

Making informed subject choices

Guidance for students in Pakistan

Pathways to professional careers

The table below shows the subjects you need to study if you want to follow a professional career pathway. Please consult the student counselor at your school for further details and for information about other professions.

| Profession | Mandatory subjects in Cambridge O Level | Cambridge International A Level subjects to build-up foundation | Career pathway to be a specialized professional | Estimated length of studies post-International A Level |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Medical doctor | Science subjects with biology | Physics, chemistry and biology | - MBBS - House job - Postgrad specialization | 11-12 years |
| Engineering/ Computer sciences | Science subjects with biology or computer science | - Physics, chemistry and maths - Physics, maths and computer sciences | - Bachelor's degree - Masters | 6 years |
| Chartered accountant (CA) | Science/humanities subjects | Accounting | - Bachelor's degree - CA | 8 years |
| Lawyer | Science/humanities subjects | Law | - Bachelor's degree - LLB | 7 years |
| Academia | Science/humanities subjects | Relevant foundation subject | - Bachelor's degree - Masters/MPhil - PhD | 10-11 years |
| Business administration / Management sciences | Science/humanities subjects | Business | - Bachelor's degree - Masters | 6 years |

Did you know?

1. Universities locally and internationally recognise Cambridge qualifications. Every year, 9 out of 10 Cambridge learners in Pakistan take admission in local universities for their higher education.
2. A large number of Cambridge International A Level students secure admission in top state-owned medical and engineering colleges in Pakistan. Despite representing only 1% of the total number of higher secondary students in Pakistan, Cambridge International A Level students have secured around 6% and 13% of the state-owned medical and engineering seats respectively on an average in the four years time. This statistic was ascertained from some market research undertaken with schools in Pakistan – focusing on progression of Cambridge International A Level students in Pakistan

3. Cambridge learners outperform students from other boards in the entrance tests for admissions to local universities. As per data¹ collected by some media outlets regarding entrance exams taken between October and December 2020, 78% of Cambridge learners passed the entrance test exam for NED University Karachi, where the overall ratio was 54%. Similarly, 79.5% of Cambridge learners cleared the entrance test for Karachi University, compared to an overall result ratio of 29.58%
4. Top subject areas studied by the Cambridge students in Pakistan:
 - a. Business
 - b. Humanities
 - c. Engineering
 - d. Arts
 - e. Law
5. According to a report by McKinsey Global Institute, a lot of jobs will be created and lost by 2030 due to automation². This has important implications for workforce skills. Cambridge Global Perspectives and the Cambridge International Project Qualification (IPQ) build non-academic skills that prepare learners for such future challenges³.

¹ <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/news-details/view/cambridge-international-students-excel-in-top-pakistan-university-entrance-tests-20210202/>

² <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Industries/Public%20and%20Social%20Sector/Our%20Insights/What%20the%20future%20of%20work%20will%20mean%20for%20jobs%20skills%20and%20wages/MGI-Jobs-Lost-Jobs-Gained-Executive-summary-December-6-2017.pdf>

³ The following weblinks provide further information on Cambridge Global Perspectives (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-global-perspectives/>) and the Cambridge International Project Qualification (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-ipq/>)