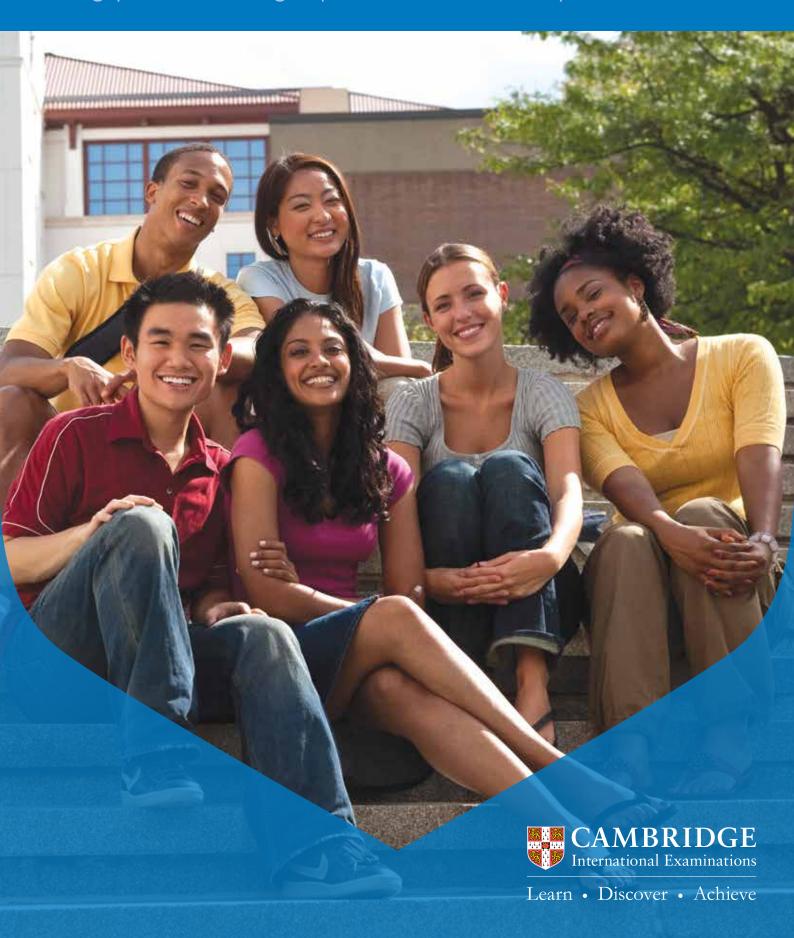
Destination USA

Using your Cambridge qualifications to study in the USA





A pathway to US university success with Cambridge

Every year, students with Cambridge qualifications from around the world are successfully admitted to top universities across the USA. Many universities also offer advanced credit to students holding Cambridge International A Levels, which means that Cambridge students are already ahead in their undergraduate programme before they even begin their college enrolment.

Cambridge qualifications prepare students for the next stage of their educational journey. We believe that it is essential to make sure that students holding Cambridge qualifications don't just get into universities in the United States, but also that they are well prepared to succeed in their studies and are well equipped with the necessary academic skills.

More than 450 institutions across the United States formally recognise our qualifications and many more will accept them upon application.

Universities with formal recognition policies include all of the Ivy League institutions, as well as other renowned universities across the country.

Cambridge US Higher Education Advisory Council

The Cambridge US Higher Education Advisory Council gives us expert advice on admissions policies and the skills and knowledge required by American universities, as well as helping to raise the profile of Cambridge qualifications across the country. The council meets twice a year and its current members include the universities of Columbia, Duke, Florida State, Maryland, Michigan, MIT, Penn State, Texas, USC, Virginia, Washington and Yale.

Did you know?

We also work with over **210** American schools to offer Cambridge qualifications in the USA. In 2012, over **50 000** Cambridge IGCSE® and Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications were taken in the USA.



Chris Hanson studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels at Bay High School in Florida, USA, before being admitted to Stanford University in California.

66 I took Cambridge International AS Level
Biology, and I have since had a very successful
career in the biological and natural sciences at
Stanford. The same applies with mathematics
and English. I can't recommend the Cambridge
program highly enough. It got me into one of the
top universities in the world and in the US.
A brilliant program, fantastic teachers and a lot
of hard work have given me a wonderful head
start, and I am grateful to Cambridge for that.

66 We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university **99**

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA

Please note: All information is correct at June 2013. For the latest information and statements on US universities accepting Cambridge qualifications, search our recognitions database at recognition.cie.org.uk

Applying to study in the USA

Choosing a university programme is a very important decision. You will need to think about the type of university you are most interested in, the location of the university, the choice of activities on offer, and the costs.

Information on all of these areas is readily available through university websites. Many universities also have admissions counsellors who can talk to you about your options. We recommend that you think carefully about what choices are right for you and then choose an undergraduate programme that suits your needs.

There are a large number and variety of higher education institutions in the USA. Four-year institutions typically offer full bachelor degree programmes, whereas two-year colleges usually offer associate degree programmes. You will need to begin researching college options as early as possible so that you can meet all the application and testing deadlines where applicable.

How do I apply?

All universities will require you to complete an application form.

Many universities, but not all, use the Common Application form (www.commonapp.org) which allows you to apply to multiple institutions using one form. This must be submitted online. A Levels are specifically listed in the 'Testing' section, under Senior Secondary



Leaving Examinations, and can also be inputted as current year courses in the 'Education' section. Universities may also offer their own institutionspecific applications and most are available online.

You will be required to answer one or more essay questions and provide information regarding your extracurricular activities. Your school will need to submit other forms, including a transcript (your detailed academic record while at school), one or more recommendation letters and a letter from your guidance counsellor/tutor/head teacher or equivalent.

The US-UK Fulbright Commission's website (www.fulbright.org.uk) provides useful hints on how to complete the Common Application, as well as tips on the application process, for international students.

What subjects can I study?

Many US universities allow you to take a range of subjects in the first two years of your undergraduate degree before specialising in Years 3 and 4. This means that you will have the opportunity to explore the different subjects on offer before making a final decision on your major field of study. In some disciplines, however, curricula begin in Year 1. Course requirements vary widely from university to university and are typically available on the institution's website.

It is important to note that in the American university system, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and law are only available as postgraduate courses. If you are interested in studying one of these fields, you should plan to meet with an advisor at your university once you have enrolled in your undergraduate degree to discuss your postgraduate plans.

Do I need a Grade Point Average (GPA)?

Cambridge qualifications are awarded using grades and do not have a numerical grade point average. Most universities prefer that you apply giving details of your grades and do not enter any information about grade point averages. They understand the meaning of the grades for their systems and will be able to assess your application using this information. Credential



Applying to study in the USA continued

evaluators can be used to obtain a GPA if you are specifically requested to provide this. The university may suggest which credential evaluator you should use in this case. We often recommend that students seek a credential evaluation from more than one evaluation service. There is no universal method for calculating the GPA, so differences can occur between credential evaluators.

If you are unsure what is required, check with your chosen university, explaining which qualifications you hold or are studying.

Do I need to take SATs?

Entry to many universities in the USA requires students to present standardised test results from the SAT (www.collegeboard.org) or the ACT (www.act.org).

Some universities may also exempt students from all tests. Make sure you check the admissions requirements for your chosen university well in advance of making an application and then contact the university if you are unsure about what is required.

Do I need to take an English language proficiency test?

The most common English language proficiency tests required by universities are TOEFL and IELTS. You may be required to take one of these tests if you are not an English native





66 I think there are tremendous benefits to pursuing the Cambridge curriculum. It's 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

speaker. However, some universities will waive this requirement because you have been educated in English or if you hold a good grade in at least Cambridge IGCSE English (First or Second Language).

Can I apply for a scholarship?

Financial aid is available for students at some US universities although it is often limited. Financial aid is either merit-based or need-based and can be used to cover some or all of your tuition and/or living expenses. There may also be scholarships available from organisations in your home country or your local US embassy. Remember that competition for

merit-based scholarships is high and they often require an early submission of your application. You can usually find details of the scholarships available at each university by searching the institution's website.

Will I definitely be admitted if I meet the minimum entry standard?

No – this is not guaranteed. It's important to remember that all admission to universities is competitive and universities have limited numbers of places available. Plan on applying to a wide range of universities to maximise your chances of admission.

Student success stories A passport to study in the USA

Celina Wu studied Cambridge International A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics at Bina Bangsa School in Indonesia. She is now majoring in Neuroscience at the University of Michigan.

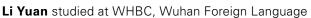


66 Taking Cambridge International A Levels was the best decision I ever made for my education. Not only did they grant me significant university credits to start with, they also equipped me with the fundamental knowledge needed for advanced university

courses. Besides being grateful to my school for offering such a prestigious programme, I'm even more indebted to my teachers who eagerly gave us their time, effort and knowledge and who put so much faith in us.⁹⁹

Jessica Hartana from Dyatmika School in Bali, Indonesia, used her Cambridge International A Levels in Applied ICT, Business Studies, Maths and Chemistry to gain admission to the University of Southern California.

Graduate with a Bachelor's degree, so this saved me almost a year of college! Taking Cambridge International A Level solutional A Level Maths also cleared my Calculus prerequisites for the business school. That means that I don't have to take any more maths in my first two years! I am just very grateful that all of the hard work done in high school really prepared me for college.





Schools in China and now attends Cornell University, an Ivy League institution.

66 I was lucky enough to be admitted by Cornell even though I didn't have a particularly high SAT score. It's clear that the universities now evaluate the whole

application, also paying a great deal of attention to school results and any special experience that a student has. Cambridge International A Level really is a standout qualification for a Chinese student and this made me more attractive to US universities than those who only took SATs or TOEFL. I was just an ordinary high school student and it was Cambridge International A Levels that got me into a top international university.

Nicholas Kogl was accepted to Harvard where he completed a degree in Philosophy. He is now studying an MPhil in Management at the University of Cambridge. He studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels in Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies and German at International Pre-University College in South Africa.

"My Cambridge International A Level studies were a magnificent introduction into many of the first year subjects that I tackled at Harvard. They not only provided



an academic grounding, but also smoothed the psychological transition into university life and the drastically higher standard of work required. I could have used some of my Cambridge International A Levels to receive Advanced Standing at Harvard and

consequently graduate earlier or pursue a Master's degree. Having that option was great, even though I did not choose to activate it."



Parkorn Wangpaiboonkit took Cambridge International A Levels in Biology, Business Studies, English Literature and Geography at Traill International School in Bangkok, Thailand. He is now majoring in

Comparative Literature, with a minor in Rhetoric and Composition, at Oberlin College, Ohio.

conservatory enables me to pursue studies in music without having to be strictly enrolled in a Bachelor of Music degree. I gained half an academic year's worth of advanced credits from my Cambridge International A Levels. This meant that I was ahead of other students so I could take lighter course loads per semester or even graduate a semester early. I was also able to enter advanced level classes in my first year. Moreover, I received a scholarship with a very generous financial aid package!

66 I gained Cambridge International A Levels in Classics, Economics, English, History, Maths and Thinking Skills. I also took Cambridge International AS Level French, Accounting and Latin. Having my Cambridge qualifications put me at a huge advantage when applying to American universities. Being internationally respected examinations, they were the backbone of my application and served to differentiate me from the many other applicants applying from within the States. Furthermore, the exams prepared me superbly for my courses with much of the material in the first year at Stern already covered in the Cambridge International A Level curriculum.²⁹

James Young studied at King's College in New Zealand before being admitted to the Stern School of Business at New York University to major in Finance.



Namini Panchala De Silva studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels in Physics, Mathematics, Economics, Computing and Further Mathematics at Lyceum International School Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. She is now studying for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management at the State University of New York, double majoring in Management Information Systems and Finance & Economics.



"Taking up Cambridge International A Levels was the best decision I made in high school. Because of my results I received two semesters' worth of transfer credits and was awarded the highest scholarship given to an international student. I was also

selected to the prestigious Honors Society. The Cambridge International A Level curriculum was an excellent foundation that gave me a head start on all of my classes at university."

Christopher Genheimer was admitted to John Brown University, Arkansas where he is studying Mechanical Engineering. A former student at St Charles College in South Africa, he gained Cambridge



International AS Levels in Pure Mathematics, English Language & Literature, Afrikaans, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Economics, and Cambridge International A Levels in Pure Mathematics and Physics.

"Not only did Cambridge International AS and A Levels help prepare me for the high academic level at college, but also the workload. Now three years into my Mechanical Engineering degree, I owe a lot of my success to the Cambridge curriculum. I also received credit towards my degree: one semester of credit for every AS Level subject I completed and two semesters of credit for every A Level subject I completed."

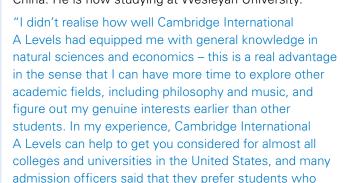


Lachlan Kermode took Cambridge International A Levels in English, Mathematics, Music and Physics at Auckland Grammar School. He also took Cambridge International AS Level Classics, Thinking Skills

and Latin, the results of which were used for his university applications. He has been accepted to study Computer Science and English/Classics at Princeton University.

66 Cambridge International AS and A Levels helped me with my acceptance into Princeton in that the academic curriculum demanded that I format my thinking clearly and present it in an understandable manner. They also made my application really stand out from the others. My Cambridge qualifications truly laid a solid foundation in my academic CV. 79

Zeng Yiming took Cambridge International A Levels in Chemistry, Economics, Maths, Further Maths and Physics in Guangzhou, China. He is now studying at Wesleyan University.





have international educational backgrounds."

studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics at Lyceum International School Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. She is double majoring in Biology and Chemistry at Cornell University, New York.



"Having studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels, I've always felt fully prepared for the heavy workload and academic standards required by the university. I believe that Cambridge International AS and A Level also played a strong role in getting admission to Cornell with financial assistance of USD 30,000 a year. Last year, I entered into the dean's list and was invited to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, both on academic merit. My current plan is to pursue a PhD in biology and/or chemistry upon graduation."

Arkesh Patel used his top results in Cambridge International A Level Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics to gain admission to the University of Cambridge. He graduated with a degree in Chemistry in 2012 and now works for a prestigious management consulting company in San Francisco. He has been granted early admission to Harvard Business School, which he plans to take up in 2014.

wore than satisfied my intellectual curiosity and my desire to be challenged. The transferable skills they demanded have already come in useful in my university studies, and will no doubt continue to prove useful in the future. My experience of Cambridge qualifications has made me more driven as an individual, and has encouraged me to set more ambitious goals.

Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition

Cambridge International AS & A Levels enjoy wide recognition for admission to higher education institutions right across the USA. Due to the depth of knowledge and the level of transferable skills provided, students are also frequently able to use their Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications to apply for advanced standing against their chosen degree programme.

Depending on the university and degree selected, students holding three good Cambridge International A Levels in carefully chosen subjects may find that they can receive up to a full year's credit (30 semester hours). Many institutions may also award college credit for individual subjects.

Here are some examples of the official recognition that Cambridge has received from American higher education institutions.

To see the latest information, including the full list of over 450 recognition statements, or to search for your chosen institution, please visit our recognitions database at http://recognition.cie.org.uk

Boston University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Advanced placement is granted for A Level passes of C or better. The policy states that 8 credits (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.

e: admissions@bu.edu e: intadmis@bu.edu (for international students)

w: www.bu.edu

Brown University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Students with an A Level grade of C or better are awarded two Brown Courses, grade D is awarded one Brown Course.

e: admissions@brown.edu e: international@brown.edu (for international students)

California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

w: www.brown.edu

Caltech accepts the Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level and Cambridge International AS & A Level curriculums to satisfy course requirements. The most competitive international applicants offering these curriculums usually present 3 A-Level exams (physics is required) with grades of at least A or B.

e: ugadmissions@caltech.edu w: www.caltech.edu

California State University, Los Angeles

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Advanced placement for A Levels is considered for grades of D or better. 9 semester units (2 full time courses) are considered for science and maths

exams. 8 semester units (2 full time courses) are considered for all other academic courses. Half the credit of the A Level examinations can be granted for the AS Levels. (The credit would be 5 semester units, or 1 full time course for science and maths AS exams, and 4 semester units, or 1 full time course, for all other academic AS exams.)

e: international@calstatela.edu w: www.calstatela.edu

Columbia University

Credit is granted towards the bachelor's degree for A Level exam grades of A or B. Tested disciplines must be offered at Columbia at the undergraduate level for the policy to apply. For Columbia College, the undergraduate liberal arts school, 6 points of course credit for an A or B at A Level (to a maximum of 16 points) is awarded credit towards the 124 points required for the diploma. For the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, 6 points of course credit for an A or B at A Level (to a maximum of 16 points) is awarded credit towards the 128 points required for the diploma.

e: ugrad-ask@columbia.edu w: www.columbia.edu

6 Students we have who have taken Cambridge International A Levels do very well at our campus. They are very well-prepared for our curriculum and we find that they have a lot of confidence, but also that they have a good deep subject knowledge, (and) the ability to think critically and well.

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition continued

Cornell University

Cambridge International A Levels and AICE are recognised for matriculation purposes. A Level examination passes of A, B or C are awarded advanced credit. Please contact the university for further details.

e: admissions@cornell.edu w: www.cornell.edu

Duke University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. A Levels of a superior grade (grades A or B) may be eligible for course credit or higher placement upon enrolment at Duke. A credit evaluation will be made when the student arrives on campus.

e: undergrad-admissions@duke.edu w: http://duke.edu

Florida State University

Students may earn up to 45 hours of credit by examination for GCE AS and A Level examinations passed at grade E and higher per Florida State Board of Education policy.

e: admissions@admin.fsu.edu w: www.fsu.edu

Harvard

Cambridge International A Levels in 3 subjects at grades A or B are required for matriculation purposes. We value predicted A Level results along with any information that helps to form a complete picture of an applicant's strengths. However, results from A Levels cannot substitute for the required admissions testing. All applicants must submit the results of the SAT I or ACT as well as three SAT II Subject Tests. The minimum required for advanced standing credit is 3 A Levels with Grade A. If this is awarded, then one year of academic credit is given.

e: college@fas.harvard.edu w: www.harvard.edu

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Academic credit is provided for some subjects whilst for others credit is based on performance in the university placement test during freshman orientation.

e: admissions@mit.edu w: www.mit.edu

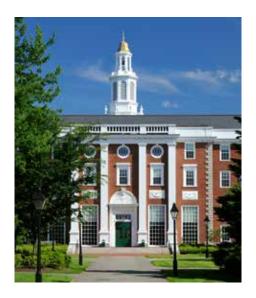
New York University

Credit and/or advanced standing may be awarded for Cambridge International A Levels with a minimum grade of B or above. Up to 8 credits/points are awarded per subject area exam. As with all credit by examination, the maximum total which may be granted is the equivalent of one year of full-time study or 30–32 semester hours.

e: admissions@nyu.edu w: www.nyu.edu

Pennsylvania State University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Students who are pursuing, or who have completed, A Level studies will generally be awarded advanced standing ranging between 6 and 12 credit hours for



certain advanced or principal level examinations completed with a grade C or better. 3 to 6 credits may be awarded for certain AS Levels with an acceptable grade.

e: gadm@psu.edu w: www.psu.edu

Stanford University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. International advanced placement examinations such as General Certificate of Education A Levels (Grades A-D), may be awarded a maximum of 12 units per discipline for some of the subjects which also receive College Board AP credit.

e: intl.admissions@stanford.edu w: www.stanford.edu

The University of Texas at Austin

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. The University of Texas at Austin does award up to one year of college credit for successfully completed A Level subjects with submission of an official A Level examination certificate. UT Austin also grants up to a half a year of credit for successfully completed AS Level exams.

e: askadmi@uts.cc.utexas.edu w: www.utexas.edu

University of Maryland, College Park

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. 8 credits are awarded for science/math A Level courses that receive a passing grade and 6 credits for non-science/math courses. For AS Level, 4 credits are awarded for passing grades in science/math and 3 credits for non-science/math courses.

e: um-admit@umd.edu w: www.umd.edu

Cambridge International AS & A Level recognition continued

University of Southern California

A combination of 7 or 8 IGCSEs and A Levels is required for matriculation. USC awards 8 elective semester units for A Level subjects (Grades A*-B) for which USC offers comparable coursework.

e: admitusc@usc.edu w: www.usc.edu

University of Washington

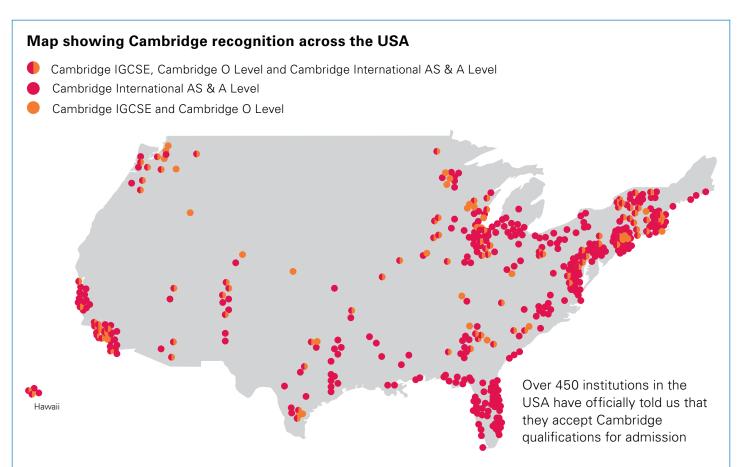
Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Up to one year of credit is granted for A Levels and up to half a year of credit for AS Levels on a case by case basis. Please contact the university for further details. Evaluations are completed after the applicant is admitted to the University and presents final official exam certificates.

e: askuwadm@u.washington.edu w: http://admit.washington.edu

Yale University

Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Credit may be 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.

e: student.questions@yale.edu w: www.yale.edu



66 We believe that Cambridge International AS & A Level examinations are excellent preparation for students to take the next step in the path of lifelong learning. **9 9**

Mary Adams, Associate Director of Admissions, Pennsylvania State University

Please note: Cambridge International A Levels are also referred to as General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced (A) Levels. Some recognition statements will refer to them in this way.

Cambridge IGCSE® recognition

Students holding five Cambridge IGCSEs at grade C and above may be accepted for admission into some US universities. These are the minimum requirements students must have in order to compete for admission but will not guarantee entrance as higher level qualifications, such as Cambridge International AS and A Levels, may be required.

Acceptance with Cambridge IGCSE alone is more likely in two-year Junior and Community colleges. Leading universities will typically require Cambridge International AS and A Levels for admission but may also consider the student's Cambridge IGCSE results in order to make an offer.

Here are some examples of formal recognition statements from US institutions. Please search our recognition database for full details at http://recognition.cie.org.uk

Cape Cod Community College

Cape Cod Community College accepts IGCSE and O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission. A minimum of five passes is required.

e: admiss@capecod.edu w: www.capecod.edu

Everett Community College

Everett Community College accepts IGCSE or O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission. A minimum of five qualifications (to include English and Maths) with grades of C or higher are required.

e: admissions@everettcc.edu w: www.everettcc.edu



Nassau Community College

Nassau Community College accepts IGCSE and O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission. Students must have 5 academic subjects passed.

e: admissions@ncc.edu w: www.ncc.edu

Pasadena City College

International students who wish to enter Pasadena City College by completing the Cambridge O Levels or the IGCSE must be in an O Level or IGCSE curriculum. They must also pass five of the IGCSE exams which must include English, Math, Social Studies, second language, and one science class with grades of C or better. We will not accept students who take these as independent or private candidates.

e: iso@pasadena.edu w: www.pasadena.edu

Purdue University

6 Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level passes (grades A-C) in academic subjects such as English or another language, Mathematics, a Laboratory Science, and History or a Social Science are required.

e: admissions@purdue.edu w: www.purdue.edu

San Diego State University

San Diego State University accepts the Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission. A minimum of 5 subjects passed including English and Maths and without duplication with grades of C or above is required.

e: isc.reception@sdsu.edu w: www.sdsu.edu



University of Iowa

University of Iowa accepts Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission. 6 passes of C or above are required in the academic subject areas of Maths, Science, Social Studies and Languages.

e: admissions-intlug@uiowa.edu w: www.uiowa.edu

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities accepts Cambridge IGCSEs and Cambridge O Levels as meeting the entry criteria for admission.

A minimum of 6 passes at grade C or above are required.

e: admissions@tc.umn.edu w: www.umn.edu

Western Washington University

Western Washington University accepts Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level exams as meeting minimum admission criteria as long as the College Academic Distribution Requirements in different subject areas have been met.

e: admit@wwu.edu w: http://admissions.wwu.edu

Learn more

Cambridge recognitions database

You can find more information on which universities formally recognise Cambridge programmes and qualifications by searching our online recognitions database. You can also search by state or for a particular university to check their entry criteria for Cambridge learners. Go to recognition.cie.org.uk

Other useful websites

The Common Application www.commonapp.org

Education USA www.educationusa.info

US-UK Fulbright Commission

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

Online help

You can find answers to frequently asked questions about Cambridge examinations and services at www.cie.org.uk/help
Simply type your question into the search box, or use the menu to guide you.

Customer Services

You can email us at info@cie.org.uk or call us on +44 1223 553554.

66 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. 99

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

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e: info@cie.org.uk www.cie.org.uk

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