



**Cambridge Assessment**  
International Education

# Destination UK

Using your Cambridge  
qualifications to study  
in the UK

## Contents

A pathway to UK university success.....	1
Why choose the UK? .....	2
Applying to university in the UK .....	3
How to apply .....	5
What happens when I receive my Cambridge exam results?.....	6
Student success stories: A passport to study in the UK.....	7
Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition .....	8

## About us

### **Cambridge Assessment International Education**

We are part of the University of Cambridge. We prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning.

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.

Find out more about us at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition)

### **Cambridge Assessment English**

Our sister organisation, Cambridge Assessment English, help millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world. They provide the world's leading range of qualifications and tests for learners and teachers of English. Globally recognised by more than 20,000 leading universities, employers and governments, these research-based assessments are a mark of excellence that open doors.

Find out more about Cambridge Assessment English recognition by visiting their website at [www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition)

# A pathway to UK university success

Cambridge qualifications help you develop the knowledge, understanding and skills you need to achieve success at school, university and beyond. Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised by UK higher education institutions as equivalent to UK GCE AS and A Levels. They are valued by UK universities as academically rigorous qualifications that give you the skills to succeed at university and in the workplace.

Cambridge qualifications prepare you for the next stage of your educational journey. We believe that it is essential to make sure that those who hold Cambridge qualifications are well prepared to succeed in their studies at university and beyond, and are well equipped with the necessary academic skills to do this.

In March 2016, UK NARIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, carried out an independent evaluation of the Cambridge IGCSE™, Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE Diploma, in the context of the UK education system. They found the Cambridge international qualifications to be comparable to the standard of the equivalent UK qualifications.

You can find the benchmarking reports at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/349922-benchmarking-selected-cambridge-international-qualifications-executive.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/349922-benchmarking-selected-cambridge-international-qualifications-executive.pdf)

## Did you know?

- The UK offers a world-renowned education system with degree-level qualifications that can make a real difference to your future.
- The UK education system gives you the freedom to combine courses and subjects from different areas of study, so you can tailor your degree to your own needs and interests.
- UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) provides international guides that help to explain UK higher education and how to make a university application through UCAS. These guides have been translated into a number of different languages, and you can download them from [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Cambridge International AS & A Level is taught in over 2500 schools in more than 130 countries.

“ The academic background of an applicant who has studied Cambridge qualifications is ideal in preparing students for the transition to higher education. Students with Cambridge qualifications perform well. ”

Admissions Officers Survey, 2018

Please note: All information is correct at the time of publication. For the latest information and statements from UK universities accepting Cambridge qualifications, search our recognition database at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch)

## Why choose the UK?

There are many reasons to apply to study at undergraduate level in the UK. The quality of UK education is internationally recognised by employers, universities and governments, making it a popular choice for many international students. The UK is also renowned for the excellence of its research and teaching. There are over 160 universities and colleges in the UK with degree-awarding powers, many of which rank among the best in the world.

A number of universities have formed groups with common interests, for example:

**The Russell Group** is an association of 24 leading research-intensive universities.  
[www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)

**University Alliance** focuses on combining science and technology with design and creative industries.  
[www.unialliance.ac.uk](http://www.unialliance.ac.uk)



### Which course is right for you?

Choosing the right university course is a very important decision. We suggest that you:

- take time to research the courses that are on offer
- think about the type of university you are most interested in
- consider the location of the university
- engage with the choice of activities on offer
- understand the costs, including course fees, accommodation and living expenses.

This information is available on university websites. Many UK universities have specialist admissions tutors who can talk to you about your options.

You can find more information on the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

# Applying to university in the UK

## Choose wisely

Wherever you decide to study, it is important to do as much research as possible. If you can visit the UK before applying, you could do the following:

- Attending some **university open days**. Learn more at [www.ucas.com/opendays](http://www.ucas.com/opendays)
- **View virtual tours and videos** from universities and colleges on their own websites
- Meet UCAS' international team at **overseas education conventions**. Learn more at [www.ucas.com/international-events](http://www.ucas.com/international-events)

Once you have an idea of what and where you would like to study, you can find lots more information on the UK's 50 000 higher education courses in the UCAS search pages at [www.ucas.com/search](http://www.ucas.com/search)

## Entry requirements

Before selecting a course, there are a number of things to check first, such as entry requirements.

Each higher education course has its own entry requirements. You will usually have to achieve certain exam grades and you may need qualifications in particular subjects to make sure that you have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course.

- Universities list the entry requirements for each of their courses on their websites alongside other requirements, such as an admissions test or an interview. Check the entry requirements for each of your selected courses carefully since these vary from university to university, even for the same course of study.
- Some universities and colleges use **UCAS tariff points** (visit [www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator)) or a combination of tariff points and exam grades in their entry requirements. However, if you receive an offer with a tariff, you can contact the university directly to convert the tariff into grades.
- All admission to universities is competitive and they have only limited numbers of places available. Satisfying the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

## Cambridge International AS & A Levels

- Cambridge International AS & A Levels are equivalent to UK GCE AS and A Levels, which means that you will have to meet the same entry requirements as students applying with UK GCE A Levels.
- Check that your choice of Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects is suitable for your intended degree course by checking entry requirements with your chosen university.
- The Russell Group have launched a helpful website to inform post-16 subject choices and the degree routes these open. Details at [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)

## Cambridge IGCSEs or Cambridge O Levels

- Cambridge IGCSEs and Cambridge O Levels are equivalent to UK GCSEs. Universities will accept candidates whose grade is expressed using either the 9-1 or A\*-G scale (A\*-E for O level) on an equivalent basis to UK GCSE students.
- Applicants for most courses must normally demonstrate a broad general education including acceptable levels of literacy and numeracy to at least grade C or grade 4 in Cambridge IGCSE English Language, Science and Mathematics. (This does not necessarily mean these qualifications meet the English competency requirement for Tier 4 visas.)
- Some university courses require additional GCSEs/IGCSEs, sometimes in specific subjects and/or with higher grades.
- For full information on undergraduate courses, visit individual universities' websites or go to the **UCAS website** at [www.ucas.com/search](http://www.ucas.com/search)





### Admissions tests

- You may be asked to take an admissions test, for example if you want to study medicine or law.
- You may be asked to attend an interview or audition (for performing arts) as part of the entry requirements for your chosen course.
- UCAS explains more about **admissions tests** at [www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests) or visit individual university websites.



### Types of course

- There are thousands of excellent courses offered by UK universities and colleges which lead to qualifications that are valued worldwide.
- A full-time bachelor's or undergraduate degree normally takes three years to complete.

### English language proficiency test

- When applying to study at undergraduate level in the UK, you must be able to prove you can communicate effectively in English in an academic environment.
- You normally need to provide certification of your competence in English before starting your studies. You can find details of English language requirements on each university's website. These may vary depending on the course and the university.
- Some UK universities recognise Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level English Language qualifications as evidence of English language proficiency for university study. Most universities accept these qualifications for general admissions purposes. However, it is important that you check the English language requirements of your selected universities and individual departments or faculties before submitting your application. This is because English language requirements may differ depending on your nationality and where you are domiciled.

- Applicants who require a Tier 4 (General) student visa must obtain a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from their chosen university before submitting a visa application to the Home Office. Students from outside of the UK may require a student (Tier 4) visa to undertake a period of study in the UK. Learn more in the immigration and visa section of the UCAS website [www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/student-visas-immigration-and-english-language-tests](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/student-visas-immigration-and-english-language-tests)
- We offer support if you require Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) evidence of your competence in English as part of your visa application to study in the UK. Learn more in the 'Certifying statement for CEFR' section at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsuk](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsuk)
- Find out how to enter your **Cambridge IGCSE English language grades** on your UCAS application at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/179016-instructions-for-students-applying-to-study-in-the-uk-through-ucas.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/179016-instructions-for-students-applying-to-study-in-the-uk-through-ucas.pdf)
- The **UK Home Office website (gov.uk)** also provides information about the documents required for studying in the UK. For further information, view the website document: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752873/T4\\_Migrant\\_Guidance\\_NOV\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_VERSION.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752873/T4_Migrant_Guidance_NOV_2018_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)

“ Cambridge International A Levels are an excellent 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. ”

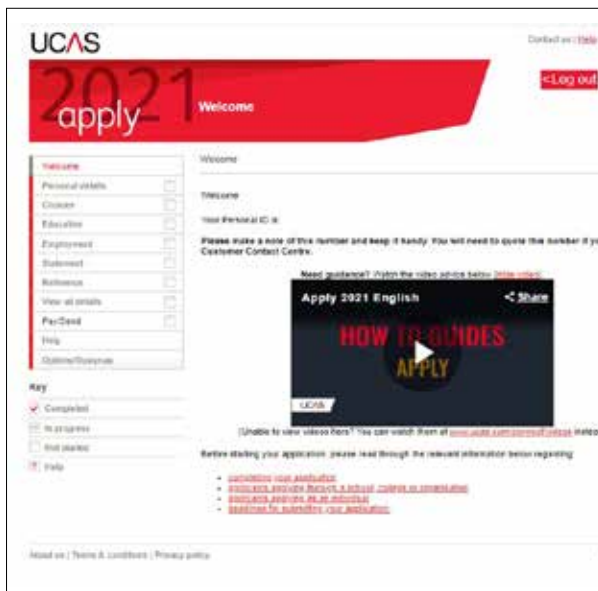
Richard Partington, Senior Tutor, Churchill College, University of Cambridge

“ We're pretty pleased with Cambridge qualifications as a preparation for university study. Indeed, I suppose we are so pleased that we offer them ourselves as part of our foundation programme, so that's really the strongest endorsement that a university can offer. ”

Professor Richard Harvey, Academic Director of Admissions, University of East Anglia

## Fee status

There are two fee levels at publicly funded universities: home student fees and international student fees. If you are not sure about your fee category, please contact the university or college you intend to apply to. Ask them to complete a fee status assessment to determine whether you will be considered a home or international student for fee purposes.



## How to apply

Almost all applications to UK universities for full-time undergraduate courses are made through UCAS.

Find out how to apply in UCAS website's '**Getting started**' section at: [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/ucas-undergraduate-getting-started](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/ucas-undergraduate-getting-started)

However, some universities do accept direct applications. You can apply to some universities using the common application form. Learn more at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

You can start to complete your online UCAS application form from June of the year before you wish to start study. You can submit UCAS applications from September.

Learn more on the UCAS website under the '**Application Deadlines**' ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) section.

## Guidance on how to complete the UCAS application with Cambridge qualifications

Start the application on the UCAS online system via the 'Apply' link at: [www.ucas.com/students](http://www.ucas.com/students)

Follow the instructions at [ucas.com](http://ucas.com) to fill in your UCAS undergraduate application.

To add your Cambridge IGCSE qualifications follow the instructions at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/179016-instructions-for-students-applying-to-study-in-the-uk-through-ucas.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/179016-instructions-for-students-applying-to-study-in-the-uk-through-ucas.pdf)

To add your Cambridge International AS & A Levels, follow instructions at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/563572-ucas-applications-applying-with-cambridge-international-a-levels.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/563572-ucas-applications-applying-with-cambridge-international-a-levels.pdf)

# What happens when I receive my Cambridge exam results?

- We will send your Cambridge International AS & A Level results directly to UCAS. You do not need to send your results to your chosen universities.
- UCAS matches your exam results to your application and sends your results to your firm and insurance choice universities.
- Your chosen universities check whether your results meet the conditions of your offers and send their decisions to UCAS. These are shown in 'Track' at [www.ucas.com/students](http://www.ucas.com/students)
- If you have achieved the required grades for your firm choice, your place at that university will be confirmed. If you have missed those requirements but have been successful at meeting your insurance choice grades, your place at the insurance choice university will be confirmed.
- If you have been unsuccessful in your first and insurance choice universities, you may be able to go through UCAS Clearing. UCAS Clearing gives prospective students the chance to apply to university courses with places still available after results day. For more information, visit the UCAS website '**What is clearing**' section.

## Next steps

UCAS

Once you have completed your UCAS application you will be able to track what happens next by going to the UCAS website '**What happens next**' section.

## Other useful websites

- UKCISA website: information, advice, fees and money ([www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk))
- British Council Education UK Scholarships and Financial Support (<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/scholarships-financial-support>)
- UK government's student finance calculator ([www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator))
- International Student Calculator (<https://international.studentcalculator.org>)





# Student success stories

## A passport to study in the UK

**Sidharth Ranjith**, a former student at NES International School, Mumbai, India. Studying Accounting and Finance at the University of Bath

“Academically, taking Cambridge International A Levels meant that most of what I learnt during the first year at university was easier to grasp. From a social perspective, my school gave me opportunities to host events and work with others, which was extremely useful when I started university. Cambridge examinations take a very application-based approach, meaning that you need to understand what you learn and not just memorise it.”



**Danny Huang**, a former student at The ABC International School, Vietnam: now studying for a PhD in Engineering at the University of Cambridge

“Having done so many exams, from Cambridge IGCSEs and A Levels to ones at university, I genuinely believe that you need to understand the course materials rather than just memorise the details word for word. I believe this is closely linked to choosing subjects that you are passionate about; an opportunity that Cambridge offers with its A Levels.”



**Mehr u Nisa**, a former student at Froebel's International School, Islamabad, Pakistan; studied an MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development at the University of Warwick, and previously University College London

“The assessment style of Cambridge International's qualifications is very similar to that of universities in the UK. This helped me settle in quickly to the method of teaching and exams in university. I would strongly recommend Cambridge International's programmes and qualifications to students in Pakistan. Being well recognised world-wide, they definitely give an added advantage when applying abroad, especially to the UK.”



**Nandana Syam**, a former student at Christ Nagar International School, India, and currently studying Medicine at the University of Oxford

“I am currently a second year medical student at the University of Oxford and have found that studying the Cambridge IGCSE has played a major role in my journey here. It taught me to think in a critical manner and to focus on understanding concepts instead of memorising them. It also made my transition back to the UK much easier as my grades were accepted by universities easily and required no further English qualifications. Studying this syllabus allowed me to have a global perspective on education, especially thanks to the German exchange programme, and to push myself to achieve my best. Not only the syllabus, but also Christ Nagar as an institution and its teachers and students have been vital in shaping who I am.”



**Raunaq Bagchi**, a former student at the Cambridge School, Kolkata, India; undergraduate, Imperial College, London

“Going to university and the further exploration of my discipline of interest would not have been possible without the accreditation of the Cambridge system. Through its internationally accredited subject curricula and growing presence among educational institutes in India, this examination board has eased my transition from high school to a leading UK university.”



# Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition

Leading universities and employers worldwide value and recognise Cambridge qualifications as evidence of academic ability.

## Recognition statements

The recognition database on our website lists worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements, so you can see where your Cambridge qualifications are accepted. There are many more institutions not listed in the database that accept Cambridge qualifications. To see the latest information, or to search for your chosen institution, visit our recognitions database at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch)

Here are some examples of the official recognition that Cambridge qualifications have received from UK higher education institutions:

### University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh welcomes applications from students with Cambridge International qualifications, including students with Cambridge International A Levels. Cambridge International A Level is accepted as equivalent to UK A Level on a grade-for-grade basis. The University's undergraduate prospectus and website give further information about our A Level entry requirements, including any required subjects. For more information about the University of Edinburgh and how to apply go to [www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

### University of Oxford

The University of Oxford welcomes students with Cambridge International A Levels. Cambridge International A Level is accepted by the University of Oxford as equivalent to UK A Level on a grade-for-grade basis. When making an offer the University of Oxford would take into account the following facts: Cambridge International A Levels are linear and therefore re-takes are only allowed for the whole subject. They provide a reliable measure of a student's knowledge and skills in the subject studied, are a reliable test of a student's problem-solving and critical thinking abilities and are reliable indicators of a student's performance.

The University of Oxford has for many years accepted the Cambridge International A Level as a suitable qualification to meet our conditions for entry to the collegiate University. The qualifications provide candidates with suitable subject knowledge, although the competitive nature of our applications means that success in the A Level alone does not automatically result in an offer. Further details on making an application for undergraduate study at Oxford can be accessed at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate)

### University of Manchester

The University of Manchester welcomes students with Cambridge International A Levels. The University of Manchester accepts International A Levels as equivalent to GCE A Levels and accept them on a grade-for-grade basis. We have no plans to change this in light of the planned reforms to Cambridge International A Levels. We continue to view them both as excellent preparation and indicators of potential for progression to university study. For more information about the University of Manchester and how to apply please visit [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk)

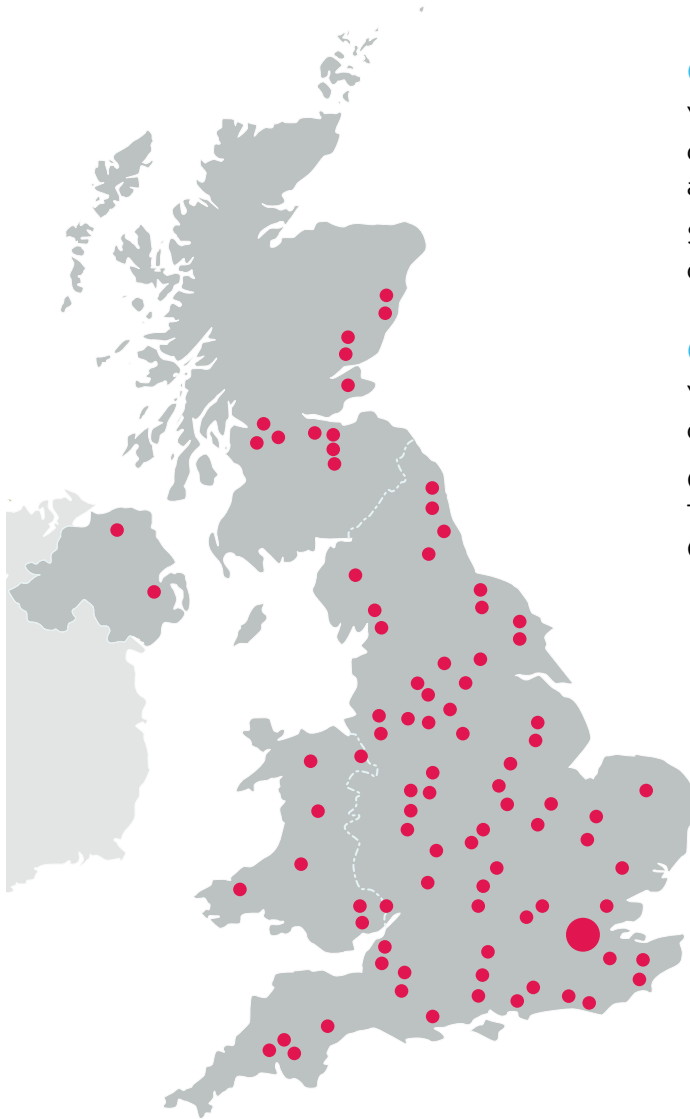
### Newcastle University

We welcome applications from candidates with Cambridge International qualifications. Our experience is that Cambridge Advanced qualifications such as Cambridge International AS and A Levels are consistently robust and reliable, and prepare students very well for higher education. Cambridge International A Level is accepted as equivalent to UK A Level on a grade-for-grade basis. For more information about Newcastle University and how to apply please visit [www.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.ncl.ac.uk)

### Cardiff University

Cardiff University will accept Cambridge International A Level as equivalent to a UK A Level on a grade-for-grade basis and would encourage applications from candidates presenting this qualification. Please note that the re-take policy differs based on subject and programme of study, so applicants presenting a re-take qualification are advised to contact the university directly for advice. For more information about Cardiff University and how to apply please visit [www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

## Cambridge recognition across the UK



● Universities that accept Cambridge qualifications

### Online help

You can find answers to frequently asked questions about Cambridge exams and services at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/help](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/help)

Simply type your question into the search box, or use the menu to guide you.

### Contact us

You can email us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) or call us on +44 1223 553554.

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“ We accept Cambridge qualifications as directly equivalent to their UK counterparts. We think they are very robust and trusted qualifications. Students come to us with in-depth knowledge and general skills such as independent learning, problem-solving and critical thinking that they will need to get them through their degree programme. ”

Jo Labudek, Head of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Birmingham

# Learn more

## Recognition database

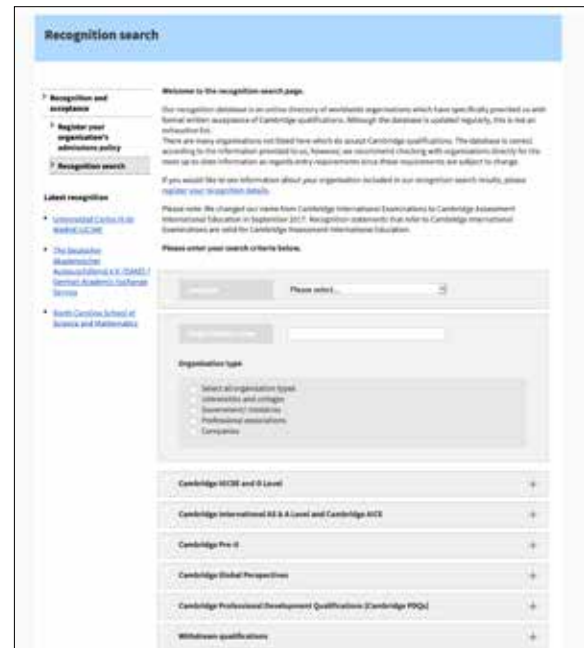
Our recognition database shows all the institutions worldwide that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements, allowing students to see where their Cambridge qualifications are accepted. You can search for a particular university to check their entry criteria for Cambridge students.

For the latest information, or to search for your chosen institution, go to our website recognition page at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch)

## Customer Services

You can email us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) or call us on +44 1223 553554.

We are available 24 hours a day, 6 days a week.



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