

Recognition of Cambridge qualifications in Germany

Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U

Cambridge IGCSE Recognition

General minimum requirements for equivalence to the Realschulabschluss, the Mittlerer Abschluss and the Mittlerer Schulabschluss school-leaving certificates (Please note: each Federal State might have its own specific requirements):

Five IGCSEs at grade C or above in the following subjects:

- Two languages
- Mathematics
- A physical science, such as biology, chemistry or physics
- A social science, such as history or geography

In addition, students must have successfully completed a minimum of ten years of schooling.

Federal States of Germany	Specific Requirements
Baden-Württemberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Languages can be either the language of instruction or English First language (German is also possible). • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Social Studies, History, Geography)
Bavaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Science) • Social Science (a choice of History, Geography, Economics or Business Studies). • English First language is acceptable but not English Second Language or other EFL qualifications.
Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Science) • Social Science (a choice of Politics, History or Geography) • The entry into the final grades of the Oberstufe is dependent on the acceptance from the head of school and the local school authorities. In some cases students will be required to take tests.
Brandenburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Economics) • IGCSE English First Language is acceptable but not English as a Second Language or any other EFL qualifications.
Bremen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science = Science • Social Science (a choice of History, Geography or Environmental Studies)
Hamburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three languages are also accepted. • Lowest acceptable level is C, but A* A B preferred. Entry into Oberstufe 2 involves head of school's agreement. • Only one language is required for the equivalence of the Hauptschulabschluss.

Federal States of Germany	Specific Requirements
Hesse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Economics) • GCSE English First Language is acceptable but not English Second Language or other EFL qualifications. • AS Level may be substituted for IGCSE but will not receive higher recognition. <p>Entrance Examinations for Sixth Form: The headmaster/headmistress decides whether an entrance examination* is required. *Written tests in German, 1st Language and Maths, oral exams in either History/Politics/Economics and Physics/Biology/Chemistry</p>
Lower Saxony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Politics) • IGCSE English First Language is acceptable but not IGCSE English as a Second Language or any other EFL qualification.
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science/Humanities (a choice of Social Studies, History, Geography, Philosophy or Religious Instruction)
North Rhine-Westphalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Politics) • The continuation of studies and the choice of an additional language at grammar school level is left to the Head of the chosen school.
Rhineland-Palatinate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Biology, Physics, Chemistry) • Social Science (choice of Politics, History, Geography and Economics) • An alternative is three languages, Maths or Physical Science and a Social Science.
Saarland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science = Science • Social Science (a choice of History, Geography or Environmental Studies) • The entry into the final grades of the Oberstufe is dependent on the acceptance from the head of school. In some cases students will be required to take tests.
Saxony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Science) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Economics) • IGCSE English First Language is acceptable but not English Second Language or other EFL qualifications. • AS Level may be substituted for IGCSE but will not receive higher recognition.
Saxony-Anhalt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight Subjects required to be considered equivalent to the Saxony-Anhalt Secondary Level Qualification (Realschulabschluss): • First Language, Second Language, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and History.
Schleswig-Holstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry) • Social Science (a choice of Geography, History or Economics).
Thuringia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One language must be studied at First Language level. • Physical Science (choice of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Science) • Social Science (a choice of Economics, History, Geography) • In addition, two more subjects at grade E must be obtained. One must be a creative, technical or job-oriented subject and the other is a free choice.

Cambridge International AS & A Level Recognition

Recognition of International AS & A Levels

The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) of the Standing Conference of German Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) issued the following recommendations regarding International AS and A Levels and entrance requirements for Bachelor (undergraduate) degree programmes. The information below outlines the general entrance requirements; there are also subject-specific requirements which differ depending on the chosen field of study.

General entrance requirements for Cambridge International AS & A Levels are as follows: a total of four Cambridge International AS and A Level subjects, three of which must be at full A Level standard.

For example:

- Three Cambridge International A Levels
PLUS
- One Cambridge International AS Level

The choice of four subjects must include:

- **A language at minimum AS Level.** An AS or A Level in German will be taken into consideration from applicants with German nationality and German as a mother tongue providing they meet all other admissions criteria for their chosen field of study at a particular university. Please note: A language at minimum AS Level is a general entrance requirement for study at Bachelor (or undergraduate) degree level; an AS or A Level in Literature will not be accepted in lieu. In addition, universities may have specific language proficiency requirements (for example, in German) depending on the chosen field of study. If applicants have any questions regarding language requirements, they should check with their chosen Universities to ensure they have the most up-to-date information.
- **Mathematics OR a natural science such as biology or chemistry or physics.**

Vocational subjects are not accepted.

Requirements for specific fields of study

- For courses in the Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Economics or Arts, a suitable A Level for the chosen field of study is required:

- For the Humanities, for example, an A level in history or geography would be acceptable.
- For Economics or the Social Sciences, an A Level in mathematics is a compulsory requirement.

- For technical, mathematical or natural science courses, an A Level in mathematics and a natural science (biology, chemistry or physics) are required.

- For Medicine, an A Level in Chemistry is compulsory plus two other A Level subjects in:

- mathematics and a natural science (biology, chemistry or physics)
or
- two natural sciences

Please be aware that medical applicants must also possess an appropriate command of the German language. Details of the German language qualifications which are accepted as proof of proficiency can be found on university websites.

N.B.

- In Germany, A Level Economics and A Level Business Studies are viewed as overlapping subjects. Combining an A Level in Business Studies with an A Level Economics is best avoided since these subjects will not be accepted as two independent A Levels.
- Two GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level courses may be accepted in lieu of one GCE Advanced Level.

Cambridge Pre-U

Recognition of Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) and the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma in Germany

The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) also issued recommendations for Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) and the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma and meeting entrance requirements for Bachelor (undergraduate) degree programmes.

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

General entrance requirements for Cambridge Pre-U are therefore as follows:

- Three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects (or an equivalent combination of A Levels and Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects)

PLUS

- One Cambridge Pre-U Short Course (or one AS Level)

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma will be accepted as meeting general entrance requirements for undergraduate courses of study providing all admissions criteria are met. If the three Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects offered as part of the Diploma meet all general admissions criteria then Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR), the core of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, will be accepted in lieu of the required Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level subject.

- Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) as a stand-alone qualification will not be accepted in lieu of a Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject.

Full details of all entrance requirements for Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge Pre-U are listed on ZAB's database: [anabin](http://anabin.kmk.org/) at <http://anabin.kmk.org/>

Please note: German universities are autonomous so have the right to set their own entrance requirements. If students have any questions regarding entrance requirements, they should check with their chosen institutions before submitting an application.

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge please visit www.cie.org.uk or contact Customer Services on **+44 (0)1223 553554** or email info@cie.org.uk