

# Update for schools

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting post-16 qualification preparing learners for university

## Students celebrate exam success

**More students than ever before took Cambridge exams in June 2015.**

The June 2015 exam series was our largest ever. Globally there has been 15 per cent growth across all our qualifications, with entries for Cambridge IGCSE® up by 23 per cent on June 2014.

In the UK, we're pleased to see entries grow for Cambridge Pre-U, and more schools are introducing Cambridge International AS & A Levels too. Turn to page 7 to find out how The Manchester Grammar School is offering a mixed programme of Cambridge qualifications.

 **Results day – what schools were saying on Twitter**

**“First year of results for Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design. 100% Distinction 1 (D1) #topgrade & significantly higher than an A\*.”**

– Mayfield School, Essex

**“All Chinese Mandarin candidates earned a D1 or D2 in their Cambridge Pre-U (equiv to an A\*) in our first year of offering qualification.”**

– Putney High School, London

**31% of all Pre-U grades were at D1/D2 (A\* and above) which is a truly excellent achievement – wow! Congratulations girls #results2015.”**

– Downe House School, Berkshire

**“Congratulations girls & staff for fabulous A level and Pre U results!”**

– North London Collegiate School



*Cambridge Pre-U students at Downe House, Berkshire, celebrating on results day.*

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**And more!**

# Spotlight on: Music

Cambridge Pre-U Music gives learners the chance to follow their own interests and to build genuine enjoyment in all aspects of music. We spoke to Peter Davis, Director of Music at Oakham School in Rutland, about his students' experiences of the course.



Cambridge Pre-U Music student at Oakham School

Oakham is a day and boarding school, with around 1000 students aged between 10 and 18. The school introduced Cambridge Pre-U Music in 2009 because they felt the course balanced breadth and depth of musical study, and prepared students effectively for the best universities.

Peter Davis says his students have responded positively to Cambridge Pre-U: "They've loved the challenge and rigour of the course, whilst less academic students have still been able to reach the standard they would have attained in A Level."

## A diverse approach

As well as components on analysis and historical study, performing, and composing, Cambridge Pre-U includes a personal investigation. Peter says: "The chance to specialise in an area of personal interest is particularly popular with the pupils". This component can take the form of a dissertation, advanced recital, free composition or music technology project and has led to students following diverse interests.

Oakham students have carried out personal investigations on a whole range of topics including major choral works by Brahms and Britten, operas by Bartok, Britten and Mozart, musicals (including Sweeney Todd, West Side Story and Wicked), and the birth of Britpop.

## Preparing for university

We asked Peter if he felt that his students had benefited from studying Cambridge Pre-U Music.

"Unquestionably – they have a much better understanding of the key areas that are covered in advanced studies in music," he said.

Oakham students have gone on to study music at leading universities and music schools, including King's College London, the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music.

## Assessment objectives

Learners are assessed on:

<b>Performing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical and expressive control</li> <li>• interpretive understanding</li> <li>• stylistic awareness</li> <li>• aural attentiveness</li> </ul>
<b>Composing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical and musical control in stylistic imitation</li> <li>• discrimination and imagination in creative work</li> <li>• aural discrimination and imagination</li> </ul>
<b>Historical understanding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analytical understanding as applied to listening</li> <li>• knowledge of melodic, harmonic, dynamic, rhythmic, timbral, textural and structural elements of music and their contribution to style</li> <li>• understanding of the development of genres in the principal historical periods and contextual factors in the shaping of musical history</li> <li>• aural perception and discrimination</li> </ul>
<b>Critical thinking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• critical enquiry and evaluation of sources</li> <li>• organisation of information and making connections</li> <li>• making judgements based on musical evidence</li> <li>• aural discrimination</li> </ul>

## A learner's perspective

Former Cambridge Pre-U Music student Callum Anderson, from Bedales School, achieved a D1 and is now studying music at Bristol University. Callum particularly enjoyed the composing part of the syllabus.

“Composing was my favourite part as previously I had never been given material that I would use to compose. In the past, I would compose whatever I liked. This was more challenging, and fun.”

Callum Anderson, Bedales School

# Spotlight on: Modern foreign languages

**Cambridge Pre-U Modern Foreign Language (MFL) courses promote awareness of culture and authentic language, by developing critical skills and emphasising effective, appropriate and accurate communication. We spoke to Gerard Evans, Director of Curriculum at Eton College, about their experiences of Cambridge Pre-U MFL.**

Eton College has offered Cambridge Pre-U French, Spanish, German, Russian, Chinese and Italian since the qualification was first available in 2008. Gerard says they like its broad approach to language study. "We chose the qualification first and foremost because it provided a considerably more significant cultural, and especially literary, element than any A Level syllabus."

The courses develop the four main skills of language learning – reading, writing, listening and speaking. There is also a Topics and Texts component which gives students the chance to study texts and films in a cultural context. Gerard said Eton students have actively enjoyed this component and have responded extremely well to the various courses.

## Preparing for university

A major aim of the MFL syllabuses is to establish a meaningful link between sixth form and university study. "Our students currently studying languages at university

would certainly say that Cambridge Pre-U set them up well for university study, and it is perhaps significant that the number of our students going on to study languages at university is so high," says Gerard.

"In 2013, over 30 of our leavers went on to read languages at Russell Group institutions. There is an established culture of studying modern languages at Eton, but their popularity owes much to the quality of the Cambridge Pre-U courses."

## Short Course options

Cambridge Pre-U Modern Foreign Languages are also available as one-year Short Courses. These courses allow learners to broaden their programmes beyond their major subject specialisms and offer an advanced qualification in languages as part of their application to university. The Short Courses test all four language skills, but do not include the topic and texts study.

## Cambridge Pre-U Modern Foreign Languages

Choose from:

- French
- German
- Italian
- Mandarin Chinese
- Russian
- Spanish

Find the syllabuses at:  
[www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu)

## A learner's perspective

Esmé Kate-Bridie O'Keefe, from Shrewsbury School, received the highest mark in the country for her Cambridge Pre-U French exam last year. We asked her about her experiences of the course.

### What did you like about the Cambridge Pre-U course?

I found the course highly interesting and stimulating. I liked the level of fluency and grammatical knowledge required, the breadth and depth of cultural knowledge and the independent study.

### What did you enjoy in particular?

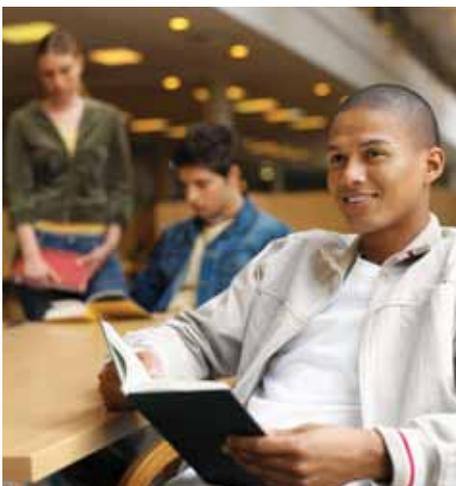
I enjoyed researching and presenting my own oral topic, and the stimulating nature of the set texts.

### Has Cambridge Pre-U allowed you to develop any skills that you might not have developed otherwise?

It has taught me skills in independent learning. Writing commentaries on French literature was very valuable and interesting.

### How has Cambridge Pre-U affected your future plans?

Having been convinced that I would never choose to study French at university, I decided to apply for Latin and French.



# University recognition widens for Cambridge Pre-U

**Many universities around the world accept Cambridge Pre-U qualifications.**

University recognition for Cambridge Pre-U continues to grow and a number of new institutions have recently recognised the qualification, including two more universities in Germany.

Germany is the world's most popular non-Anglophone study destination, and the fourth most popular overall – only the US, UK and Australia welcome more international students each year. Some German universities have a high proportion of courses taught exclusively in English and in September 2014 Germany abolished university tuition fees for all applicants, making the country an especially attractive destination for undergraduates.

For a full list of institutions around the world that recognise Cambridge Pre-U, search our database at: [recognition.cie.org.uk](http://recognition.cie.org.uk)

## Recent additions to our database for Cambridge Pre-U recognition

- **Germany:**
  - Hochschule Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences
  - RWTH Aachen University
- **US:**
  - University of California – Riverside
  - Colorado State University
  - Tufts University
- **Universities New Zealand – Te Pokai Tara**
- **Ministry of Education, Czech Republic**
- **Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Spain**

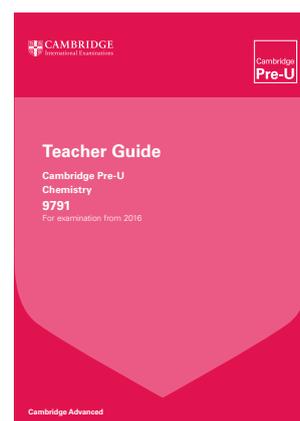


## New curriculum support resources

**The following Teacher Guides have been published this year. They support teaching for examination from 2016.**

- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Psychology
- Classical Greek
- Latin

Cambridge teachers can download these guides from our secure Teacher Support site at: <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>



# Training and events

## Forthcoming training

We'll be holding the following training courses this academic year for Cambridge Pre-U and Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects. All training will take place in London. For more details and to book, go to [www.cie.org.uk/events](http://www.cie.org.uk/events)

### November 2015 – intermediate level training

6 November – Cambridge Pre-U Geography

10 November – Cambridge Pre-U French

12 November – Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives & Research

16 November – Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy & Theology

24 November – Cambridge Pre-U English Literature

30 November – Cambridge Pre-U Chemistry

### December 2015 – intermediate level training

8 December – Cambridge Pre-U German

### March 2016 – introductory level training

Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language

Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research

Cambridge International AS & A Level Business Studies

Cambridge International AS & A Level Mathematics

Cambridge International AS & A Level Applied Information & Communication Technology

### June 2016 – intermediate level training

Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English

Cambridge Pre-U History



## Are you attending these events?

Come and talk to us about Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U at the following events:

Date	Event
23–24 November 2015	Girls' Schools Association Conference, Newport, Wales
6–9 January 2016	The Association for Science Education Conference, Birmingham
30 January 2016	Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, Manchester
11–12 March 2016	Language World 2016, Rugby

## Would you like to be a Cambridge trainer?

We're looking for teachers who are experienced in teaching Cambridge programmes and qualifications to join our training team.

We offer:

- training on how to teach adults
- support for your own continuing professional development
- help towards becoming an accredited Cambridge trainer
- an attractive fee for each workshop that you run.

Visit [www.cie.org.uk/trainerrecruitment](http://www.cie.org.uk/trainerrecruitment) to find out more and apply.

“ Training, for me, is all about the people you meet – people with different perspectives, views and talents, people you might otherwise never have met. Your colleagues – other trainers – are inspirational in their enthusiasm for their subject and invariably good company. ”

Helen Ash, Cambridge trainer

# What else is available post-16?

**Some schools have told us they'd like to read about other Cambridge qualifications in this newsletter. Read on to find out why Cambridge International AS & A Level is growing in the UK.**

Many independent schools now offer Cambridge International AS & A Level alongside Cambridge Pre-U.

It offers a wide choice of subjects, and AS Level can count towards a student's final A Level grade or be

taken as a standalone qualification.

Like Cambridge Pre-U, Cambridge International AS & A Level encourages students to develop a deep understanding of their subject as well as skills in critical thinking and research.

## Key concepts

We've been working with universities in the UK and US – including the University of Cambridge, Harvard and MIT – to revise Cambridge International AS & A Levels, as part of our continuous review programme.

They told us that what really helps learners succeed at university is a firm grasp of the subject's key concepts:

- concepts that help learners develop a deep understanding
- concepts that, once grasped, enable learners to solve problems or understand new aspects of their subject.

Our revised syllabuses identify the underlying key concepts in Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects. They are clearly set out so that teachers can refer to them again and again and build them into their teaching. These key concepts give learners the opportunity to study aspects of their subject in significant detail and lay a strong foundation for university study.

The latest syllabuses to be revised are Geography and Psychology. They are available for first examination in 2018. Other recently revised syllabuses include Economics, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For more details go to:

[www.cie.org.uk/new](http://www.cie.org.uk/new)

For full details of what's available at Cambridge International AS & A Level, go to: [www.cie.org.uk/alevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel)



## Case study: The Manchester Grammar School

'Academic freedom of choice' underpins the curriculum at The Manchester Grammar School. This flexibility offered to students is also reflected in the number of different qualifications taught at the school, including Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge Pre-U and Cambridge International AS & A Levels – as well as UK A Level.

Since 2014, the school has introduced Cambridge Pre-U Economics, English Literature, German, History and Mandarin Chinese, and Cambridge International AS & A Level Biology, English Language and Geography.

So what attracted each department to Cambridge? Here are some of the syllabus features they highlighted:

Cambridge Pre-U	
German	"The syllabus encourages the use of materials from a wider range of topic areas and the reading of more texts. This has given students a much greater appreciation of German culture, literature and society."
English Literature	"We were attracted by the linear course with all the benefits of continuity of teaching, learning and development of skills/knowledge. It has a reputation for accurate and reliable assessment."
Economics	"The syllabus allows students to develop their skills in a new subject over an extended period of time. The independent research aspect appealed to us as it requires students to take more responsibility for their learning and overall success."
Cambridge International AS & A Level	
Biology	"We liked the challenging nature of the biological content. There are lots of resources on offer and they are easy to access."
English Language	"The course is a logical continuation of Cambridge IGCSE, already offered by the department. It offers students the opportunity to develop their own creative writing abilities."
Geography	"We were attracted by the academic rigour of the course, the geographic relevance of papers, and the quality of marking."

### Offering a mixed economy

Offering a variety of courses can be challenging, and students and parents also have to be brought on board with changes. Teachers at The Manchester Grammar School say they have generally found the transition to Cambridge to be straightforward – they enter the whole cohort for the same qualification – but need to be mindful of the demands put on students by different qualifications, at different times of the year. As UK A Level becomes linear, this will become less of an issue.

**Learn more –** If you'd like us to put you in touch with a school that teaches Cambridge International AS & A Level, please contact us at: [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk)

# Update on Cambridge IGCSE in the UK

**Cambridge IGCSE continues to grow in the UK. If you teach Cambridge IGCSE, here are the key things you need to know about the impact of GCSE reforms on the qualification.**

The government's current position is that IGCSEs, including Cambridge IGCSEs, will come out of government performance tables as reformed GCSEs are phased in.

Furthermore, A\*–G graded IGCSEs will cease to be regulated (and funded) when their 9–1 GCSE equivalent is introduced.

In response to this, we have developed revised IGCSEs graded 9–1 in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics, incorporating many features of our established IGCSEs. The new 9–1 graded Cambridge IGCSEs are regulated and funded for Key Stage 4 students. Although excluded from government performance measures, they will be included in the alternative performance tables developed by ASCL and NAHT.

Our Cambridge IGCSE 9–1 syllabus support resources will include schemes of work, example candidate responses, discussion forums and mapping documents between our old and new syllabuses.

Of course, independent schools can still choose to offer our Cambridge A\*–G IGCSEs if they prefer. Visit [www.cie.org.uk/ukigcse](http://www.cie.org.uk/ukigcse) to find out more.

# Teachers debate future of education at Cambridge Schools Conference

**Education systems worldwide need to be adaptable, skills focused and learner centric to be fit for the future, according to speakers at our annual Cambridge Schools Conference.**



Teachers from 50 countries attended our conference, held from 13 to 15 September 2015 at Robinson College, Cambridge to discuss how to help prepare young people for the challenges of the 21st century.

Speakers included Tony Little (pictured), Chief Education Officer at GEMS Education and former Headmaster of Eton College, who noted the importance of adopting a holistic approach to education, developing visionary teachers and nurturing the relationship between teacher and student.

There are still places available at our Cambridge Schools Conference in Dubai on Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 December 2015. To book, go to [www.cie.org.uk/csc-2015](http://www.cie.org.uk/csc-2015)



Teachers taking part in a workshop at the conference.

## Have you seen our new blog?

We're always looking for ways to share our insight on international education, and so we've launched a blog on our website. Our Chief Executive, Michael O'Sullivan, has posted an article giving his views on how changes in society are impacting on education.

But what do you think? Add your comments to the blog and let us know. Go to [www.cie.org.uk/blog](http://www.cie.org.uk/blog)

**Learn more!** Find us at [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu), or contact us at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) or on +44 (0)1223 553554. Find our stand at conferences, or attend one of our free INSET days.

## What's available

Here's a list of subjects for examination in 2017. Subjects marked with an asterisk (\*) are also available as Short Courses.

Mathematics\*  
Further Mathematics\*

Literature in English

Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics

French\*  
German\*  
Italian\*  
Mandarin Chinese\*  
Russian\*  
Spanish\*

Art History  
Classical Greek  
Comparative Government & Politics  
Geography  
History  
Latin  
Philosophy & Theology  
Psychology

Business & Management  
Economics

Art & Design  
Drama & Theatre  
Music

Global Perspectives & Research (a two-year extended project qualification). A Global Perspectives Short Course is also available.

*The last examination for Comparative Government & Politics will be in June 2017.*

## Follow us on Twitter!



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