Dear Parents and Students

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. More than 9000 schools in over 160 countries are part of our Cambridge learning community.

We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit organization and a department of the University of Cambridge. We share in their mission of providing excellence in education.

Accepted worldwide

Choosing a course of study is one of the most important decisions a student will make. It is essential to check that qualifications are widely accepted and valued by further education institutes, universities and employers. Cambridge qualifications are recognized throughout the world.

Cambridge students are widely accepted in top study destinations, for example the USA, UK and Australia, as well as many other parts of the world, for example South Africa and Germany. We are committed to ensuring that university admissions offices, colleges, employers and professional bodies around the world understand the value of Cambridge qualifications.

Making the right choice

Cambridge international education programmes and qualifications follow a student-centred approach and area global passport to success – in education, university and the workplace. Content is multicultural and a wide range of subjects is available – including many country-specific courses.

Our global learning community of Cambridge schools, teachers and students brings people closer together to share best practice and ideas and drive excellence in education. Together with schools, we aim to develop Cambridge students who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged.
I value Cambridge preparation because the students we have received with that kind of preparation have done very well at the University. We like the fact that no matter where they come from, they come prepared.”

John Barnhill, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment, Florida State University

What does Cambridge offer?

The Cambridge programme is well known around the world. Elite International School offers a whole-school curriculum for 5 to 19 year olds. Below is information on the curriculum for the 5 to 19 age range as these assessments qualify students for entry to university in a range of countries.

Our programmes and qualifications lead seamlessly from primary through to secondary and pre-university years. Our flexible approach means schools can offer every stage of a Cambridge education, or just focus on specific stages. We offer full support, designed carefully around the curriculum, qualifications, classroom resources and the needs of our global learning community.

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*Age ranges are for guidance only
Cambridge Primary

Cambridge Primary is typically for learners aged 5 to 11 years. It develops learner skills and understanding through the primary years in **English, mathematics and science**. Cambridge Primary provides you with a flexible framework which you can use to tailor the curriculum to your needs. We provide assessment tools to help you identify what children are learning, monitor their progress and report to parents. Cambridge Primary is an excellent preparation for Cambridge Secondary 1, and for progression to other educational systems.

**Our curriculum**
- sets clear learning objectives in English, mathematics and science for each year
- focuses on learners’ development in each year
- is compatible with other curricula, internationally relevant to different needs and cultures
- is suitable for learners whose first language is not English, with an optional English as a Second Language curriculum
- provides schools with international benchmarks.

**Cambridge Primary Progression Tests:**
- provide detailed information about the performance of each learner for stages 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the curriculum
- enable teachers to give structured feedback to learners and parents

**Cambridge Primary Checkpoint:**
- is a test for learners at the end of the final year of Cambridge Primary and is available in English, mathematics and science.
- **tests skills, knowledge and understanding at the end of stages 4–6 of the curriculum for English and mathematics, and stages 3–6 of the curriculum for science**
- the tests are marked in Cambridge to provide an international benchmark of performance
- each learner receives a statement of achievement and a diagnostic feedback report
- the feedback report shows how a learner has performed in relation to the curriculum, their learning group, the whole school, and against all learners who have taken tests in that series around the world.
- helps teachers to monitor group and individual performance and manage learning programmes

*Cambridge Primary has changed the way we teach, not only at primary level but thinking ahead to Cambridge IGCSE. That has been a great asset.*
Gladys Lesmi Dallas, Teacher, Belgrano Day School, Argentina
Cambridge Secondary 1

Cambridge Secondary 1 is an education programme for learners aged 11 to 14 years that builds skills, knowledge and understanding in English, mathematics and science. Cambridge International Examinations prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

"Students are both challenged and excited by Cambridge curricula, and are extremely well prepared to succeed at the highest levels at even the most prestigious institutions of higher learning." – Alexander B Carter, Principal, Brentsville District High School, USA

Our international qualifications are recognised by the world’s best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners’ potential.

Your child’s needs as a learner are at the heart of our approach to education. Our programmes and qualifications aim to give your child a love of learning that will stay with them through school, university and beyond.

Benefits for your child

Cambridge Secondary 1 starts learners on an educational journey for their first years of secondary education, increasing their knowledge and skills at each stage. It provides a natural progression for children from primary education and prepares them for post-14 education programmes that lead to formal qualifications.

A number of progress checks are built into the Cambridge Secondary 1 programme, which enable teachers to monitor your child’s development. Short progression tests are a valuable way for teachers to understand your child’s strengths, and identify areas where more help is required. The emphasis of the tests is on showing where your child is on their learning journey, rather than getting right or wrong answers.

Cambridge Checkpoint tests can be taken in the final year of Cambridge Secondary 1. These tests are available in English, mathematics and science and are marked in Cambridge. On completion of Cambridge Checkpoint, your child will receive a statement of achievement and detailed feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. This helps your school to advise on different progression routes after age 14 and choose the one that will be most suitable for your child.
Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge IGCSE is the world’s most popular international curriculum for 14 to 16 year olds. Cambridge IGCSE encourages student-centred and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It also develops skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving students excellent preparation for higher-level courses such as Cambridge International AS and A Levels, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U, the North American Advanced Placement Test and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Schools can offer any combination of subjects. Each subject is certificated separately. Over 70 subjects are available, including more than 30 language courses, and they are suitable for learners of different abilities.

Cambridge IGCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, with UK GCSE qualifications. Passing grades for Cambridge IGCSE are A*–G, with A* being the highest. U is Ungraded.

I think there are tremendous benefits to pursuing the Cambridge curriculum. It is a proven international curriculum for success in higher education and we know that students who pursue it have been successful around the world.

Jerry Lucido, CERPP Executive Director, University of Southern California

We chose Cambridge IGCSE because it offers positive benefits for our students, including the flexibility to cater for less able pupils as well as stretching the most able.

Jayne Jennings, Head of Modern Languages, Abingdon School, UK

There is a group award called Cambridge ICE which is comprised of Cambridge IGCSEs from five different curriculum areas. It is awarded to candidates who have passed IGCSE in at least seven subjects; two from languages, and at least one each from humanities and social sciences; sciences; mathematics and creative, technical and vocational.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge IGCSE, visit:
www.cie.org.uk/igcse

“Cambridge provides students with the edge when it comes to university acceptance. It broadens skill sets, provides deeper knowledge and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills.”

Cambridge principal, South Africa
Cambridge International AS and A Levels

Cambridge International A Levels have formed part of the Cambridge qualifications framework for over 50 years and are widely recognised for entry into higher education. Good Cambridge International AS and A Level grades can be a key to admission to the world’s major English-speaking universities.

Cambridge International A Levels typically take two years to complete and offer a flexible course of study. With 55 subjects to choose from, schools can offer almost any combination from the wide range of subjects available.

Cambridge International AS Levels have half the content of the corresponding Cambridge International A Level and may be completed in one year. Schools can offer Cambridge International AS Level as a qualification in its own right, or as a stage on the way to a full Cambridge International A Level. Students can study Cambridge International AS Level alongside other Cambridge International A Level subjects to increase breadth in the curriculum and build further knowledge and understanding.

Cambridge International AS and A Levels are recognized by UCAS and universities in the UK and overseas as equivalent, grade for grade, with UK AS and A Levels. Passing grades for Cambridge International A Levels are A*–E, with A* being the highest. There is no A* grade awarded at Cambridge International AS Level. U is Ungraded for both qualifications.

For more information and a list of subjects offered within Cambridge International AS and A Levels, visit: www.cie.org.uk/alevel

“Cambridge International A Levels are the ‘gold standard’ qualification. They are based on rigorous, academic syllabuses that are accessible to students from a wide range of abilities yet have the capacity to stretch our most able.”

Mark Vella, Director of Studies, Auckland Grammar School, New Zealand
University recognition worldwide

Cambridge qualifications are accepted by universities all around the world. Many universities have sent us official statements confirming their entry policies, and examples from some of the most popular destination countries for Cambridge students can be found on the following pages.

For full details of all of the official statements, check our recognition database at www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch

Many more universities will also be happy to accept Cambridge qualifications as proof of your academic ability upon application. However, before you apply to any institution, it is essential that you check the exact entry requirements for your selected course(s) on the university website and then with the university’s admissions office if you still have any queries.

It is also very important to remember that university entry is always competitive so achieving the minimum entry requirements is not a guarantee of admission; the higher your grades and the stronger your application documents, the better your chance of being accepted to your chosen programme.