



International Students

The University of Cambridge is one of the most ancient and distinguished universities in the world. It is situated some 50 miles north of London and teaching has taken place in the city since 1209. Today there are over 17,000 students at the University including almost 3,000 international students from a wide range of countries.

The University's academic year runs from October to June, and the undergraduate application process starts a year in advance and is dealt with by the Colleges within the University. There are 29 Colleges who admit undergraduate students. The Colleges do not specialise in particular subjects and in general each admits student for all the courses offered by the University.

Before we begin to look at the University and application procedure in more detail, please note:

- 1) The University of Cambridge **ONLINE PROSPECTUS** can be reached at www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/ and includes specific information for applicants from outside of the EU.
- 2) If you would like **A PAPER COPY OF THE PROSPECTUS**, please note that we make a charge to mail Prospectuses to addresses outside of the EU. This is to cover the cost of postage and packing. Currently the charge is £9.50 or US \$15. If you request a Prospectus, we will not mail it until we have received payment of a cheque for £9.50 in pounds sterling, drawn on a UK bank, or for US \$15.
- 3) **CAMBRIDGE OVERSEAS APPLICATION FORMS FOR 2011 ENTRY** will normally be available in April 2009. Forms can be downloaded from the University's website at: www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/apply/ or can be obtained from the Cambridge Admissions Office.
- 4) **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** For more information regarding the suitability of your academic qualifications you should, in the first instance, contact the Cambridge Admissions Office with brief details of the courses that you have taken/are taking, together with your achieved/expected grades and indicate clearly the subject that you are intending to study at the University.

Choice of courses

The University offers a wide range of courses in arts, social science, medicine, science and engineering disciplines. To find out more about the courses available at Cambridge, you should study the information on the University website and/or in the *Undergraduate Prospectus* (see 'Further information' section). In most subjects, the first degree at Cambridge is the Bachelor of Arts (with Honours). In this context, the word 'arts' is used as a synonym for 'skills' and covers all subjects including the sciences. The BA degree is normally a three-year post-secondary school course but some subjects such as Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Modern Languages can be studied over four years.

Another means of entry to Cambridge that is worth a special mention is as an affiliated student – a graduate of another university. Affiliated students can normally study an undergraduate degree at Cambridge in two years instead of the usual three. In order to compete successfully for a place, applicants are required to have already achieved a first-class (or equivalent) degree.

Academic ability and entrance requirements

Cambridge is one of the most selective of all universities. Only about 25% of applicants are successful, and of these only about 10% are from outside the UK. While academic strength is a pre-requisite, it does not guarantee acceptance; Colleges are looking for motivated students who they feel are well matched for the courses they have chosen.

Most successful UK applicants to Cambridge have obtained passes in at least five subjects at GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and three A grades at A level (the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education). There are also formal course requirements in some cases where applicants are expected to have studied certain relevant subjects to an appropriate standard. As a general guide to those who have not taken GCSEs and A levels, it would be unrealistic to make an application unless you are in the top 1-2% of your year group and are particularly excelling in the subject area that you wish to study at university.

For more information regarding the suitability of your academic qualifications as preparation for studying at the University of Cambridge we recommend that you contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or an Admissions Tutor at any of the Cambridge Colleges. Contact details for the Colleges can be found on our website (www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/colleges/).

If your first language is not English, it is essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake an intensive and challenge academic course that is taught and examined in English. As a result you will be asked to demonstrate your English language skills through a formal qualification such as IELTS (minimum score of 7.0), GCSE in English Language (grade C), Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English or Cambridge Certificate in Proficiency in English.

Costs and finance

In addition to air fares and/or other travel costs, there are three elements to the costs involved in studying at the University of Cambridge:

- 1) University fees
- 2) College fees
- 3) Living expenses

There is some variation in these costs, depending upon your course and College, but some generalisation is possible. Based on 2009-10 figures, the University fee for overseas students in arts subjects is £9,747 annually. For sciences and other practically-based courses the figure is £12,768. For clinical students (in their last three years of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine) the University fees are £23,631 annually.

The College fees for undergraduates are typically in the range £4,000 - £5,000 per year. Living expenses are variable but one should budget for about £7,700 to cover an academic year of nine months (the Long Vacation runs from the beginning of July to the end of September). These figures relate to single/unaccompanied students.

For undergraduate courses, there are unfortunately virtually no full-cost scholarships. The Cambridge Commonwealth Trust provides a number of modest 'top-up' awards and individual Colleges may offer bursaries of a few hundred pounds – usually to cover specific items such as books. Occasionally private sponsorship can be found, particularly for courses such as Engineering and some countries offer their own scholarships but the number available is usually very small. As a result most of the financial burden is likely to fall on applicants and their families. It is important to note that there is no possibility of Cambridge students supporting themselves, even partially, by taking a job during term time.

Choice of College

The University of Cambridge is made up of a number of Colleges, 29 of these admit undergraduate students. The Colleges provide essentially the same range of facilities: accommodation, food, pastoral care and personal tuition. Colleges are also the centre of social life for students at Cambridge. Most Colleges admit a variety of students. However, there are some exceptions: Newnham College, Murray Edwards and Lucy Cavendish College admit only women; Hughes Hall, Lucy Cavendish College, St Edmund's College and Wolfson College admit students aged over 21 only. Most Colleges admit students in all subjects, although there are some exceptions. For further information about all the Colleges and for details of which Colleges offer the subject that you wish to study please see the University website (www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/).

Probably the most important criterion in choosing a College is the character of its student body. Generally speaking undergraduates on a three- or four-year course are likely to fit easily into any Cambridge College. Students over 21 may prefer to consider one of the four 'mature' Colleges.

The older Colleges tend to be near the city centre, with the newer ones a 15 minute walk away. Only for Girton College (3 km north of the city centre) and Homerton (2km south of the city centre) will you need to resort to bicycle or bus. Cycling is an everyday form of transport for many students in Cambridge – the roads are flat and there are many cycle paths.

If, having read all this, you still have no preference for a particular College, you may elect to make an 'open' application. This will result in your application being allocated by computer to the College with the fewest applications for your course. Thereafter, you will be treated in exactly the same way as any other applicant to that College and you can be assured that you will not be disadvantaged by making an open application.

Application procedure

Like applying to other UK universities, to apply to the University of Cambridge you must do so through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) and make a UCAS application. However, applicants from outside the EU must **also** complete a Cambridge Overseas Application Form (COAF). On your UCAS application and your COAF you should indicate the Cambridge College to which you wish to apply. If you have no preference for a particular College, you can choose to make an 'open' application.

More information about UCAS can be obtained by looking at their website (www.ucas.ac.uk). You will be given a UCAS Personal Identification Number, which will enable you to track the status of your application to Cambridge, and any other UK university you have applied to, via the UCAS website.

The closing date for receipt of both your UCAS application and the COAF is **15 October** the year before you wish to commence studying at Cambridge. The University regularly conducts overseas interviews in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, and India. If you wish to be considered for interview in one of these countries your Cambridge Overseas Application Form should reach Cambridge by **20 September** (except in the case of Hong Kong where the 15 October deadline remains).

If you would wish to be considered for interview overseas or you are submitting an open application, you should send the COAF to the Overseas Application Centre, Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO), Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QY. If you are willing and able to come to Cambridge, if invited, for an interview and are applying direct to College, you should send the COAF to the Admissions Office of that College to arrive by the closing date. Please note that affiliated applicants **must** apply to a College – there is no open application route for affiliated applicants.

An outline of the application timetable is given below.

April onwards	Research the courses available at Cambridge and the College system by consulting the University website or Undergraduate Prospectus. See 'Further information' section below.
June-October	Obtain a Cambridge Overseas Application Form (see 'Further information' section below). Send your completed application form to the appropriate address see 'Application procedure' section) together with the application fee. Please do not try to fax the form. Open applications are processed by computer soon after the 15 October deadline and are allocated to Colleges, which thereafter take over the admissions process and will contact you direct. You should also submit a UCAS application to UCAS.
September-December	UK applicants are interviewed. Overseas applicants may be invited for interview or asked to submit samples of their work/sit admissions tests, some may be considered without interview.
January	Applicants are notified of decisions. The possibilities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application unsuccessful • the offer of a conditional place, subject to obtaining specified examination grades • the offer of an unconditional place
October	Academic year starts.

Further information

- University website

If you have any further questions about studying at the University of Cambridge a useful place to do some research is the University website (www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/), which gives information about the courses available, the timetable for admissions and details about all Colleges and departments. In addition to our online Prospectus, information on studying at Cambridge or in the UK in general is available from your local British Council office and on the British Council website (www.educationuk.org).

- Undergraduate Prospectus

The University of Cambridge online Prospectus can be reached at www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/ and includes specific information for overseas applicants. If you would like a paper copy of the Prospectus, please note that we make a charge for mailing the Prospectus to addresses outside the EU. This is to cover the cost of postage and packing. Currently the charge is £9.50 or US \$15. If you request a copy of the Prospectus, we will not mail it until we have received payment of a cheque for £9.50 in pounds sterling or for US \$15.

- Cambridge Overseas Application Forms

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- Summer Schools

Each summer the Institute of Continuing Education run a number of subject-specific summer schools for international students. More information about these events can be found at www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk.