



Cambridge Student Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions (for registered Cambridge International Schools)

What is the Cambridge Student Advisory Council?

The Cambridge Student Advisory Council is a global, online community that brings together students from registered Cambridge schools to share their perspectives on education, learning and global issues. Through structured research activities (such as surveys, focus groups, panels and discussions), students provide insight that informs Cambridge's thinking, strategy and product development, ensuring student voice plays a meaningful role in shaping the future of education.

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](#).

Which students are eligible to take part?

The council is currently open to students aged 16 and over, with plans to extend participation to younger age groups over time. Participation is global and inclusive, with students recruited across regions to ensure a broad range of perspectives. All participating students require parent or guardian consent and must be part of an approved Cambridge International School.

How are students recruited?

Students join the council by completing an online form, where they indicate the topics they are most interested in as well as the qualifications and subjects they're studying. Schools may share the opportunity with eligible students or nominate students to participate. Students who apply to join may be invited to relevant research activities, with smaller groups selected for specific sessions depending on the topic and format.

What types of activities are students 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. Students 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 students can choose which activities they wish to take part in. There is no expectation that students participate in every activity or attend every session; they can choose which ones to join depending on their availability.

Is participation compulsory?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. Students may decline individual invitations, choose not to answer any question, or withdraw from an activity or from the Council at any time.

How are 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; students are encouraged to share their views only if they feel comfortable doing so.

How is student wellbeing and safeguarding supported?

Student 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. Cambridge's [safeguarding](#) and [privacy & data protection policies](#) apply to all activities.

How will student input be used?

Student insights are used to:

- inform the development and improvement of teaching, learning and assessment resources
- support research, thought leadership and advocacy activity
- strengthen Cambridge's understanding of student experiences globally

With appropriate safeguards in place, anonymised insights may also 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 support accurate capture of themes and insights. Recordings and notes are handled securely and are not shared externally.

How is student data managed?

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.

Do students receive recognition for taking part?

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

Who should schools contact with questions?

If you have any questions about the council or a specific activity, please contact the Cambridge team at info@cambridgeinternational.org. We are happy to answer any questions about participation, safeguarding or consent schools before or during student involvement.