have a place for you, they may pool your application for other Colleges to consider. Find out more about our winter and summer pools on p10.

**Porters** – every College has a team of Porters to maintain the safety and security of students and staff; they’ll often be your first point of contact for information or help around College.

**Senior Tutor** – the College officer with overall responsibility for academic, welfare and disciplinary matters.

**Supervision** – regular small-group teaching sessions for undergraduates (see p13).

If you come across anything else that isn’t clear or you simply want to find out more about being a student at Cambridge, have a look at our website or call the Cambridge Admissions Office (see p156).