



CAMBRIDGE

International admissions officer toolkit



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Who are we?

We work with schools worldwide to build an education that shapes knowledge, understanding and skills. Together, we give learners the confidence they need to thrive and make a positive impact in a changing world.

As part of the University of Cambridge, we offer a globally trusted and flexible framework for education from age 3 to 19, informed by research, experience, and listening to educators like you.

With recognised qualifications, high-quality resources, comprehensive support and valuable insights, we help schools prepare every student for the opportunities and challenges ahead. Together, we help Cambridge learners be ready for the world.

The Cambridge Pathway offers five stages of education from age 3 to 19. Every stage helps learners to thrive in and outside the classroom, so that they are ready for the world.

Bringing together a community of experts

Our global community is made up of over 10 000 Cambridge schools in 160 countries, each delivering education that shapes learners' knowledge, understanding and skills. Our community connects Cambridge educators, allowing them to share ideas, views, information and resources, and learn from one another.

We listen to and work closely with our community to bring together the collective knowledge of educators around the world. Learning from our diverse network of experts has shaped our deep understanding of best practice in international education.

Our community's insights help us to continually improve, ensuring we can meet the needs of our schools, so together we can deliver the best outcomes for learners.

Qualifications that are recognised and valued worldwide

Cambridge qualifications prepare and equip learners with the skills they need to thrive at university and beyond. The world's best higher education institutions recognise our qualifications and value the critical thinking skills, independent research abilities and deep subject knowledge that Cambridge learners bring, and help them to succeed at university.

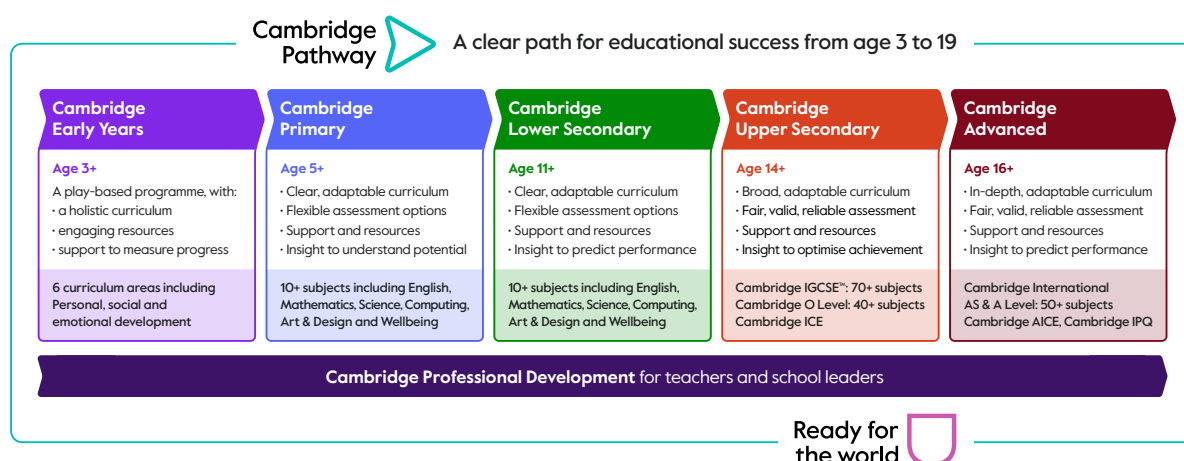
We continually work with universities and colleges in every part of the world to ensure that they understand and accept our qualifications. From the world's top-ranked universities to local higher education institutions, Cambridge qualifications open doors to a world of opportunities.

Learning with lasting impact

We recognise that meaningful education is more than just building subject knowledge and conceptual understanding. To thrive in life, learners must also develop a broad range of skills, values, attitudes and behaviours.

Cambridge programmes, assessments and resources help schools develop reflective and innovative learners with the confidence to embrace new information, ideas and challenges. Responsible and respectful of others, they are engaged intellectually and socially – ready to make a positive impact.

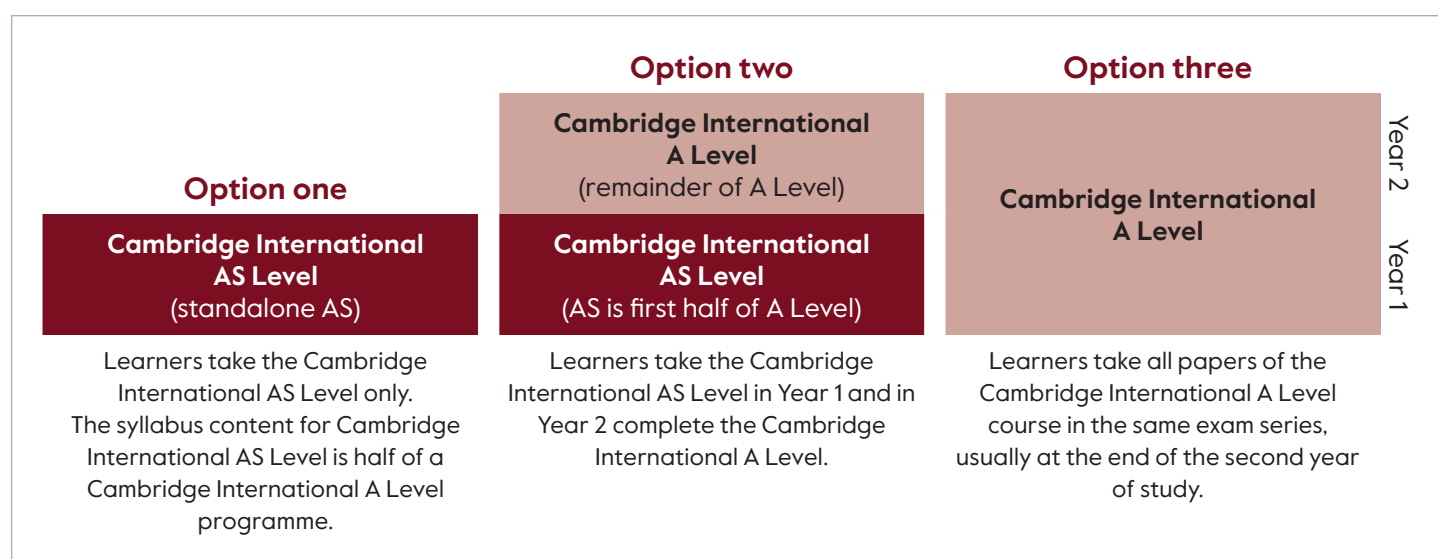
With these attributes, Cambridge learners are ready for the world.



Cambridge Advanced

Cambridge International AS & A Level

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary Levels (AS Levels) and Cambridge International Advanced Levels (A Levels) are subject-based qualifications. They are usually taken in the final two years of high school and are aimed at students aged 16 to 19. Cambridge International AS Level is typically a one-year programme of study with 180 teaching hours. Cambridge International A Level typically takes two years, with 360 teaching hours. Assessment takes place at the end of each programme.



Flexible subject choices

A wide choice of over 50 subjects is available and schools have the freedom to offer them in almost any combination. There are no compulsory subjects and students are free to specialise or study a range of subjects. Students typically study four subjects at AS Level and three subjects at A Level. Admissions requirements vary according to country, and some countries do accept AS Levels alone or in combination with A Levels for entry to degree-level courses. The standard admission requirement for UK universities is three A Levels for example.

Developing unique skills

The qualifications aim to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- in-depth subject content
- learning to work independently

- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handling and evaluating different types of information sources
- thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments and explanations
- studying and communicating in English.

Grading

The Cambridge International A Level is reported on a grade scale from A* (highest) to E (minimum required performance). There is no A* grade for Cambridge International AS Level, which is reported from Grade A to E. On results certificates, AS Level grades are shown as lower case letters. Each subject is graded separately, and no Grade Point Average is calculated.

Percentage Uniform Mark

The Percentage Uniform Mark (PUM) is a numerical mark provided alongside grades for each subject. It transfers a candidate's results to a common scale which reports how well they performed within that grade. For example, if a candidate achieves a Percentage Uniform Mark of 79 they are at the top end of a B grade. PUMs are **not** scores or percentages calculated through points awarded for a correct answer.

Percentage Uniform Marks are awarded in most countries and shown on the candidate's statement of results. The two main locations where PUMs are not awarded are Pakistan and the Middle East & North Africa region.

For further information, visit
www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/209304-a-guide-to-percentage-uniform-marks.pdf

AS Level grade	PUM range	A Level grade	PUM range
a	80–100	A*	90–100
b	70–79	A	80–89
c	60–69	B	70–79
d	50–59	C	60–69
e	40–49	D	50–59
		E	40–49



Cambridge Upper Secondary

Cambridge IGCSE™

Cambridge IGCSE provides the ideal preparation for our Cambridge Advanced programme, as well as other progression routes. It helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving. Cambridge IGCSEs are subject-based qualifications for learners aged 14 to 16, usually taken over a two-year period with 130 teaching hours. Assessment takes place at the end of the course and provides different options that best suit students, including written and oral exams, coursework and practical assessment.

Flexible subject choices

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible curriculum, with a choice of over 70 subjects in any combination. Students are free to study a wide variety of subjects, enabling them to discover their strengths and develop a passion for learning.



Grading

The Cambridge IGCSE is reported worldwide on a grade scale from A* (highest) to G (minimum required performance) or from 9 (highest) to 1 (minimum required performance). The syllabus content and assessment are identical, regardless of which grading option the school chooses. For more information, visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/grading-choice

Note: Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award) gives learners the opportunity to study biology, chemistry and physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. Co-ordinated Sciences is designated a double award subject because it takes up two full blocks of curriculum teaching time, therefore earning two grades. Two identical grades are awarded on the basis of the marks obtained, giving the full range from A*A* to GG.

Cambridge IGCSE grading structure	
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
C	5
	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

Anchor point

Anchor point

Anchor point

There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.



Cambridge IGCSE English language qualifications

Many universities will accept Cambridge IGCSE English Language as evidence of proficiency in English. There are currently six different syllabuses: two for First Language English and four for English as a Second Language:

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed for learners whose first language is English. We currently offer two syllabuses:

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (0500 and 0990)	Candidates will be assessed on their reading and writing skills. Schools can also enter learners for the speaking and listening assessment, which is separately endorsed.
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Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is for learners whose first language is not English but who already have a working knowledge of the language. At the end of the course, learners are expected to reach the equivalent of Level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR). We currently offer four syllabuses:

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (0511 and 0991) (count-in speaking)	Includes all four skills – reading, writing, speaking & listening
Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (0510 and 0993) (speaking endorsement)	Includes reading & writing and listening assessments, with speaking separately endorsed

Separately endorsed components

For Cambridge IGCSE English as a First Language, listening and speaking are not compulsory and are separately endorsed. If a student takes separately endorsed components this will show on the certificate and in Cambridge International Direct, our online verification system.

Cambridge O Level

Cambridge O Level is an internationally recognised qualification equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE and the UK GCSE. It provides learners with excellent preparation for our Cambridge Advanced programme, as well as other progression routes. Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level are equivalent qualifications grade for grade.

The Cambridge O Level curriculum enables teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant wherever it is taught. Schools can choose from more than 40 subjects in any combination.

The Cambridge O Level curriculum emphasises broad and balanced study across a wide range of subjects. It develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving and is structured, so they build practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Grading

The Cambridge O Level is reported on a grade scale from A* (highest) to E (minimum required performance). Each subject is graded separately.

Cambridge group awards

The Cambridge International Certificate of Education (Cambridge ICE) and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma (Cambridge AICE Diploma) are group awards designed for schools that want to offer a broad curriculum. They provide students with an in-depth understanding of subject matter and a structured approach to building skills critical for success in higher education.

Learners study a variety of subjects from different groups. This provides curriculum breadth but maintains flexibility by allowing students to choose subjects at different levels.

Cambridge AICE Diploma

(Advanced International Certificate of Education)

The Cambridge AICE Diploma is a group certificate awarded for passing exams in subjects drawn from three curriculum areas within Cambridge International AS & A Level. Curriculum areas include mathematics and sciences, languages, and arts and humanities. The qualification offers breadth across the curriculum and depth in selected subjects. Each AS Level is awarded one credit and a full A Level is awarded two credits. Students are required to achieve a minimum of seven credits, including Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research as a compulsory subject. The AICE Diploma is taken primarily in the USA.

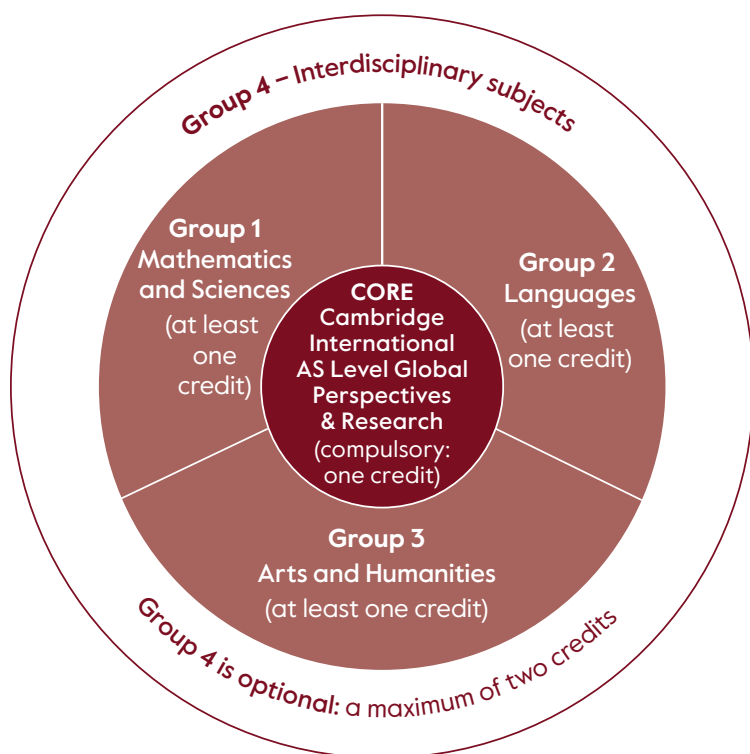
For more information visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/aice

Cambridge ICE

(International Certificate of Education)

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE that allows schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. It recognises the achievements of students who pass exams in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects from five different curriculum areas, including two different languages. Grading is awarded for Distinction, Merit or Pass.

For more information visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/ice



Total of seven credits required for Diploma

Cambridge International AS Level = one credit

Cambridge International A Level = two credits

Learners can accumulate credits for the Diploma over a 25-month period.

Research and skills-based qualifications

Some universities recognise the following research and skills-based qualifications which students take to add extra points or value to their existing qualifications. These qualifications develop students' higher order thinking and research skills that universities consider valuable, such as analysis, evaluation and synthesis. They also build their research, reflection and communication skills.

Global Perspectives & Research

A pioneering skills-based qualification, Global Perspectives & Research (GPR) complements the existing suite of Cambridge International A Levels. GPR uses a cross-curricular approach to learning the skills needed for success in higher education and at work. By studying global issues, students explore different and often opposing perspectives to develop their ability to deconstruct, reconstruct and reflect on how this impacts their own perspectives. In the second year of study, a year-long research report called the Cambridge Research Report is undertaken. This encourages students to apply and develop the skills they have learnt, and prepares them to cope with the demands of university study.

For more information visit
www.cambridgeinternational.org/globalperspectives



Cambridge International Project Qualification (IPQ)

Cambridge IPQ is a project-based qualification, typically for students aged 16 to 19. Students develop skills by carrying out research into a topic of their choice, through identifying a suitable research topic. They plan and carry out research including undertaking a literature review, and present their findings in a 5000-word report, while maintaining a research log. Learners develop higher-order thinking skills that universities and employers consider valuable.

For more information visit
www.cambridgeinternational.org/statement-of-support-ipq



Information on results documents and timescales

We offer three exam series per year – March, June and November. The March exam series is predominantly for students from India. Below you can find information on results release dates and certificate distribution dates for Cambridge qualifications:

Exam series	March	June	November
Results release for Cambridge International AS & A Level, Cambridge IGCSE and O Level	May	August	January
Final certificates issued	Late August	Late October	Late May

On the day of results release

Students worldwide receive an electronic statement of results from their school.

Universities can verify the results using Cambridge International Direct, our free online student results verification system.

If a student has paid for their results to be sent electronically to their chosen universities on the day of results release, these will be available in the university's Direct account, uploaded as a Microsoft Excel file to the 'My Messages' section.

Sample certificates and statements of results

You can view samples of our new brand results certificates and statements of results on our website, including past examples. We hope these samples help you recognise our statements of results and certificates.

www.cambridgeinternational.org/sample-results

Resources

Recognition database

Our recognition database is an online directory of worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications, as part of their admissions and entry requirements. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements allowing Cambridge students to see where their Cambridge qualifications are accepted. The database is the first place for students, parents and schools to check whether a particular institution would consider an application from a student holding Cambridge qualifications. Students then visit the university's own website for more details.

Cambridge International AS & A Level policies are listed on our database. Add or check yours by following the link from www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch



An informative recognition policy on our database can really set your university apart.

Cambridge International Direct

Direct is our online student results verification system, which allows universities, higher education institutions and ministries of education to verify applicants' Cambridge results online.

To apply for access (free of charge) visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/examination-administration/results/verification-of-students-results



Recognition and credit policy search

Search Cambridge International's global database of recognition policies

Our online database includes higher education institutions worldwide which have provided us with their formal acceptance policies for Cambridge qualifications.

Please note that policies are subject to change. Also, some universities or colleges may not yet be listed here, but still may recognise Cambridge qualifications or grant credit. Check with organisations directly for the most up-to-date information.

Higher education institutions: To be added to this search, an official employee or designated representative may [register your recognition policy details](#).

How to search

To search by organisation only, enter the organisation name and select search.
To search by other criteria, select the categories (organisation name, location, organisation type, qualifications) separately or in any combination. All categories are optional but selecting a combination will increase the number of your search results.

Organisation name

Enter name(s) (up to 20)

Location

Select a location

Organisation type

☐ Select all
☐ Universities and colleges
☐ Governments and ministries
☐ Professional organisations
☐ Companies

Qualifications

Cambridge IGCSE and O Level	+
Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE	+
Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs)	+
Cambridge Global Perspectives	+
Cambridge Pre-U	+
Withdrawn qualifications	+

CIEDirect

Cambridge Assessment International Education

Logged in as: Recognitions, CIE Recognitions [Log out](#)

[Home](#) [Candidate Results](#) [My Messages](#) [My Details](#)

Search for Candidate Results

[On-screen Search](#) [Multiple Candidate Search](#)

To search for candidate results, complete the fields below - all the fields are mandatory.
You can add up to a maximum of 20 rows.

Centre Number	Candidate Number	Date of Birth	Series
AB123	1234	22 Nov 1992	January 2005
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select
		dd mm yyyy	Select

Display results: ☒ On screen ☐ Export to file (CSV)

I am missing the results for a candidate or some candidates. [Why is this?](#)

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Cambridge Assessment

University showcase

Universities can be considered to feature in the 'University showcase' section on our website, www.cambridgeinternational.org/university-showcase

Contact us (recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org) if your university would like to be showcased.

University showcase

We asked universities around the world to tell us what they have to offer undergraduates and why they welcome applications from Cambridge International students.

Aberystwyth University, UK

[Read more](#)



Arizona State University, USA

[Read more](#)



BI Norwegian Business School, Norway

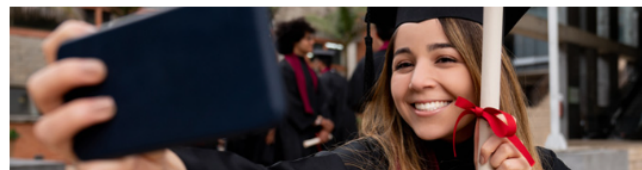
[Read more](#)



Cambridge alumni

This webpage features student higher education destination stories from our alumni – www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/alumni

Cambridge alumni



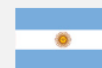
Our aim at Cambridge is to help students be ready for the world, and we're always thrilled to hear what Cambridge learners go on to do next.

Student stories

Cambridge qualifications open doors to universities worldwide but you don't just have to take our word for it – click on a country below to hear from former Cambridge students who are studying at universities there.

Are you a former Cambridge student who would like to inspire others? [Tell us your story.](#)

[Argentina](#)



[Australia](#)



[Canada](#)



[Germany](#)



Certifying Statement for CEFR

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (syllabuses 0500 and 0990) and Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (syllabuses 0510, 0511, 0991 and 0993) have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR). Students who need written evidence of their competency in English in each of the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) can apply for an additional certificate called a 'Certifying Statement for CEFR'. This document gives a breakdown of a student's Cambridge IGCSE English Language results into component grades and corresponding levels according to the CEFR. There is a charge for this service.

For the application form visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/183804-certifying-statement-application-for-cefr-results-and-certificates-form-11.pdf



Additionally, we can provide a letter to universities with guidance about the overall grade achieved by the student and the CEFR level. Visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/682501-cambridge-igcse-english-language-qualifications-a-guide-for-universities.pdf


Cambridge IGCSE English Language subject mapping to CEFR levels

The following documents show information on CEFR levels by grade and skill for each of our Cambridge IGCSE English language qualifications:

- Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (syllabus numbers 0500 and 0990)
www.cambridgeinternational.org/CEFR-E1L-0500-and-0522
- Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (syllabus numbers 0510, 0511 and 0991 and 0993)
www.cambridgeinternational.org/CEFR-E2L-0510-and-0511



Students can use the relevant document, alongside their results certificate, and a copy of their component grades (available from their school), to support a student visa application.


CAMBRIDGE
 International Education

CERTIFYING STATEMENT FOR COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK of REFERENCE (CEFR)
Cambridge IGCSE FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH
 THIS DOCUMENT REPRESENTS AN OFFICIAL COPY OF RESULTS ISSUED

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

JUNE 2023

A SAMPLE

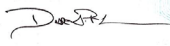
Date of birth: 01/01/2003

of


SAMPLE CENTRE
ES123/0001

Syllabus code	Certification title	Overall grade
0500	First Language English	B

Component number	Component title	Component grade	Skill	CEFR level by skill
3	Coursework	A	Writing	C1
4	Oral & Listening	ONE	Speaking	C1
	Listening	ONE	Listening	C1
11	Reading	C	Reading	B2


 Vice-Chancellor
 University of Cambridge

Explanatory Notes are printed overleaf
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Collaborate with us

Register your institution's admissions policy on our recognition database – www.cambridgeinternational.org/admissions-policy

Share information about your institution by submitting a university showcase – email: recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org

Provide an IPQ statement of support to show your acceptance of the Cambridge IPQ qualification – www.cambridgeinternational.org/statement-of-support-ipq

Provide a GPR statement of support to show students that you accept Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives & Research – www.cambridgeinternational.org/statement-of-support-global-perspectives

Find a Cambridge school by searching our global list of centres that offer Cambridge qualifications – www.cambridgeinternational.org/why-choose-us/find-a-cambridge-school

Sign up to receive Cambridge Spotlight – our eNewsletter for higher education institutions sent biannually to more than 5000 institutions worldwide – www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-newsletter


Receive Cambridge updates about any changes to our syllabuses – www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates

Cambridge English

Our sister organisation, English, helps millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world. They produce IELTS and Cambridge English Qualifications, which include B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency. These are world-leading tests and qualifications for learners to demonstrate English language proficiency and are designed for non-native speakers to test core language skills.

For more information about English, visit www.cambridgeenglish.org

Cambridge milestones

- 
- 1534**
King Henry VIII grants the Letters Patent to print 'all manner of books' – the University of Cambridge becomes a publisher
 - 1713**
Publication of the second edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*
 - 1858**
The University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) is formed to set school leaving exams for non-members of the University. Exams were printed by Cambridge University Press
 - 1864**
The first overseas exams were held (in Trinidad)
 - 1941**
UCLES signs an agreement with the British Council to continue exams overseas during the Second World War
 - 1969**
Cambridge University Press opens an office in New York
 - 1988**
The first General Certificate of Secondary Education exams take place and UCLES launches the Cambridge IGCSE – an international version of the GCSE
 - 1997**
Cambridge International Examinations was created alongside Cambridge English and OCR
 - 2005**
UCLES adopts the name Cambridge Assessment to reflect its wider role in educational assessment
 - 2017**
Cambridge International Examinations becomes Cambridge Assessment International Education
 - 2021**
Launch of Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 - 2023**
Cambridge Assessment International Education becomes Cambridge International Education

Support from Cambridge

More information

To find out more about Cambridge programmes and qualifications, go to www.cambridgeinternational.org/pathway

There are also various country-specific brochures available on our website:

- Destination UK
- Destination USA
- Destination Australia
- Destination India
- Destination Pakistan
- Destination South Africa
- Destination Netherlands
- Destination Canada.

More help

You can find answers to frequently asked questions from Cambridge principals, teachers, students, parents, exams officers and other customers at www.cambridgeinternational.org/help

You can enter your query into the search box or navigate using the topic list menu. If at any point you decide you would rather call or email, select 'Contact us' at the top of the page.

Notes

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