



Cambridge Student Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions (for students)

What is the Cambridge Student Advisory Council?

The Cambridge Student Advisory Council is an inclusive student community that brings together learners from Cambridge schools across the world. Through online research activities and interactive sessions, including focus groups, panels and expert Q&As, Cambridge students share their perspectives on topics that matter to them.

This isn't about a small, exclusive group. The council is designed to hear from many students, ensuring that a wide range of voices, experiences and viewpoints help inform Cambridge's work.

Who runs the council?

The council is run by the International Education group at Cambridge University Press & Assessment. We are part of the University of Cambridge. Activities are organised and facilitated by experienced Cambridge colleagues, sometimes alongside external subject experts, and are delivered in line with Cambridge's [safeguarding](#) and [privacy & data protection policies](#).

Who can take part?

The council is currently open to students aged 16 and over; we may decide to extend to younger students over time. Participation is global and inclusive, with students recruited from around the world to ensure a broad range of perspectives. As part of the sign-up process, we'll ask your parent or guardian for consent, and you must be studying at a registered Cambridge International School.

How can I join the council?

You can join the council by completing an online form, where we will ask you to confirm details of the school you're studying at, as well as details of the topics you are interested in. All students who are eligible to join may be invited to open research activities, with smaller groups selected for specific sessions depending on the topic and format.

What types of activities will I be invited to take part in?

Activities may include:

- online surveys and market research activities (open to all interested students)
- small, online focus groups or discussion panels with students from different regions
- expert-led Q&A or panel sessions on specific themes

Sessions are designed to be age-appropriate, inclusive and supportive. You do not need prior experience to contribute.

How often do activities take place?

Participation opportunities vary across the academic year. Some activities are open invitation; others involve selected small groups. Participation is flexible, and you can choose which activities you wish to take part in. There is no expectation that you participate in every activity or attend every session; you can choose which ones to join depending on your availability.

Is participation compulsory?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. Once you've joined the council, you may decline individual invitations, choose not to answer any question, or withdraw from an activity or from the Council at any time.

How are live sessions delivered and moderated?

Most activities take place online, typically using Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Sessions are facilitated by trained Cambridge colleagues and follow clear ground rules to ensure discussions are respectful, inclusive and emotionally safe. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers; we simply encourage you to share your views if you feel comfortable doing so.

How is student wellbeing and safeguarding supported?

Your wellbeing and safeguarding are central to the Council's design. Sessions are carefully moderated, participation is optional and discussions are structured to be balanced and supportive. This includes choosing whether to keep cameras on or off in virtual sessions, for example. We will apply Cambridge's [safeguarding](#) and [privacy & data protection policies](#) to all activities.

How will my input be used?

We will use your insights to:

- inform the development and improvement of teaching, learning and assessment resources
- support research and thinking on issues and themes discussed
- strengthen our understanding of student experiences globally.

With appropriate safeguards in place, we may use anonymised insights to inform wider communications or campaigns.

Will students or schools be identified publicly?

By default, student contributions are anonymised in any public-facing outputs. Students will not be identified by full name, school, or other identifying details unless explicit additional consent is provided for a specific use.

Are sessions recorded?

Some sessions may be recorded for internal use only, to make sure we capture of themes and insights accurately. Recordings and notes are handled securely and are not shared externally.

How will you manage my personal data?

Cambridge follows strict safeguarding and privacy & data protection policies. Personal information is stored securely in line with sensitive data rules, accessed only by the relevant project team, and never shared outside the organisation. All consent and data handling processes comply with applicable regulations for working with minors.

Will I receive recognition for taking part?

Yes. Students who participate receive formal recognition for the activities they join, such as Certificates of Participation. There may also be optional opportunities to take part in other Cambridge activities (for example, blogs or events), each with separate consent processes.

Who should I contact with questions?

If you have any questions about the council or a specific activity that you have been invited to join, you can contact the Cambridge team at info@cambridgeinternational.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about participation, safeguarding or consent, before or during your involvement.