

## **Applying to University with Cambridge International Qualifications**

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## The Recognitions Team



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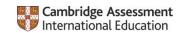
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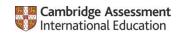
### **UK NARIC Benchmarking Statements**

- An independent study by UK NARIC, the UK's national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has found Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International AS & A Level to be "globally relevant and robust qualifications" comparable to those taken by students in UK schools.
- Cambridge International AS & A Level was found to demonstrate overall comparability to UK AS and A Level standard, and Cambridge IGCSE to UK GCSE standard.
- The UK NARIC executive summary reports can be found on our website at: <u>Cambridge qualifications are same</u> <u>standard as UK equivalents</u>



## **Destination UK**





#### **Qualification Reforms in the UK**

- Qualifications in the UK are currently undergoing significant reform.
- The Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland
- The end of the tri-partite agreement between England, Wales and Northern Ireland means reforms to GCSEs and A levels will result in structurally different qualifications with the same name in different parts of the UK
- Different GCSE grading structures (9-1 and A\*-G)
- The decoupling of the AS from the A level in England
- Staged approach for AS and A Level in Wales
- Choice of both for Northern Ireland
- Flexibility of Cambridge International AS & A levels

  Cambridge Assessment
  International Education

#### Courses

#### Types of programmes

- English & Presessional
- Foundation programmes
- Undergraduate Degrees
- Bachelor
- > HND
- Sandwich courses

#### **Subjects**

- Almost all subjects are offered in the UK SOMEWHERE, but very rarely everywhere!
- Some subjects are specifically state licensed / approved and can be extremely competitive.
  - Medicine
  - Dentistry
  - Veterinary Science
  - Architecture
  - Actuarial Science
  - Engineering
- Some subjects taught differently in the UK to elsewhere
  - Law



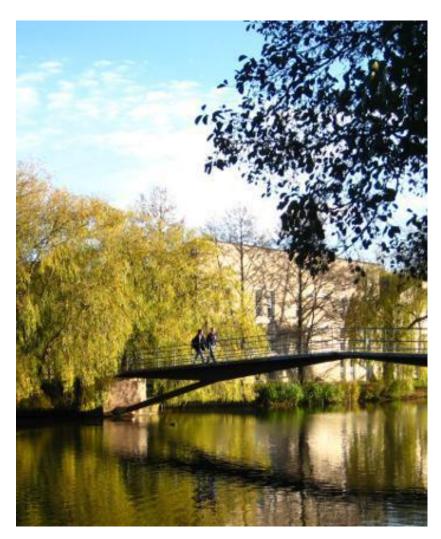
## **Types of Study**

- Lectures (20+ students), one speaker with students taking notes
- Seminars (5-30 students), one teacher with group interaction
- Tutorials (1-5 students), one tutor and intense student interaction
- Self study
- Laboratory Work Supervised self study in a work environment
- Placement Supervised experience in industry



### **UK University Admissions Requirements**

- Cambridge International AS and A Levels qualifications are accepted by all UK universities.
- Competitive courses require 3 good A Levels (e.g. Grades A\*-B)..
- IGCSE/O Level are accepted as direct equivalent of UK GCSE, especially English and Maths.
- Some universities may require an additional English language test to meet visa requirements.





### Subject selection

- Exact entry requirements will vary by programme
- Some courses will specify certain compulsory subjects or grades, or state preferred subjects
- Students should research into suitable subject choices early
- Facilitating subjects include: Maths and further maths; Physics; Biology; Chemistry; History; Geography; Modern and classical languages; English Literature



## **Subject Selection & Informed Choices**

Russell Group 'Informed Choices' guide for information on subject combinations: <a href="http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/">http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college/</a>



http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/for-teachers-and-career-advisers/



#### National admission tests

**Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)** – used in some universities in the UK, Singapore and the Netherlands as part of the admissions process for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Biomedical Sciences.

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) – used by a consortium of UK university Medical and Dental Schools as part of the admissions process.

The Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) – a national admissions test for Law applicants used by some universities in the UK, Ireland, and Spain.

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Admission Tests - Information about the relevant admission assessments can be found on the Universities' websites.

## UCAS applications with Cambridge qualifications

#### Points to consider:





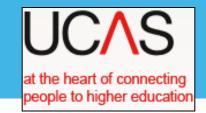




- **Each university has its own way** of assessing an application.
- Students are well advised to check the guidance given by their chosen institutions very carefully before applying.
- University websites give minimum entry requirements.
   The minimum is just that; higher grades could form part of an offer.
- For popular courses, additional academic or non-academic achievements are often considered.



## Cambridge applications – points to consider





- Specific subjects for certain courses may be required
   e.g. Maths for Economics at Warwick
- Non-preferred combinations e.g. Economics and Business Studies
- Some subjects are not always accepted as 1 of the 3
   A Levels e.g. Thinking Skills
- Students need to find out as early as possible whether they are considered a home or an international student. This is because some courses might not be available to international students or there might be significant restrictions.



#### **Science Practical Assessment**



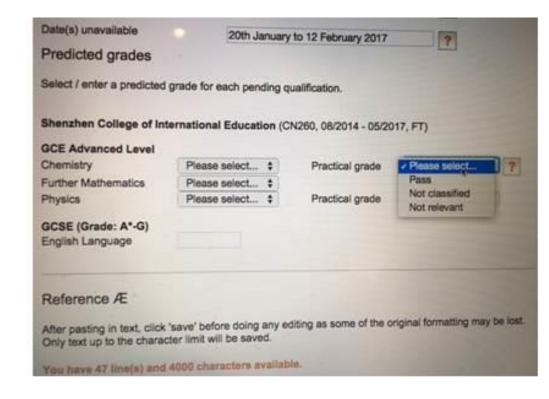
- ▶ For Cambridge A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics:
  - ▶ There are 2 components -one for AS level and one for A2 level
  - Paper 3 (AS) is a practical examination that will test the skills of manipulation of apparatus, presentation of data, analysis and evaluation. (wet lab)
  - ▶ Paper 5 (A2) is a written examination that will test the higherorder experimental skills of planning, analysis and evaluation. It should be stressed that candidates cannot be adequately prepared for this paper without extensive laboratory work throughout the course of their study.(alternative to practical paper)



### Science Practical Endorsement on UCAS



- For Cambridge qualifications there is **no** practical endorsement
- HEPs understand that they will see 'not relevant' for Cambridge International A level Science subjects





## Cambridge IGCSE and meeting English language requirements

- Our advice: students should take all 4 skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) will be beneficial for their university studies
- ▶ For Cambridge students, this means taking one of the below:
- ❖ IGCSE First Language English syllabus 0500 & including the optional Listening and Speaking Component
- ❖ IGCSE English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language syllabus 0510 or 0511: the speaking test is compulsory
- Grade for speaking and listening (0500) and for speaking (0510) is recorded separately on a student's final IGCSE Certificate. This makes it clear to universities that the student has taken all 4 skills
- Students who require Tier 4 visas should include all 4 language skills
- **EU** students do <u>not</u> require visas but wise to **check** whether **all 4 language skills** are required with their chosen institutions

  Cambridge Assess

#### **Certifying Statement for CEFR\***

Cambridge IGCSE

- A final IGCSE certificate does not include a breakdown of all four skills
- A Certifying Statement for CEFR is an additional document which:
  - can be used as part of a student's university application
  - provides evidence of proficiency in all 4
     language skills (speaking, listening, writing and reading) according to the CEFR
  - shows grade achieved (A-G) in each component & the corresponding CEFR level
- No expiry date students can apply for this certificate as soon as receive final IGCSE certificate (i.e. during the first term/semester of their AS Level studies)





#### **Destination UK**

University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Imperial College London, Kings College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh, University College London, University of Bristol, University of St Andrews and 91 other leading universities in the UK welcome students with Cambridge International A Levels and considers them to be equivalent to UK A Levels on a grade-for-grade basis.

When making an offer, the university takes into account that Cambridge International A Levels are linear and therefore re-takes are only allowed for the whole subject. Cambridge International A Levels provide a reliable measure of a student's knowledge and skills in the subject studied and are a reliable indicator of students' performance. They demonstrate a student's abilities for problem-solving and critical thinking.

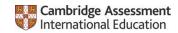
"Cambridge International A Levels are an excellent technical qualification. They provide really good core knowledge and help to build aptitude and they provide a really good bedrock for the move – the transition to university in the first year of study."

Richard Partington, Senior Tutor, Churchill College, University of Cambridge



## **DESTINATION: USA**





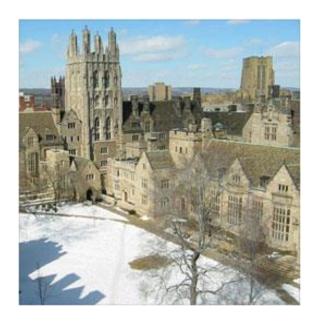
## **Type of Institutions**

| Institution                    | Time      | Degree                         |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Community or Junior College    | 2 years   | Associate degree               |
| Technical or Vocational School | 2 years   | Technical certificate          |
| Specialized Academy            | 2-4 years | Associate or Bachelor's degree |
| College                        | 4 years   | Bachelor's degree              |
| University                     | 4 years   | Bachelor's degree              |



## **USA University Admissions**

- Over 500 universities officially recognise
   Cambridge qualifications for entry
- 5 Grade Cs in IGCSE/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.



## **US Admissions Systems**

#### Application procedures vary:

Common Application (<a href="https://www.commonapp.com">https://www.commonapp.com</a>), 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



## Things to consider

- Applications are made to the <u>university</u>, not a particular course; undergraduates do not specialise until Years 3 and 4 of their degrees, with some subjects only available at postgraduate level
- ▶ A Grade Point Average (GPA) is **not** always required
- Standardised tests (SATs or ACT) are often required
  - Students with AS/A Levels may be exempted from the SAT subject tests (SAT-II)
- ▶ IELTS or TOEFL may be required 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

Cambridge Ass

## **Calculating GPA**

- There is no official grade conversion between US marks and UK grades.
- International admission staff do <u>not generally recommend</u> <u>reporting a US GPA on applications or transcripts</u>
- US university admissions staff often evaluate international qualifications internally
- In some instances they may require that students use an external credential evaluator
- A GPA may be useful in helping determine the student's competitiveness.





IERF provided this unweighted GPA table to Fulbright in London as a rough guide for an A level grade to GPA conversion

International Education

| Advanced<br>Level | United States |   |        |
|-------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| A*                | A+            | = | 4.00   |
| А                 | А             | = | 4.00   |
| В                 | B+            | = | 3.30   |
| С                 | В             | = | 3.00   |
| D                 | C+            | = | 2.30   |
| Е                 | С             | = | 2.00   |
| No Grade          | F             | = | 0.00   |
|                   |               |   | Cambri |

## **Example recognition statements**

## Yale University



#### Yale University:

'Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Credit awarded for Grades A or B. Students enrolled in A Level programs may use completed A Level results as a substitute for the SAT II Subject Tests on a one for one basis. Yale only gives credit for A Levels once they are approved by the student's academic advisor.'



#### Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

'Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Between 9 and 12 credit units are awarded to A Levels at grade A or B in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Humanities and Social Sciences.'

#### Boston University states:

'Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Advanced placement is granted for A Level passes of C or better. Policy states that 8 credits (equalling 2 full time courses) are awarded for most A Level examinations with a grade of A, B, C and 4 credits for AS Level examinations on a similar scale.'





## **Tips and Hints**

Useful source of information for applications to study in the USA:

http://www.fulbright.org.uk/study-in-the-usa/undergraduatestudy/applying/common-application/tips-and-hints





## **DESTINATION: CANADA**



#### Admission and transfer credit

- Most universities require 5 different subjects of which 2 or 3 must be at A Level (the others at GCSE/IGCSE/O Level)
- Some will consider 2 AS Levels equivalent to 1 A Level
- Most give credit for A Levels (dependant on subject content and program choice). Policies are institution specific
- Transfer Credits for A Levels may or may not satisfy program prerequisites

#### McGill University

The minimum requirements are: three A-Levels with predicted and final grades of B, B, C or better, or two A-level and two AS subjects with grades of B, B, C, C, or better, or B, C, B, B, or better. However, many programs are more competitive and require higher grades for GCSEs, AS and A-levels. A maximum of 30 credits of advanced standing may be granted for final official A/AS Level results.

## **DESTINATION: AUSTRALIA**

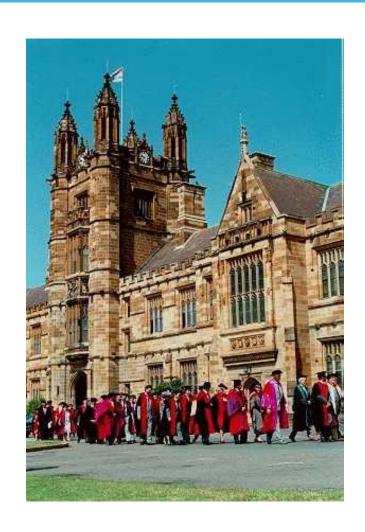


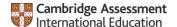


## **Australian University Admissions**

- Over 40 universities currently officially recognise Cambridge qualifications
- 3 A Levels generally required for admission
- Combination of Cambridge International A and AS Levels accepted in some states;
   NSW accepts A Levels only
- IGCSE/ O Level accepted for Foundation programmes.
- International students generally apply directly to the university of their choice

Some universities will make offer based on predicted grades/evidence from AS Level for international students.





## Things to consider

- Points criteria for entry e.g. A\*=6,
   A=5 etc.
- New South Wales (Sydney) and Victoria (Melbourne) are generally the most popular destinations
- Medicine requires an entrance examination
- Scholarships/financial aid are often available
- IELTS/TOEFL/CAE is a visa requirement.

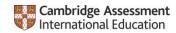






### **DESTINATION: EUROPE**





## Europe in general

- Most countries in Europe offer 12 or 13 year education systems
- A Levels are widely accepted throughout Europe
- Some countries accept AS Level
- Some countries have an ENIC-NARIC advisory body that makes recommendations to universities in that country e.g. Nuffic in the Netherlands



## **Germany**



- The Central Office for Foreign Education or KMK, (an institution of The Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs) has issued a recommendation that A and AS Level qualifications be recognised in Germany for entry to higher education.
- Minimum entry requirements for undergraduate study providing all other admissions criteria are met: Minimum of 4 GCE AS and A Level subjects, three of which must be equivalent to GCE A Level

3 GCE Advanced Levels (3 A Levels)

#### **PLUS**

1 GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level (1 AS Level)

- International A Levels accepted in exactly the same way as UK A Levels
- Full requirements are listed at:
  <a href="http://www.anabin.de/scripts/frmKapitel.asp?ID=3198">http://www.anabin.de/scripts/frmKapitel.asp?ID=3198</a>



## **Germany – Subject Requirements**

- A language <u>at minimum AS Level</u>
- Mathematics OR a natural science, such as biology or chemistry or physics.
- Additional subject requirements for specific fields of study e.g. for technical, mathematical or natural science courses, must have A Level Maths and an A Level Science
- Certain subject combinations should be avoided: e.g. combining A Level in Business Studies & A Level Economics; these subjects will not be accepted as two independent A Levels.
- Vocational subjects are excluded
- Full requirements are listed at: <a href="http://anabin.kmk.org/">http://anabin.kmk.org/</a>
- Flyer in German and English one our website here:

  <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/</a>

  Cambridge Assess acceptance/

#### The Netherlands



- Nuffic, the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education, has issued the following recommendations as regards GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications and equivalency to the Dutch VWO and HAVO diplomas.
- A secondary education diploma (HAVO or VWO diploma) is required for admission to higher education

VWO diploma for entry to research-based universities

HAVO diploma for entry to universities of Professional Education

#### **Equivalent of a VWO Diploma**

**3 GCSEs at grade C or above plus 3 A Levels** (six <u>different</u> subjects in total) is comparable to a VWO diploma in the Netherlands.

#### **Equivalent of a HAVO Diploma**

**4 GCSEs at grade C or above plus 2 AS Levels** (six <u>different</u> subjects in total) is comparable to a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands



## Singaporean Higher Education

- 5 autonomous universities
  - National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore Institute of Technology (latest)
- Degree programmes normally last 3-4 years (5 for Medicine)
- All programmes are delivered in English
- International students:
  - High competition for places
  - Universities often ask for the equivalent of 4 GCE A Levels and possibly SATs
  - IELTS/TOEFL may be required
  - Entrance tests may be required



## Singaporean Admissions Systems

- Students apply directly to the university of their choice
  - NUS/SMU may ask for SATs if students hold predicted grades only
- University applications open in October; deadlines vary (late February-April)
- Limited scholarships may be available for international students.

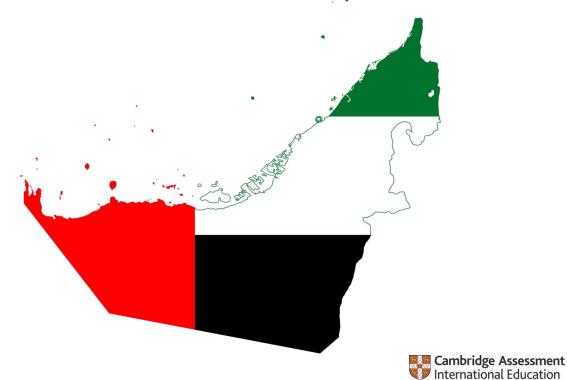


## The polytechnics

- The five polytechnics in Singapore are Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic.
- They were set up as diploma-conferring institutions with the mission to train professionals to support the technological and economic development of Singapore. Reflecting the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of their students, the polytechnics seek to train students with relevant and specific skills for the workplace to give Singapore a competitive edge as it moves into a knowledge-based economy.
- ▶ The entry route to the three year polytechnic courses is generally with the Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'O' Level/ IGCSE qualifications (secondary education).



# DESTINATION: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



#### **United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education**

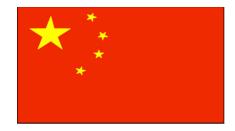
The Ministry of Education in UAE has set the following university entrance requirements:

- All applicants must have completed 12 years of schooling in order to be given consideration for admissions to the UAE Institutions of higher education.
- Students will be considered for admission provided that they have a minimum of five subjects at IGCSE/O Level and two subjects at GCE AS Level with a grade "C" or better in all subjects.

**Please note:** These are the minimum admission requirements; institutions may establish higher standards at their own discretion. Students are advised to check with the university concerned before submitting an application.



## **China University Admissions Requirements**

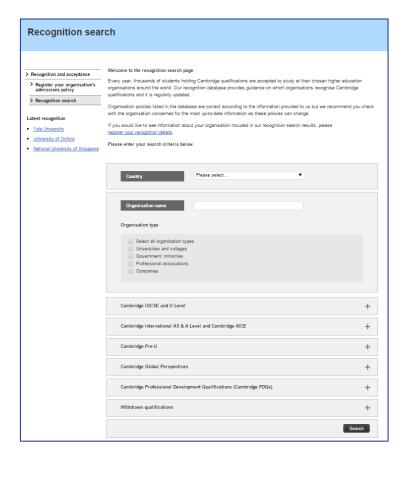


Tsinghua University welcomes students with A Levels.

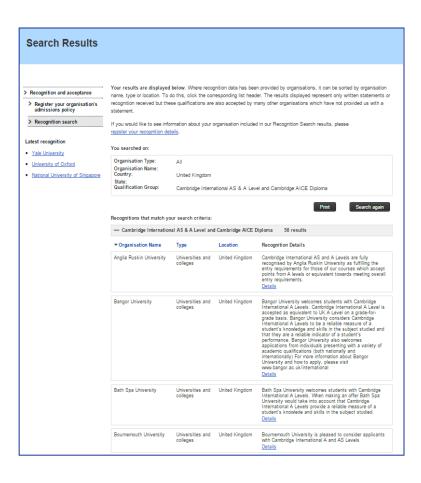
- 1. The majors/programs in science, engineering, economics and management require:
  - a. At least 3 subjects
  - b. Mathematics should be graded A, and Physics graded B or above
  - c. Other subjects should be relevant to the majors applied for and graded B or above.
- 2. The majors/programs in liberal arts require:
  - a. At least 3 subjects
  - b. English should be graded A, and others graded B or above
  - c. The applicants for Experimental Class of Social Sciences should have Mathematics.



## **Recognitions Database**



Search results →

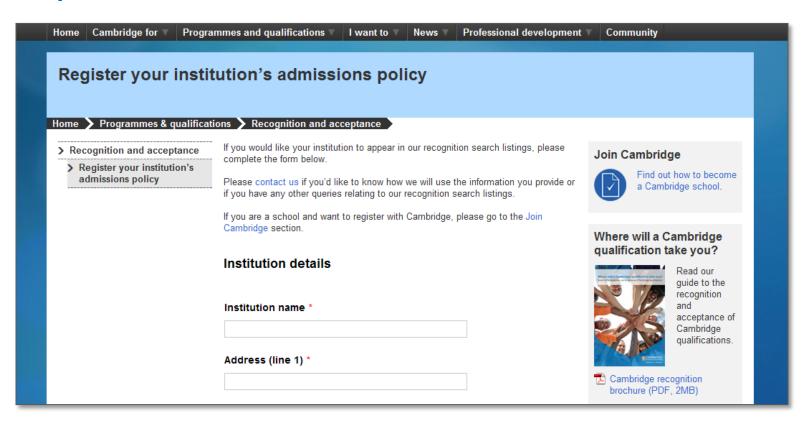


www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch



## How to add Recognition

<u>www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/</u>



Or email: recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org









## THANK YOU











