

# Where will a Cambridge qualification take you?

Guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

*Excellence in education*

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## About us

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. More than 9000 schools in over 160 countries are part of our Cambridge learning community.

We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit organisation and a department of the University of Cambridge. We share in their mission of providing excellence in education.

### Accepted worldwide

Choosing a course of study is one of the most important decisions a student will make. It is essential to check that qualifications are widely accepted and valued by further education institutes, universities and employers. Cambridge qualifications are recognised throughout the world.

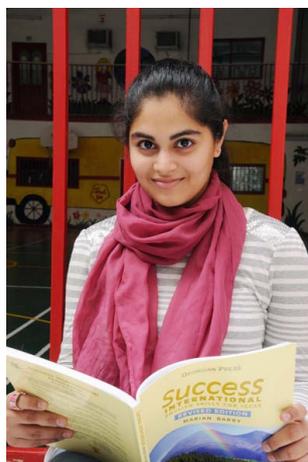
Cambridge students are widely accepted in top study destinations, for example the USA, UK and Australia, as well as many other parts of the world, for example South Africa and Germany. We are committed to ensuring that university admissions offices, colleges, employers and professional bodies around the world understand the value of Cambridge qualifications.

### Making the right choice

Cambridge international education programmes and qualifications follow a student-centred approach and are a global passport to success – in education, university and the workplace. Content is multicultural and a wide range of subjects is available – including many country-specific courses.

Our global learning community of Cambridge schools, teachers and students brings people closer together to share best practice and ideas and drive excellence in education. Together with schools, we aim to develop Cambridge students who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged.

Cambridge programmes and qualifications have a proven reputation for being an excellent preparation for university, employment and life.



Cambridge qualifications are recognised throughout the world. Cambridge students are widely accepted in top study destinations.

“ I value Cambridge preparation because the students we have received with that kind of preparation have done very well at the University. We like the fact that no matter where they come from, they come prepared.”

John Barnhill, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment, Florida State University

## What does Cambridge offer?

The Cambridge programme is well known around the world. We offer a whole-school curriculum for 5 to 19 year olds. Below is information on the curriculum for the 14 to 19 age range as these assessments qualify students for entry to university in a range of countries.

### Cambridge IGCSE®

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14 to 16 year olds. Cambridge IGCSE encourages student-centred and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It also develops skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving students excellent preparation for higher-level courses such as Cambridge International AS and A Levels, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U, the North American Advanced Placement Test and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Schools can offer any combination of subjects. Each subject is certificated separately. Over 70 subjects are available, including more than 30 language courses, and they are suitable for learners of different abilities.

Cambridge IGCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, with UK GCSE qualifications. Passing grades for Cambridge IGCSE are A\*–G, with A\* being the highest. U is Ungraded.

There is a group award called Cambridge ICE which is comprised of Cambridge IGCSEs from five different curriculum areas. It is awarded to candidates who have passed IGCSE in at least seven subjects; two from languages, and at least one each from humanities and social sciences; sciences; mathematics and creative, technical and vocational.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge IGCSE, visit: [www.cie.org.uk/igcse](http://www.cie.org.uk/igcse)



### Cambridge O Level

Cambridge O Level is an internationally recognised qualification equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE and the UK GCSE. Cambridge O Level provides students with excellent preparation for academic progression to Cambridge Advanced studies as well as other progression routes mentioned above.

As with Cambridge IGCSE, students can offer any combination of subjects from a range of over 40 subjects. Passing grades for Cambridge O Level are A\*–E, with A\* being the highest. U is Ungraded.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge O Level, visit: [www.cie.org.uk/olevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/olevel)

“ Cambridge provides students with the edge when it comes to university acceptance. It broadens skill sets, provides deeper knowledge and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills. ”

Cambridge principal, South Africa

## Cambridge International AS and A Levels

Cambridge International A Levels have formed part of the Cambridge qualifications framework for over 50 years and are widely recognised for entry into higher education. Good Cambridge International AS and A Level grades can be a key to admission to the world's major English-speaking universities.

Cambridge International A Levels typically take two years to complete and offer a flexible course of study. With 55 subjects to choose from, schools can offer almost any combination from the wide range of subjects available.

Cambridge International AS Levels have half the content of the corresponding Cambridge International A Level and may be completed in one year. Schools can offer Cambridge International AS Level as a qualification in its own right, or as a stage on the way to a full Cambridge International A Level. Students can study Cambridge International AS Level alongside other Cambridge International A Level subjects to increase breadth in the curriculum and build further knowledge and understanding.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognised by UCAS and universities in the UK and overseas as equivalent, grade for grade, with UK AS and A Levels. Passing grades for Cambridge International A Levels are A\*–E, with A\* being the highest. There is no A\* grade awarded at Cambridge International AS Level. U is Ungraded for both qualifications.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge International AS and A Levels, visit: [www.cie.org.uk/alevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel)

“Cambridge International A Levels are the ‘gold standard’ qualification. They are based on rigorous, academic syllabuses that are accessible to students from a wide range of abilities yet have the capacity to stretch our most able.”

Mark Vella, Director of Studies, Auckland Grammar School, New Zealand

## Cambridge AICE Diploma

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (Cambridge AICE) Diploma is a group award that is mainly taken in the US and South America. It requires the study of Cambridge International AS and A Level subjects drawn from three curriculum areas (mathematics and science; languages; and arts and humanities). To qualify for the Diploma students need to obtain six credits. Cambridge International AS Level qualifications earn one credit and each A Level qualification counts for two credits.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge AICE, visit: [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice)

## Cambridge Pre-U

Cambridge Pre-U has a linear approach with exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are slightly bigger than an A Level in terms of size and have additional stretch and challenge. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are available in 25 subjects across the curriculum.

There are also one-year Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses available in languages, mathematics and Global Perspectives which can be taken alongside the Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects or A Levels in the first and/or second year of study. To qualify for the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, a student must pass three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR). Up to two A Levels can be substituted for Principal Subjects.

Cambridge Pre-U has an extended grading scale and so can differentiate and reward achievement more finely among the top students. There are nine passing grades – three each at Distinction, Merit and Pass: D1, D2, D3; M1, M2, M3; P1, P2, P3. U is Ungraded.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge Pre-U visit: [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu)

## University recognition worldwide

Cambridge qualifications are accepted by universities all around the world. Many universities have sent us official statements confirming their entry policies, and examples from some of the most popular destination countries for Cambridge students can be found on the following pages. For full details of all of the official statements, check our recognition database at [www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch)

Many more universities will also be happy to accept Cambridge qualifications as proof of your academic ability upon application. However, before you apply to any institution, it is essential that you check the exact entry requirements for your selected course(s) on the university website and then with the university's admissions office if you still have any queries. You will also need to be aware of any language requirements in addition to the academic entry standards.

It is also very important to remember that university entry is always competitive so achieving the minimum entry requirements is not a guarantee of admission; the higher your grades and the stronger your application documents, the better your chance of being accepted to your chosen programme.

### Recognition in the UK and Europe

Cambridge qualifications are valued by UK and European universities as academically rigorous qualifications which equip students with the skills they need to succeed both at university and beyond.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognised by UK and European higher education institutions as equivalent to UK GCE AS and A Levels.

University recognition for Cambridge Pre-U, an alternative to the UK A Level, is fast gaining ground. Many universities have noted the distinctiveness of Cambridge Pre-U and are pleased to accept it as equivalent to other pre-university qualifications.

“ We welcome applications from students who are studying towards the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma or certain Principal Subjects within the qualification alongside A Levels. ”

University of Cambridge

Students holding Cambridge qualifications gain places at universities in the UK and across Europe. Our recognitions database holds statements from a wide range of countries across Europe including the UK.

### United Kingdom

In the UK, all students must apply for undergraduate courses through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), not to individual universities. According to the UCAS *Qualifications* handbook entry, Cambridge International AS and A Levels are: *'acceptable at grades A\*–E in lieu of UK GCE A level and AS on a subject for subject and grade for grade basis'*.

Over 145 UK universities accept Cambridge Pre-U as equivalent to other Level 3 qualifications such as A Levels. The UK's most prestigious group of universities, the UK Russell Group (which includes Oxford and Cambridge), has welcomed the academic rigour of the linear approach, the retention of subject specialism and the extended grading scale which differentiates and rewards achievement more finely at the top end.

### The Lisbon Convention

The Lisbon Convention is an international agreement which aims to facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications, thus promoting academic mobility among the signatory countries. The Convention has been signed by 50 countries and international organisations including the European Union, USA, Australia, Canada, Israel and New Zealand.

In terms of access to higher education studies, the Lisbon Convention guarantees that a holder of an upper secondary school or high school qualification which grants them access to tertiary education in their own home country, has the right to apply and to be considered for admission to higher education in the rest of the signatory countries: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/165.htm>

The value of this agreement is that holders of Cambridge qualifications can apply and be considered for admission to higher education institutions in signatory countries other than their own.

## Cyprus

The University of Cyprus accepts Cambridge International A Levels for admission to undergraduate study.

Offers will normally be made on the basis of three good A Level grades. The majority of courses at the University require grades in the region of BBB-BBC; competitive courses such as medicine and engineering, however, require significantly higher grades, for example, AAA for medicine, AAB for electrical or computer engineering.

## Germany<sup>†</sup>

The Central Office for Foreign Education, an institution of the Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany, has issued recommendations with regard to Cambridge qualifications and entry onto undergraduate programmes of study in Germany. However, German universities are autonomous and have the final word as to how Cambridge qualifications will be accepted.

The minimum entry requirements for undergraduate study in Germany with AS and A Levels are as follows: three A Levels and one AS Level (four subjects) providing all other admissions criteria are met.

For example:

- three GCE Advanced Levels (three A Levels)
- PLUS
- one GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level (one AS Level)
- OR
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE).

For Cambridge Pre-U, the following equivalencies were agreed upon:

- a Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject is the equivalent of a GCE Advanced Level
- a Cambridge Pre-U Short Course is the equivalent of a GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level.

The minimum entry requirements for undergraduate study in Germany with Cambridge Pre-U, providing all other admission criteria are met, are as follows:

*Three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects (or an equivalent combination of A Levels and Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects) and one Cambridge Pre-U Short Course (or one Cambridge International AS Level).*

If offering the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) will be accepted in lieu of a GCE AS Level. However, GPR as a stand-alone qualification will not be considered as a Principal Subject.

## The Netherlands

Nuffic, the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education, has issued recommendations regarding GCSE, AS and A Level and Cambridge Pre-U qualifications and their equivalence to the Dutch VWO and HAVO diplomas (the two secondary education diplomas required for admission to higher education in the Netherlands).

The equivalent of a VWO diploma for admission to a research university is as follows:

*Three GCSE subjects with marks ranging from A\*-C, plus three GCE Advanced Level (A Level) subjects (six different subjects in total – QCF level 3 / EQF level 4) is considered comparable to a VWO diploma.*

*For Cambridge Pre-U, Cambridge Pre-U Certificates (Principal Subjects – QCF level 3 / EQF level 4) are considered comparable to subjects at the level of the VWO diploma in the Netherlands.*

*A Cambridge Pre-U Diploma (QCF level 3 / EQF level 4) is also considered comparable to a VWO diploma.*

The equivalent of a HAVO diploma for admission to higher professional education is as follows:

*Four GCSE subjects with marks ranging from A\*-C, plus two GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS Level) subjects (six different subjects in total) is considered comparable to a HAVO diploma.*

*Cambridge Pre-U Certificates (Short Courses – QCF level 3 / EQF level 4) are considered comparable to GCE Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level subjects.*



<sup>†</sup> There are subject-specific requirements of which applicants need to be aware before applying to study in Germany. Full details of these requirements can be found on the German University Database, ANABIN, at: [www.anabin.de](http://www.anabin.de) or on our recognitions database at [www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch)

## Recognition in the Americas

University course credit and advanced standing is often available in countries such as the US and Canada. Good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International A Level subjects can result in up to a year's worth of credit for four-year degree programmes.

### United States

In the US, university recognition is growing. All Ivy League universities in the US recognise Cambridge International AS and A Levels. These universities include: Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.

In addition to this, around 70 colleges and universities in North America, again including all the Ivy League universities in the US, have provided formal recognition statements confirming that they would welcome applications from students with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications.

In the United States and Canada, good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International A Level and/or Cambridge Pre-U subjects can result in up to one year of university course credit for four-year degree courses.

For example:

Duke University: *In order to qualify for and receive Duke International Placement Credit (IPC), students must present with grades of A or B (or the equivalent). Accordingly, a student presenting with grades of M3 or higher (M2, M1, D3, D2, or D1) in acceptable subjects in the Cambridge Pre-U program would be eligible to receive IPA credit, up to our defined limit of 2 such IPC credits.*

*Duke University welcomes students who have taken the new curriculum from Cambridge, 'Global Perspectives and Research Report' (GPR). GPR puts an emphasis on a number of the skills that students need in order to be successful in their university education. We particularly value the independence of thought, critical thinking and research and inquiry skills that GPR develops. Although the university does not currently assign academic or placement credit for this course, we believe that it is a promising addition to the courses of study that prepare students well for post-secondary education, and would consider it an appropriate part of a rigorous and challenging curriculum.*

“ I think there are tremendous benefits to pursuing the Cambridge curriculum. It is a proven international curriculum for success in higher education and we know that students who pursue it have been successful around the world. ”

Jerry Lucido, CERPP Executive Director, University of Southern California

### Canada

Cambridge international qualifications are accepted at over 40 universities in Canada. A growing number of Canadian universities recognise Cambridge Pre-U. For example, the University of Toronto states:

*The University of Toronto will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Certificates, a combination of A Levels and Principal Subjects (3 Principal Subjects) and the full Pre-U Diploma for admission.*

*Transfer credit may be granted for academic Principal Subjects and Global Perspectives & Research. No credit is given by the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering.*

### Argentina

Cambridge international qualifications are recognised at 10 higher education institutes, including the Universidad de San Andrés. Students who have obtained Cambridge International A Level Mathematics with a D, or Cambridge International AS Level Mathematics with a C are exempted from sitting the Universidad de San Andrés mathematics admission test.

“ One of the things we find with students who have studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels is that they have a real depth of understanding of the subject matter that they have had classes in, and a real engagement with it. Those are some of the things that we find really help students succeed once they get to our campus. ”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, MIT

## Recognition in Asia Pacific

Recognition of Cambridge qualifications is growing fast throughout Asia Pacific. In a region whose universities increasingly claim high places in the world rankings, there are numerous opportunities for Cambridge students to enter and succeed in top class degree programmes. This page gives some examples.

### Australia

Universities across Australia welcome applications from Cambridge students. Cambridge International A Levels are widely accepted for direct entry to undergraduate degree courses and a growing number of universities now also accept Cambridge Pre-U. For example:

The University of Melbourne: *Minimum of 3 A Levels at grades BBC are required for application. Requirements differ and some courses require significantly higher grades. Admission is guaranteed to students that achieve certain grades. Cambridge Pre-U is recognised for direct entry. The University of Melbourne will also accept a combination of Cambridge Pre-U and GCE A Levels to meet the entry requirements.*

All of the Tertiary Admissions Centres also have policies for accepting Cambridge students. They process applications for universities within their state(s), with particular focus on students from Australia and New Zealand. For example, the University Admissions Centre (UAC), which works with universities in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, recognises both Cambridge International A Levels and Cambridge Pre-U:

*All UAC participating institutions consider GCE Advanced Levels (or comparable qualifications) equivalent to an Australian Year 12 qualification. UAC also considers the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma as comparable to the Australian Year 12 standard. For students who did not complete the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and GPR will be assessed in lieu of A Levels.*

### Hong Kong

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised by all universities in Hong Kong. In some cases, advanced credit against university programmes may also be available. For example:

The University of Hong Kong: *Grade E in three GCE Advanced Level subjects, not including any language subjects in English / Chinese or for applicants who have completed the AS Level only, Grade E in three GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level subjects, not including any language subjects in English / Chinese.*

### New Zealand

All universities in New Zealand accept Cambridge International A Levels for admission. Cambridge Pre-U is also accepted. The minimum entry requirements are agreed by Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara, which represents all universities in New Zealand.

For students in New Zealand: *Students must gain a minimum of 120 UCAS points and a minimum grade of D in each of at least 3 subjects equivalent to those on the approved list (excluding Thinking Skills). Students presenting an E grade<sup>†</sup> or better in AS Level English and a D or better in IGCSE Mathematics will be deemed to have satisfied literacy and numeracy requirements of the university entrance standard.*

For students outside New Zealand: *Students must gain 3 A levels including at least 1 C grade or better. A result in General Studies cannot be included among the 3 on which the application is based.*

<sup>†</sup> From 2016, the University of Auckland will also require domestic students to obtain a minimum of a grade D in an English subject at AS or A Level in order to satisfy the Academic English Language Requirement.

### Singapore

Cambridge International A Levels are very well recognised in Singapore. For example:

National University of Singapore: *O Levels and A Levels are accepted for matriculation. Must have at least 3 A Level subjects taken at the same sitting.*



## Recognition in South Asia

Cambridge qualifications are well known in South Asia. University admission procedures and entry tests can vary widely across countries in this region, and can also vary across the states within some countries. Some of the universities in this region also have special entrance examinations for entry into engineering and medical programmes, which means it is very important for students to check the entry requirements/processes well ahead of making an application to the course and university of their choice.

### India

Cambridge International AS and A Levels, Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Levels have long been recognised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and this information is available in the '*Equivalence of Foreign degrees*' published by the AIU. Universities and colleges in India are autonomous but in general follow the recommendations of the AIU.

These are as follows:

- five passes (including English) at grades C or above at GCE O Level or IGCSE and two or three passes at GCE A Level
- students intending to join medical or engineering degree programmes are required to have obtained: A Level passes in Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Mathematics and English (AS Level) in addition to five passes at GCE O Level/IGCSE.

### Pakistan

The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), Ministry of Education, decide and grant equivalence to foreign qualifications with corresponding Pakistani certificates.

For Cambridge qualifications they state the equivalence as follows: *Cambridge O Level / IGCSE and International A Level and 12/13 years of schooling is considered equivalent to Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC/ Intermediate), subject to meeting the specified requirements of the four individual groups: Pre-Medical Group, Pre-Engineering Group, General Science Group or Humanities Group.*

## Recognition in the Middle East

University recognition in the Middle East is growing steadily as the popularity of Cambridge qualifications increases in the region. Here are some examples of the recognition policies we currently hold on our recognition database.

### Egypt

The Supreme Council of Universities sets requirements for university entrance for the universities below:

Cairo University, Alexandria University, Ain Shams University, Assiut University, Tanta University, Al Mansoura University, Al Zagazig University, Helwan University, Al Menia University, Al Menofia University, Suez Canal University, South Valley University, Banha University, Fayoum University, Beni Sweif University, Kafr El-Shiekh University, Sohag University.

*Admission to Egyptian Universities will require passes in eight IGCSE subjects at grade C or above in addition to passes in Arabic, Religious Studies and Social Studies examinations held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education in accordance with ministerial decrees.*

*Candidates applying for faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Computer Science and Information, must pass in a minimum of one A Level in addition to the eight IGCSE subjects in accordance with the decrees of the Supreme Council of Universities.*

### Kuwait

The Ministry of Education in Kuwait sets requirements for university entrance as below.

*The requirement of students to receive Kuwaiti High School equivalency are as follows:*

*Six IGCSE or O levels at Grade D or above. Basic accepted subjects are as follows: Islamic Studies (MoE subject); Arabic Language (MoE subject) OR Arabic IGCSE OR Arabic as First Language; Accounting; Biology; Business studies; Chemistry; Computer; Economics; English as 1st language OR English as Second Language; English literature; French; Geography; History; Information Technology; Mathematics; Physics; Psychology; Science (Double award); Sociology.*

*Only one of the following subjects can be considered as one of the 6 the submitted subjects: Physical Studies/ Education, Music, Art & Design, Graphic Design, Media Studies, Design & Technology, Environmental Studies, Drama, Quran, Nutrition. Students who wish to have the equivalency with the Kuwaiti High School (scientific stream) need to include four subjects (Physics, math, Biology & Chemistry) in their O levels/IGCSEs.*

*AS or A levels (with not less than D grade) can be counted as part of the required 6 subjects.*

## United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Education in UAE has set the following university entrance requirements:

*All applicants must complete 12 years of schooling in order to be given consideration for admissions to the UAE Institutions of higher education.*

*Students who have completed IGCSE/O Level and GCE Advanced Subsidiary Levels will be considered for admission provided that they have completed a minimum of five subjects at IGCSE/O Level and two subjects at GCE AS Level with a grade "C" or better.*

*NOTE: These are the minimum admission requirements, but institutions may establish higher standards at their own discretion.*

*Students applying to the bachelor degree programmes at UAE University, Zayed University and Higher Colleges of Technology and higher diploma programmes at HCT must achieve a minimum score (150) on the English Language components of the Common Educational Proficiency Assessment (CEPA). Students will also need to complete the Math component of the CEPA in order for the University to place the student at the appropriate level.*

## Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia sets requirements for university entrance as below.

*The British GCSE certificate is equivalent to the General Secondary Education certificate in the Kingdom, in accordance with the following options:*

- *Passing 8 subjects in the GCSE exams*  
OR
- *Passing 5 subjects in the GCSE exams + one subject at A-level*  
OR
- *Passing 5 subjects in the GCSE exams + two subjects at AS-level*  
OR
- *The average marks for each subject must not be less than a "C" at GCSE and not less than a "D" at A-level and AS-level*

In all the above cases, it is a requirement that there has been regular attendance in secondary education – and not just by correspondence – and that the pupil has reached Class 7 by the end of secondary education (12 years).

## Recognition in Sub-Saharan Africa

Cambridge qualifications are widely recognised and accepted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Kenya

The University of Nairobi sets requirements for university entrance as below.

*A-Level candidates must have two principal passes in relevant subjects.*

### Malawi

The University of Malawi sets requirements for university entrance as below.

*Holders of A level with a minimum of 3 'A' level principal passes with an aggregate of at least 9 points obtained in a particular year of the preceding two years are eligible for selection into the University of Malawi. Candidates may be admitted to the first year. For purposes of selection, A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2 and E = 1.*

*Candidates with A-Levels obtained in 2010, 2011 or 2012 should have a minimum or equivalent grade of 'C' in 3 relevant subjects to the programme they are applying for.*

## South Africa

Candidates who did not follow the formal secondary school route in the South African schooling system need to qualify for a certificate of complete or conditional exemption. Higher Education South Africa (HESA) represents 23 public universities in South Africa and they will grant matriculation exemption certificates to holders of Cambridge qualifications provided they meet one of the following criteria:

- *Pass marks in two A Levels and three Cambridge IGCSE/O Levels at grade C*  
OR
- *Pass marks in three A Levels and one Cambridge IGCSE/O Level at grade C*  
OR
- *Four AS Levels at grade D or above (including English Language) and one Cambridge IGCSE/O Level at grade C.*

The granting of conditional exemptions is solely at the discretion of HESA. Additional subject group requirements need to be met, details of which can be obtained from Cambridge or HESA. HESA's recognition of Cambridge qualifications is applicable to all universities in South Africa.

# Demonstrating your English language level

## Acceptance of Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level English qualifications

Cambridge IGCSE English as a First Language, Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language and/or Cambridge O Level English Language are accepted by many universities around the world to meet English language proficiency requirements. It is advisable to check the English language requirements of each university you are interested in applying to, prior to making any applications.

Universities may also require students to take another specific English language proficiency test such as TOEFL and IELTS if they are not an English native speaker. However, some universities will waive this requirement because you have been educated through English for at least the last four years.

## Examples of UK universities recognising Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level English qualifications

**King's College London:** *King's College London accepts Cambridge IGCSE English as a First Language or Cambridge O Level English Language at grade C or above as meeting minimum entry requirements for undergraduate programmes. Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is also accepted at grade C or above. Please note that the minimum entry grade varies depending on the school/department which offers your chosen programme of study. Please also note that these qualifications are accepted as proof of English language competency only if taken within the past two years.*

**The University of Sheffield:** *Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level in English as a First Language (grade C or above) and Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (grade B or above) are accepted by the University of Sheffield as evidence of meeting undergraduate English language requirements.*

**University of Leicester:** *Cambridge IGCSE English as First Language or English as Second Language (grade C or above) is accepted as meeting the English language requirements for all courses offered by the University of Leicester, apart from law and medicine (for which a grade B or above is required).*



**University of Sussex:** *All teaching at Sussex is in the English language and you must therefore be sufficiently fluent in English to be able to benefit from your education. If your first language is not English, you are normally expected to have passed an appropriate test in English. The University of Sussex accepts Cambridge IGCSE English as a First Language (at grade C or above) and Cambridge IGCSE as a Second Language (at grade B or above) as appropriate tests in English.*

**Bristol University:** *Applicants whose first language is not English are required to either achieve a satisfactory standard in a University-approved test in English or offer a degree from a British university. Cambridge GCE O Level English, Cambridge IGCSE English as First Language and Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language with grade C or above are accepted as an approved English tests by Bristol University.*



# The recognition database

Our recognition database allows you to search for recognition in specific countries and qualifications, and for different types of recognition. For example, you may want to know if a particular university awards course credit on the basis of a Cambridge International AS or A Level examination grade.

To access the database, go to [www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch)

Now just indicate what you want to search for. For example, a student in Pakistan has just taken his Cambridge International A Levels and wants to go to the USA for higher education; in particular he would like to go to New York. He would simply select the 'United States' and 'New York' from the drop-down menus, select 'Higher or Further Education' and 'AS/A Levels' by ticking the boxes, and then click on 'Search' at the bottom of the page.

The 'Recognition Search' page looks like this:

**CIEonline** Recognition Search

**CAMBRIDGE** International Examinations

**Recognition Search**

Welcome to the Recognition Search Page. Please enter your search criteria below. If you would like to see information about your institution included in our Recognition Search results, please [register your recognition details here \(open new window\)](#).

Country: United States

State / Province: New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, **New York**, North Carolina

Institution Name: [Text Input]

Institution Type ( Select All Institution Types )

Higher or Further Education  Government  
 Professional Associations  Corporate

General Qualifications ( Select All General Qualifications )

AS/A Levels  IGCSE/O Level  IGCSE Maths  
 AICE  ICE  IGCSE/O Level English  
 Cambridge Pre-U

The search results are displayed like this:

**CIEonline** Recognition Search

**CAMBRIDGE** International Examinations

**Search Results**

Your results are displayed below. Where recognition data has been provided by institutions, it can be sorted by organisation name, type or location. To do this, click the corresponding list header. The results displayed represent only written statements or recognition received but these qualifications are also accepted by many other organisations which have not provided us with a statement.

If you would like to see information about your institution included in our Recognition Search results, please [register your recognition details here \(open new window\)](#).

You searched on:

Organisation Type: HE  
Organisation Name:  
Country: United States  
State: NY  
Qualification Group: AS/A Levels

Print Search Again

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+ AS/A Levels 56 results

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Organisation Name	Type	Location	Recognition Details
Adelphi University	HE	United States New York	Cambridge International A levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. A Levels are awarded credit on a case by case basis. Please contact the university for further details. <a href="#">Details</a>
Alfred University	HE	United States New York	Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Advanced credit given for A Levels on a case by case basis. Please contact the university for further details. <a href="#">Details</a>
Bard College	HE	United States New York	Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes.  Credit is granted for A Levels of grades C or above. Please contact the University for further details. <a href="#">Details</a>
Barnard College	HE	United States New York	Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Credit is granted for some A Levels. Please contact the university for further details.

If you want contact details of a particular university, for example New York University, just click on 'Details' and the following will be displayed. This page can also be printed so you can follow up with the university.

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Recognition Search

**Recognition Search Home**

Recognition Overview

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

**Institution Recognition Details**

**New York University**

**Contact Details:**

<b>Address:</b>	Office of International Admissions 22 Washington Square North New York United States	<b>Phone 1:</b>	212 998 4530
		<b>Phone 2:</b>	
		<b>Fax:</b>	212 995 3973
		<b>Email 1:</b>	admissions@nyu.edu
		<b>Email 2:</b>	
		<b>Web Address:</b>	www.nyu.edu

**Recognition Details:**

**AS/A Levels:**

Advanced standing or transfer credit decisions are made on a case-by-case basis by the NYU school or college after a student is admitted. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will not evaluate courses for possible transfer credit before a student is admitted to NYU.  
Credit and/or advanced standing may be awarded for country-specific examinations according to the following standards:  
Exam: A-Level  
Minimum Score: B  
Points Awarded per Subject Area Exam: 8 credits/points

As with all credit by examination, the maximum total which may be granted is the equivalent of one year of full-time study or 30-32 semester hours.

If the university of your choice is not included in our database, please let us know using the contact details on page 13.

# Support from Cambridge

## More information

To find out more about Cambridge programmes and qualifications, go to [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

## Recognition search

Find out which institutions recognise Cambridge qualifications. View details by country and qualification by using the recognition database on our website at: [www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch)

## Online help

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You can enter your query into the search box or navigate using the topic list menu on the left-hand side of the page. If at any point you decide you would rather call or email someone you may do so by visiting the 'Contact Us' page.

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Philip Ballinger, Associate Vice-Provost for Enrollment and Admissions,  
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