We wanted to find out what university admissions staff around the world look for when selecting candidates. We also wanted to get their views about Cambridge programmes and qualifications, in particular how well they feel they prepare students for university study. We produced an online survey, supplemented with telephone interviews, and had responses from 130 higher education admissions staff in 10 countries, including the USA, UK, Australia and Canada. The respondents included admissions staff from Ivy League and Russell Group universities. Please note that for all questions, respondents who selected 'don't know' have been omitted.

Why do Admissions Officers rate Cambridge so highly?

- 98% said Cambridge qualifications give students excellent preparation for university.
- 95% agreed Cambridge students think independently.
- 98% said Cambridge qualifications help students succeed at university.
- 100% agreed Cambridge students think logically and present coherent arguments.
- 100% agreed Cambridge students have in-depth subject knowledge.
- 99% agreed Cambridge students present reasoned explanations, understand implications and communicate them logically and clearly.

We asked some of the world’s top universities, including Yale and Harvard, to tell us what they think about Cambridge qualifications.

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"These well-rounded qualifications encourage independent skills that students need at university."

"Cambridge students attack university work with confidence."

"Cambridge students have achieved a level of mastery that is atypical of school graduates here."

"Cambridge exams provide structure to learn and understand complex subjects."

"research and analytical thinking done by Cambridge students..."

"Cambridge students are very prepared and knowledgeable on their subjects...

"Students can communicate effectively...

"and apply knowledge to real life situations."

"These well-rounded qualifications encourage independent skills that students need at university."

"Cambridge students are strong in critical thinking and writing...

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