



Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge Universities



Why Oxford or Cambridge?

Both are in the top 12 universities most often targeted by Britain's leading graduate Employers.





Why Oxford or Cambridge?

Excellent Teaching

- **Top 2** in the *Complete University Guide 2027*.
- **Top 2** in the *Guardian University Guide 2027*.
- **Top 5** in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027.

World Class Research.

- **Top 6** for research quality (*Complete University Guide 2027*).
- **126 Nobel Prize winners** Cambridge 125 ; 73 Oxford since 1904.



Myths



Applicants are mostly male.

Percentage of undergraduates admitted who were women in the 2025 admissions cycle:

- Cambridge 50%
- Oxford 50.6%

There are two single sex colleges for females at Cambridge (Newnham College & Murray Edwards College.)



Myths



Most people at Oxford or Cambridge are from private schools.

Percentage of UK undergraduates admitted from state schools in the 2025 admissions cycle:

- Cambridge 72.5%
- Oxford 66.5%



Myths



Most students at Oxford or Cambridge are white.

Percentage of admitted students with known ethnicity who identified as from an ethnic minority background in the 2025 admissions cycle:

- Cambridge 35.8%
- Oxford 30.0%



Myths



It costs more to study at Oxford or Cambridge.

The tuition fees are no more than elsewhere:

£10,050 for both Cambridge and Oxford (2027-8).

Both offer generous bursaries to students from lower income families; terms are shorter; and accommodation is also cheaper than at many other universities and often available for 3 years.



Myths



It is impossible to get in.

- **Around 75%** of Cambridge applicants with a realistic chance of being offered a place are typically **invited to interview**.
- Typical offers: **A*A*A*** to **A*AA**.
- Looking for **academic potential** and passion and curiosity for your chosen **subject**, not perfectly polished answers.

Myths



All work and no play!

Opportunities are huge: sports, theatre, music, debating, art, journalism, officer training corps

...

100s of student clubs and societies at each university.





How are applications assessed?

“Cambridge considers each application individually, taking into account the applicant’s academic record, school/college reference, personal statement, any submitted written work, performance in any written admissions assessment, contextual data and extenuating circumstances, and performance at interview (if interviewed).”



Work hard and secure high GCSEs

“GCSE results form part of Oxford’s assessment of an application and are considered in context. Strong GCSE results can strengthen an application, alongside predicted grades, the UCAS application, admissions tests where required, and interview performance.”





Secure the best GCSEs

Cambridge expects applicants to have a **strong academic record**, particularly in subjects relevant to their chosen course.

Your **application** needs to be **competitive**. High grade GCSEs will be helpful.



Do I need 3 or 4 A Levels?

- “Our **offers are usually based on 3 A levels** taken together in Year 13.” (Cambridge University)
- “**Taking 4 A levels will not normally give you an advantage.**” (Cambridge University)
- Students considering **Mathematics or Computer Science** should take **Further Mathematics** where it is available



Consider A Level choices carefully

- Check the **requirements** for your chosen course before choosing your A Levels.
- Make sure you take any **required** or recommended **subjects**.
- Choose **subjects that work well** together and give you the **best chance** of achieving **top grades**.
- If you are considering a ***vocational qualification***, ***check that it is accepted*** for your chosen course. If taking as a fourth subject consider whether the extra workload could affect your overall grades.



Medicine

- Chemistry is compulsory (at least grade A.)
- Plus, at least 2 of Biology, Further Maths, Maths or Physics.
- Check specific requirements of each university and college.
- UCAT (*University Clinical Aptitude Test* required).
- Competition is high.



Maths, Science, Engineering

- For Maths, Computer Science and Engineering, **Further Maths** may be particularly important.
- For Engineering/Physical Sciences, **Maths and Physics** are usually key subjects.
- For some biological sciences, **Chemistry** is important.
- Check the **exact requirements for your chosen course**.



Oxford Subject Summary

[Current Oxford admission requirements | University of Oxford](#)

Admissions requirements

- Required – essential for the course
- Recommended – will be useful for the course
- ▲ Relevant – may be useful for the course

Course	Entrance qualifications (at A-level or equivalent)	Subject choices	Test	Written work
<u>Archaeology and Anthropology</u>	AAA	▲ Combination of arts and science subjects	None	Three pieces
<u>Asian and Middle Eastern Studies</u>	AAA	▲ A language Mastering the ability to handwrite is a mandatory	None	Two pieces



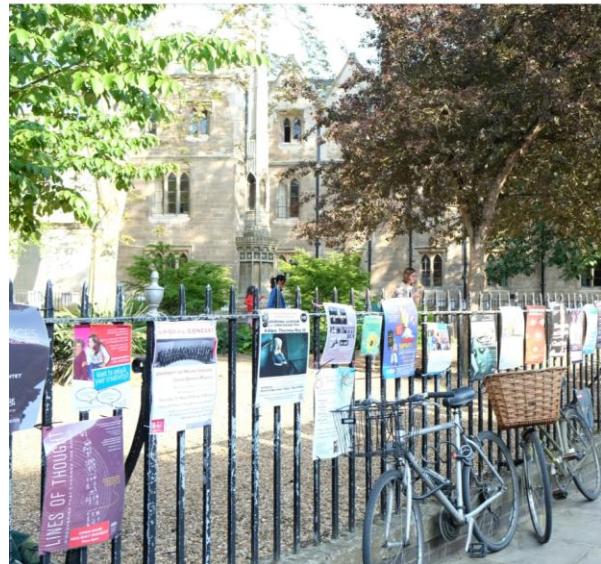
Enhance your University Application

[Super-Curricular Activities \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/super-curricular)

What else do universities look for?

Many universities will be interested in extra-curricular activities, including your hobbies and interests, work experience, voluntary work and any positions of responsibility that you may have held either in school/college or elsewhere. At Cambridge, our admissions decisions are based on academic criteria (ability and potential), so activities that are of no relevance to your course will not increase your chances of receiving an offer. We do look for evidence of wider engagement within your area of academic interest – we call these activities 'super-curricular'. You can find more details on our website; www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/super-curricular-activities.

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Super-Curricular Activities

Enhancing your university application

Read around and beyond your chosen subject

Visit Oxford and Cambridge

- Visit both and get a **feel** for the cities, colleges and atmosphere.
- *When you apply, you can choose a **college** or submit an **open** application.*
- You can apply to Cambridge **OR** Oxford in the same admissions year, **not** both.





Application Timeline: 2027 entry

15 October 2026, 18:00 UK time: Oxford, Cambridge, and most medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science applications.

13 January 2027, 18:00 UK time: equal consideration deadline for most other undergraduate courses.

Admissions-test booking and test dates vary by course. Check Oxford, Cambridge, UAT-UK, UCAT or LNAT guidance early.

Oxford: written work due by 10 November 2026 where required; interviews are in early to mid-December; decisions are released on 12 January 2027.

[Current Oxford admissions timeline | University of Oxford](#)



University – Your timeline?

May / June 2027	Sit GCSEs
September 2027	Begin A Levels / Year 12
Spring 2028	Research courses and attend events
Summer 2028	University open days and super-curricular preparation
September 2028	Start Year 13; finalise application and reference
Autumn 2028	Register for and sit any required admissions tests*
October 2028	Expected Oxbridge / medicine / dentistry / veterinary deadline
November 2028	Submit written work if required*
December 2028	Interviews if shortlisted*
January 2029	Expected main UCAS deadline and Oxbridge decisions*
May / June 2029	Sit A Levels
August 2029	A Level results
October 2029	Start university

* 2028-entry-cycle dates are not yet confirmed.
Check official course and test pages when published.



What can you do **now** and *later*?

- Aim for the best GCSE grades you can.
- Choose your A Level subjects carefully and check any required subjects.
- *Use the **summer after GCSEs** to carry out your own research.*
- ***Read beyond what you study at school** in subjects you might want to study at university.*
- *Get to know the admissions process and timelines.*
- *Let post-16 providers know early on if you wish to apply to Oxford or Cambridge.*
- *Check out online courses, lectures and information events.*
- *Plan to visit Open Days in Y12 to explore courses.*
- *Look at sample admission tests.*

Useful Websites:

- [Applying to Cambridge | Undergraduate Study](#)
- <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions>
- <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-when-apply>
- <https://www.applytocambridge.com/>
- <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/teachers-and-parents/oxford-and-cambridge-similarities-and-differences>
- [Super-Curricular Activities \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)