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.

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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• GCSE results are looked at as a performance indicator, but within the context of the performance of the school/college where they were achieved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Levels</td>
<td>• Refer to the relevant course entry/entries (p44-113) for typical A Level offers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Applicants may be required to achieve A* in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• We usually expect that students taking A Levels in science subjects will successfully complete any practical assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Critical Thinking is worthwhile but not acceptable as a third A Level subject for any Cambridge course.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Key Skills and General Studies aren’t included in academic assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Project (EPQ)</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 (IB)</td>
<td>• Typical offers are 40-42 points out of 45, with 776 in Higher Level subjects.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish qualifications</td>
<td>• Courses with a typical A Level offer of AAA generally require A1, A2, A2; and for courses with a typical A Level offer of A*AA, offers are usually A1, A1, A2.</td>
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<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 Skills Challenge may be taken into consideration in assessment for admission, but would not normally 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 are based on achievement in Higher Level subjects, with H1 in subjects most relevant to the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Courses with a typical A Level offer of A<em>AA generally require H1, H1, H1, H2, H2, H2; and for courses with a typical A Level offer of A</em>A, Leaving Certificate offers are usually H1, H1, H1, H1, H2, H2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applications 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 2 and 3 July 2020

The Cambridge Open Days for prospective applicants in Year 12 (or equivalent) will be on 2 and 3 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 separate bookings may be 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 (p114-45) 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 (p44-113) for dates and contact the appropriate department to book a place.

College tours

College tours are held throughout the year and are open to students in Year 12 (or equivalent) and an accompanying parent/supporter. Visitors will attend a presentation and take a guided tour of one/two Colleges. For further information, contact CAOEvents@admin.cam.ac.uk.

If you can’t attend an open day or College tour

If you can’t make an open day or College tour, you can visit at another time – College grounds and some departments 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 the College’s Admissions Office in advance to arrange this.

Other events

Subject Masterclasses

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 faster 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 (Years 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 Area Links Scheme was established to enable schools and colleges across the UK to build strong, effective relationships with the Cambridge Colleges. Every part of the UK is linked with a Cambridge College, giving the school and college in that area a specific contact point at the University.

The Area Links Scheme has enabled our Colleges to get to know specific regions and their local educational environments, allowing them to tailor their outreach activities to the needs of each location.

If you’d like more information about the University or to arrange a school visit to tour 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-led 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 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).

Further information: www.cam.ac.uk/teachers
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

Location
Map reference M (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 p17-45) 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.cam.ac.uk/ugcolls

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 (p44-113).

- 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 M (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.

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

Location
Map reference M (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

By car
If you’re planning to drive to Cambridge, we strongly recommend that you use the Park and Ride scheme. Parking in the city centre is limited and several city centre roads have restricted access with penalties for using them. 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 to Cambridge from Stansted and Gatwick, and Heathrow is also easily accessible by train (via London King’s Cross/London St Pancras). 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.
About this Prospectus

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 and again before accepting any offer to study at the University. Where 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. 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.
Cambridge Terminology

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 here 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.

Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA) – applicants from outside the EU also need to complete the COPA, alongside their UCAS application and SAQ. See p11.

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

Fellow – a senior member of a College, elected to a particular position of authority and responsibility in relation to the academic work and government of the College.

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.

Gyp room – basic College kitchen that students can use. Gyp rooms differ from College to College, with some offering full ovens and hobs while others might have a microwave, kettle and toaster. Find out more on the College websites.

Long Vacation – the three terms of the academic year (Michaelmas: October to early December; Lent: January to early March; and Easter: April to Mid-June) are separated by three vacations, Christmas, Easter and Long Vacation, during which undergraduate teaching is suspended.

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 (p44-113).

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).

Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ) – all students will be asked via email to complete the SAQ after we have received their UCAS application. The SAQ enables us to collect extra information, such as details of topics covered as part of your A Levels/IB Higher Levels, and offers you the opportunity to complete a Cambridge-specific personal statement, detailing your interest in your chosen Cambridge course. See page 7.

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:

01223 333308
admissions@cam.ac.uk

Find out more at a University Open Day:
2 and 3 July 2020
www.cam.ac.uk/opendays