Applying to South Africa, the UK and the USA with Cambridge International Qualifications

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March 2019
Aim of the breakout

Participants will:

- receive guidance on the minimum subject grouping and grading requirements to achieve a Certificate of Exemption with Cambridge qualifications to further studies at South African universities
- receive an overview on how to best support students applying to US and UK universities with Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSE™s.
Transition plan

- **November 2017 exam series**
  Learners who take their examinations in November 2017 will have question papers under the Cambridge International Examinations brand and receive their certificates in the Cambridge International Examinations brand in 2018.

- **2018 exam series**
  Learners taking examinations in 2018 will have question papers under the Cambridge International Examinations brand but will receive certificates in the Cambridge Assessment International Education brand.

- **2019 exam series**
  From 2019 exam series, both question papers and certificates will be in the Cambridge Assessment International Education brand.
Cambridge Pathway

A clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19

**Primary**
- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

**Lower Secondary**
- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

**Upper Secondary**
- A wide choice of subjects in:
  - Cambridge IGCSE® (70+)
  - Cambridge O Level (40+)
  - Cambridge ICE Certificate

**Advanced**
- A wide choice of subjects in:
  - Cambridge International AS & A Level (55+)
  - Cambridge Pre-U (24+)
  - Cambridge AICE Diploma

Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

*Age ranges are for guidance only*
Global Mobility Trends

TOP HOST DESTINATIONS, 2001 & 2017

2001
2.1 million students

- United States - 28%
- United Kingdom - 11%
- Germany - 9%
- France - 7%
- Australia - 4%
- Japan - 3%
- Spain - 2%
- Belgium - 2%
- Other - 34%

2017
4.6 million students

- United States - 24%
- United Kingdom - 11%
- China - 10%
- Australia - 7%
- France - 7%
- Canada - 7%
- Russia - 6%
- Germany - 6%
- Other - 23%

MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS TO STUDY ABROAD

1. Canada (62%)
2. USA (42%)
3. Europe (19%)
4. UK (11%)
5. Germany (7%)
6. Australia (6%)
7. Finland (4%)
8. France (3%)
9. China (2%)
10. Ireland (1%)
11. Netherlands (1%)
12. Belgium (1%)
13. Sweden (1%)
14. Czech Republic (1%)
15. Denmark (1%)
16. South Korea (1%)
17. Italy (1%)
18. Switzerland (1%)
19. Poland (1%)
20. Hungary (0.5%)

Source: THE October 20 2017

Source: Project Atlas, 2017; UNESCO, 20
Most popular international destinations for Cambridge students – for 2017

- Respondents were asked to identify the top three international destinations for students going to university outside their own country.
- The three most popular destinations are: UK, US and Canada.
Cambridge Assessment website – Recognitions pages

- Guidance for universities
- Guidance for schools and students
- Recognition by country
- Recognition search
- Register your admissions policy

Recognitions database

Welcome to the recognition search page.

Our recognition database is an online directory of worldwide organisations which have specifically provided us with formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. Although the database is updated regularly, this is not an exhaustive list.

There are many organisations not listed here which do accept Cambridge qualifications. The database is correct according to the information provided to us; however, we recommend checking with organisations directly for the most up-to-date information as regards entry requirements since these requirements are subject to change.

If you would like to see information about your organisation included in our recognition search results, please register your recognition details.

Please enter your search criteria below.

Country: Please select...

Organisation name

Organisation type

[Select all organisation types]

www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch
University recognition worldwide brochure

Guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications

- Outlines university recognition of Cambridge qualifications by global regions.
- Helpful advice on general university admissions policies by country
DESTINATION: SOUTH AFRICA
South Africa: certificate of exemption requirements

- South Africa requires candidates to be awarded a certificate of exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf) before they are allowed to apply to study for a Bachelor’s degree to a South African university.

- A certificate of exemption will be granted to holders of Cambridge International AS and A Levels on application provided they meet the minimum qualification combinations and the subject group requirements as published in the Government Notice, Department of Education, Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) No. 1317 dated 5 December 2008.

- USAf represents 26 public universities and various affiliated private higher education institutions in South Africa.
Further details of the conditions and subject requirements to gain exemption for entry to South African public universities can be found on the Cambridge website at https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/523166-university-recognition-south-africa.pdf or on Universities South Africa’s website at http://mb.usaf.ac.za/

A certificate of exemption does not guarantee acceptance at a university. Each programme will have entry requirements over and above those of the requirements to obtain a certificate of exemption.
Minimum Qualification Combinations

A Level Exemptions

4 subject option = 3 subjects at A Level (E) + 1 subject at IGCSE Level (C)

5 subject option = 2 subjects at A Level (E) + 3 subjects at IGCSE Level (C)
Minimum Qualification Combinations

**AS Level Exemptions**

Minimum 5 subjects = 4 subjects passed at AS Level (D) + 1 subject at IGCSE Level (C)

- Two-sitting rule only applies to this exemption
- Need not be consecutive years
- Group requirements to be met
- Recognised subject requirements to be met
- English First Language to be passed at appropriate level ie IGCSE, AS or A Level
- Two languages to be passed for complete exemption

We encourage schools to confirm faculty requirements at least a year in advance
South African Qualifications Authority

Four qualification combinations

4 subject option = 1 subject at A Level (E) + 3 subjects at IGCSE Level (C)

6 subject option = 1 subject at A Level (E) + 5 subjects at IGCSE Level (E)

5 subject option = 2 subjects at AS Level (E) + 3 subjects at IGCSE Level (C)

7 subject option = 2 subjects at AS Level (E) + 5 subjects at IGCSE Level (E)
South Africa: university admission requirements

- South African universities are autonomous and can set their own entry requirements. Candidates have to achieve certain exam grades and may need qualifications in particular subjects to ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course.

- Candidates are encouraged to confirm university entry requirements well in advance.

- Candidates may be asked to take the National Benchmark Tests (NBT). The NBT measures academic readiness for university.

- The NBTs are used by many universities in South Africa to help them interpret school leaving results.
South Africa: university admission requirements

Common challenges

- Misunderstanding that Certificate of Exemption (CoE) and programme entry requirements are the same
- Choosing the correct subjects that meet the CoE and programme entry requirements
- English Language requirements: IGCSE vs AS/A Level English
- Recognised vs unrecognised subjects
- Recognised but ungrouped subjects
- Admission Points Score (APS)
  - not all universities use the same conversion table
  - confusion as sometimes A Levels are given the same score as AS Level
Further information

- Universities South Africa [brochure](#)
- [Recognition page](#) of our website
- University of Cape Town welcomes Cambridge students [video](#)
- Destination South Africa
DESTINATION: UK
UK University Admissions Requirements

- Cambridge International AS and A Levels qualifications are recognised by universities in the UK
- Competitive courses require at least 3 good A Levels
- IGCSE/O Level accepted as direct equivalent of UK GCSE, especially English and Maths
- Some universities require an additional English language test to meet their visa requirements
### Headline statistics for all participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Students</th>
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<td>Applied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offered</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>38110</td>
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Source: UCAS STROBE
Key figures by cycle year for South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Offers</th>
<th>Rejections</th>
<th>Acceptances</th>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCAS STROBE
UK Admissions Systems

- Centralised system - UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
- Applications generally open in August
- Oxbridge, courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine / science have earlier deadline of October 15
- Students can apply to Oxford OR Cambridge but not both
- Tuition fees: to be eligible to pay fees at the UK/EU rate, must normally be a national of an EU country, or the relevant family member of an EU national, and have been ordinarily resident within the EEA for the three year period before the first day of the first academic year of the programme.
The UCAS Tariff was developed to allow for broad comparisons to be made about a wide range of qualifications by universities and colleges to help them with their management information.

Not all qualifications attract UCAS Tariff points and Cambridge International A & AS levels are not included in the UCAS Tariff.

Only around one third of course entry requirements on the UCAS website make reference to the Tariff. Most prefer to express their entry requirements and make offers in terms of subjects and grades rather than in Tariff points.

In general universities in the UK accept Cambridge International A Levels as equivalent, grade-for-grade, with standard A Levels.

Students applying with Cambridge International A Levels will not be disadvantaged in any way.
UCAS Tariff Groups

- UCAS groups higher education providers across the UK based on the average levels of attainment of their UK 18-year-old acceptances summarised through UCAS Tariff points.

- They created three tariff groups, referred to as higher, medium and lower tariff providers, which each account for around a third of all UK 18-year-old acceptances in recent cycles.

- Higher tariff providers are those that have accepted UK 18-year-old applicants with the highest Tariff points in recent cycles, while lower tariff providers are those that have accepted those with the lowest.
Cambridge International data by provider tariff group

Data by tariff group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Tariff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Tariff</td>
<td>40065</td>
<td>34540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Tariff</td>
<td>19820</td>
<td>16975</td>
<td>5005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCAS STROBE
Selective universities

- Oxford and Cambridge are highly selective
- The Russell Group universities are generally research-based and selective
## Russell Group Acceptances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cambridge International A Level</th>
<th>Cycle Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL (University College London)</td>
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<td>420</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
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<td>University of Warwick</td>
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<td>270</td>
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<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
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<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSE (London School of Economics &amp; Political Science)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s College London</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durham University</td>
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<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
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<tr>
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<td>125</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle University</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<td>University of Cambridge</td>
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<td>University of Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Southampton</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Liverpool</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Glasgow</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of York</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen’s University Belfast</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Russell Group acceptances</td>
<td>2420</td>
<td>3735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from UCAS EXACT
Further information

- Destination UK brochure and video
- Recognition page of our website
- Cambridge for universities and colleges
- UCAS website
DESTINATION: USA
USA university admissions

- Over **610** universities officially recognise Cambridge qualifications for entry
- Five Grade Cs in Cambridge IGCSE/ Cambridge O Level meet **minimum** freshman level entry requirements for some colleges & universities (including Maths and English)
- A Levels are required for competitive universities such as Yale, MIT and Harvard
- Advanced credit is available for A Levels in most universities
- Advanced credit is available for AS Levels in some universities
Application procedures vary:

- **Common Application** with A Levels specifically included from August 2013
- Supporting documentation and full high school transcript from school – extremely important
- Individual application forms or supplements to the Common Application for each university

Deadlines vary:

- Usually mid-December to mid-January
- 1–15 November for early decisions
Applications are made to the **university**, not to a particular course

Undergraduates do not specialise until Years 3 and 4 of their degrees, with some subjects only available at postgraduate level

Grade Point Average (GPA) is **not** always required

Standardised tests (SATs or ACT) are often required
  - Students with AS & A Levels may be exempt from the SAT subject tests (SAT-II)

Applicants may require IELTS or TOEFL but a good grade in Cambridge IGCSE English (First or Second Language) is often accepted instead

Scholarships are often available (but highly competitive)

*Check the university’s specific requirements*
Students applying without a school profile may be at a disadvantage
I took Cambridge International AS Level Biology, and I have since had a very successful career in the biological and natural sciences at Stanford University. The same applies with Mathematics and English. I can’t recommend the Cambridge programme highly enough. It got me into one of the top universities in the world and in the US.

Chris Hanson, Florida
Further information

Cambridge International Examinations resources:
- [Destination USA page of our website](#)
- [Cambridge for universities and colleges](#)
- [Destination USA video and brochure](#)

Other resources:
- [Fulbright Commission](#)
- [Common application tips and hints](#)
Further resources from Cambridge

- **University recognition worldwide**: Guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications
- **Destination: UK**
- **Destination: USA**
- **Destination: Australia**
- **Destination: India**
- **Destination: Canada**
- **Destination: South Africa**
- Recognition of Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U in **Germany**
Any questions?