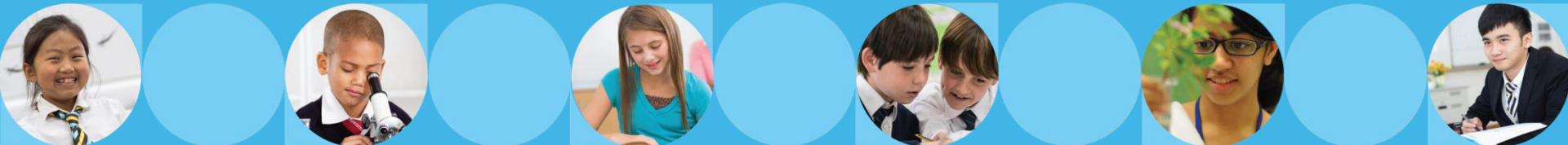


Applying to South Africa, the UK and the USA with Cambridge International Qualifications

Kevin Ebenezer
Head of Global Recognitions

March 2019

Joleen Rugg
Recognitions Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa



Aim of the breakout

Participants will:

- ▶ receive guidance on the minimum subject grouping and grading requirements to achieve a Certificate of Exemption with Cambridge qualifications to further studies at South African universities
- ▶ receive an overview on how to best support students applying to US and UK universities with Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSE™s.

Transition plan

- ▶ *November 2017 exam series*

Learners who take their examinations in November 2017 will have question papers under the Cambridge International Examinations brand and receive their certificates in the Cambridge International Examinations brand in 2018.

- ▶ *2018 exam series*

Learners taking examinations in 2018 will have question papers under the Cambridge International Examinations brand but will receive certificates in the Cambridge Assessment International Education brand

- ▶ *2019 exam series*

From 2019 exam series, both question papers and certificates will be in the Cambridge Assessment International Education brand

Cambridge Pathway

Cambridge Pathway

A clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19

Primary

5 to 11 years old*

- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

Lower Secondary

11 to 14 years old*

- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

Upper Secondary

14 to 16 years old*

- A wide choice of subjects in:
- Cambridge IGCSE® (70+)
 - Cambridge O Level (40+)
- Cambridge ICE Certificate

Advanced

16 to 19 years old*

- A wide choice of subjects in:
- Cambridge International AS & A Level (55+)
 - Cambridge Pre-U (24+)
- Cambridge AICE Diploma

Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

*Age ranges are for guidance only

Global Mobility Trends

TOP HOST DESTINATIONS, 2001 & 2017



2001

2.1 million students

- United States – 28%
- United Kingdom – 11%
- Germany – 9%
- France – 7%
- Australia – 4%
- Japan – 3%
- Spain – 2%
- Belgium – 2%
- Other – 34%



2017

4.6 million students

- United States – 24%
- United Kingdom – 11%
- China – 10%
- Australia – 7%
- France – 7%
- Canada – 7%
- Russia – 6%
- Germany – 6%
- Other – 23%

Source: Project Atlas, 2017; UNESCO, 20'

MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS TO STUDY ABROAD

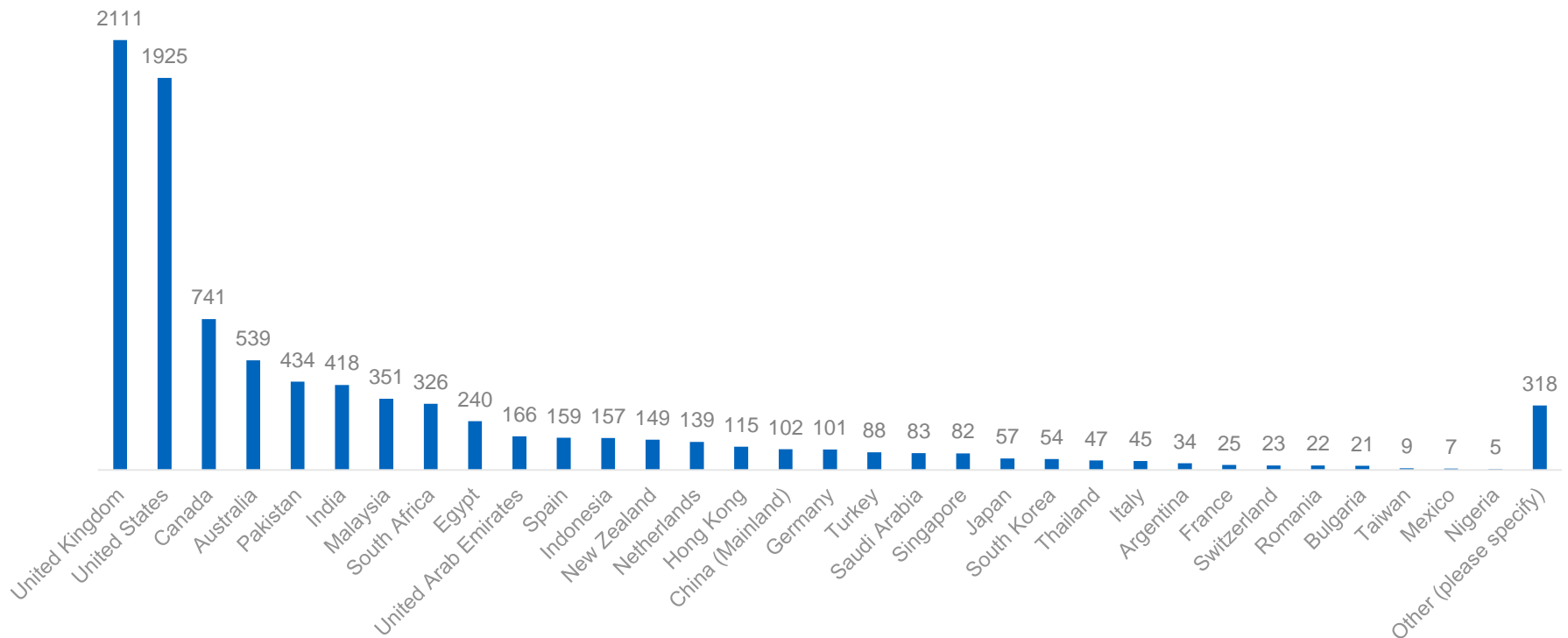


1. Canada (62%)
2. USA (42%)
3. Europe (16%)
4. UK (11%)
5. Germany (7%)
6. Australia (6%)
7. Finland (4%)
8. France (3%)
9. China (2%)
10. Ireland (1%)
11. Netherlands (1%)
12. Belgium (1%)
13. Sweden (1%)
14. Czech Republic (1%)
15. Denmark (1%)
16. South Korea (1%)
17. Italy (1%)
18. Switzerland (1%)
19. Poland (1%)
20. Hungary (0.5%)

Source: THE October 20 2017

Most popular international destinations for Cambridge students – for 2017

- ▶ Respondents were asked to identify the top three international destinations for students going to university outside their own country
- ▶ The three most popular destinations are: **UK, US and Canada**



Cambridge Assessment website – Recognitions pages

Guidance for universities

Guidance for schools and students

Recognition by country

Recognition search

Register your admissions policy

Home > Programmes and qualifications > Recognition and acceptance

Recognition and acceptance

Cambridge qualifications are accepted and valued by many leading universities and employers around the world.

Guidance for universities

Our guidance for admissions staff includes factsheets which highlight key information about our Cambridge qualifications.

[Read more >](#)

Guidance for schools and students

Cambridge students are widely accepted in top study destinations like the US, UK, and Australia, as well as many other parts of the world.

[Read more >](#)

Recognition by country

We provide extra guidance on university recognition of Cambridge qualifications in popular study destinations.

[Read more >](#)

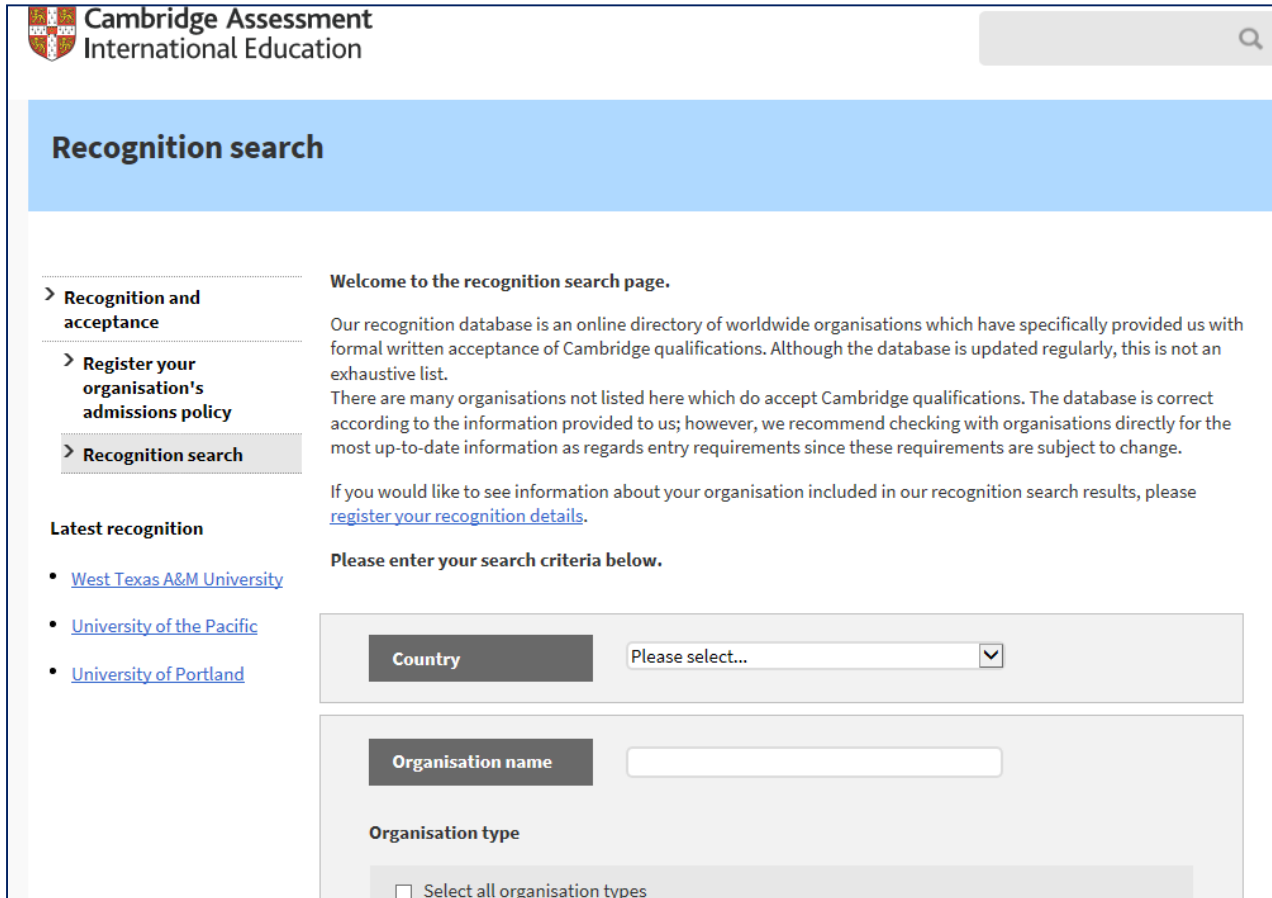
Register your admissions policy

If you would like to see information about your organisation included in our recognition search results, register your recognition details.

[Read more >](#)

<http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/>

Recognitions database



The screenshot shows the Cambridge Assessment International Education website's recognition search interface. At the top left is the Cambridge Assessment International Education logo. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo, a blue header bar contains the text "Recognition search".

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items:

- > Recognition and acceptance
- > Register your organisation's admissions policy
- > Recognition search (highlighted)

Below the menu, under the heading "Latest recognition", there are three links:

- [West Texas A&M University](#)
- [University of the Pacific](#)
- [University of Portland](#)

The main content area on the right contains the following text:

Welcome to the recognition search page.

Our recognition database is an online directory of worldwide organisations which have specifically provided us with formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. Although the database is updated regularly, this is not an exhaustive list.

There are many organisations not listed here which do accept Cambridge qualifications. The database is correct according to the information provided to us; however, we recommend checking with organisations directly for the most up-to-date information as regards entry requirements since these requirements are subject to change.

If you would like to see information about your organisation included in our recognition search results, please [register your recognition details](#).

Please enter your search criteria below.

The search form includes the following fields:

- Country:** A dropdown menu with the text "Please select..." and a downward arrow.
- Organisation name:** A text input field.
- Organisation type:** A section with a checkbox and the text "Select all organisation types".

www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch

University recognition worldwide brochure

 Cambridge Assessment
International Education



University recognition worldwide

Guide to the recognition
and acceptance of
Cambridge qualifications

Guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications

- ▶ Outlines university recognition of Cambridge qualifications by global regions.
- ▶ Helpful advice on **general** university admissions policies by country

DESTINATION: SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa: certificate of exemption requirements

- ▶ South Africa requires candidates to be awarded a certificate of exemption from Universities South Africa (USAf) before they are allowed to apply to study for a Bachelor's degree to a South African university
- ▶ A certificate of exemption will be granted to holders of Cambridge International AS and A Levels on application provided they meet the minimum qualification combinations and the subject group requirements as published in the Government Notice, Department of Education, Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) No. 1317 dated 5 December 2008
- ▶ USAf represents 26 public universities and various affiliated private higher education institutions in South Africa



UNIVERSITIES
SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa: certificate of exemption requirements (cont..)

- ▶ Further details of the conditions and subject requirements to gain exemption for entry to South African public universities can be found on the Cambridge website at <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/523166-university-recognition-south-africa.pdf> or on Universities South Africa's website at <http://mb.usaf.ac.za/>
- ▶ A certificate of exemption does not guarantee acceptance at a university. Each programme will have entry requirements over and above those of the requirements to obtain a certificate of exemption.

Minimum Qualification Combinations

A Level Exemptions

4 subject
option

=

3 subjects at
A Level (E)

+

1 subject at
IGCSE Level (C)

5 subject
option

=

2 subjects at
A Level (E)

+

3 subjects at
IGCSE Level (C)

Minimum Qualification Combinations

AS Level Exemptions

Minimum
5 subjects

=

4 subjects passed
at AS Level (D)

+

1 subject at
IGCSE Level (C)

Two-sitting rule only applies to this exemption

Need not be consecutive years

Group requirements to be met

Recognised subject requirements to be met

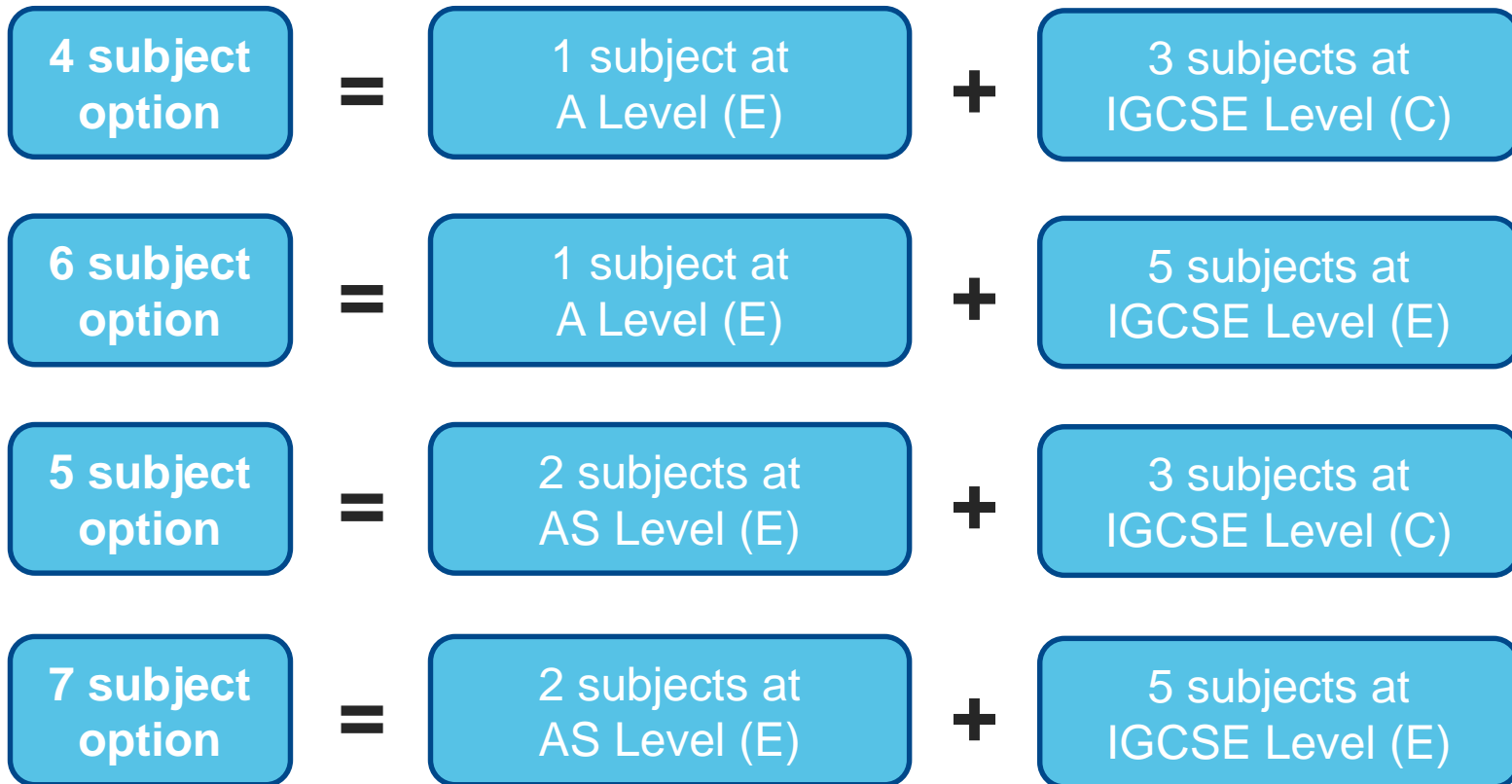
English First Language to be passed at
appropriate level ie IGCSE, AS or A Level

Two languages to be passed for complete
exemption

We encourage schools to confirm faculty requirements at least
a year in advance

South African Qualifications Authority

Four qualification combinations



South Africa: university admission requirements

- ▶ South African universities are autonomous and can set their own entry requirements. Candidates have to achieve certain exam grades and may need qualifications in particular subjects to ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course
- ▶ Candidates are encouraged to confirm university entry requirements well in advance.
- ▶ Candidates may be asked to take the National Benchmark Tests (NBT). The NBT measures academic readiness for university.
- ▶ The NBTs are used by many universities in South Africa to help them interpret school leaving results.



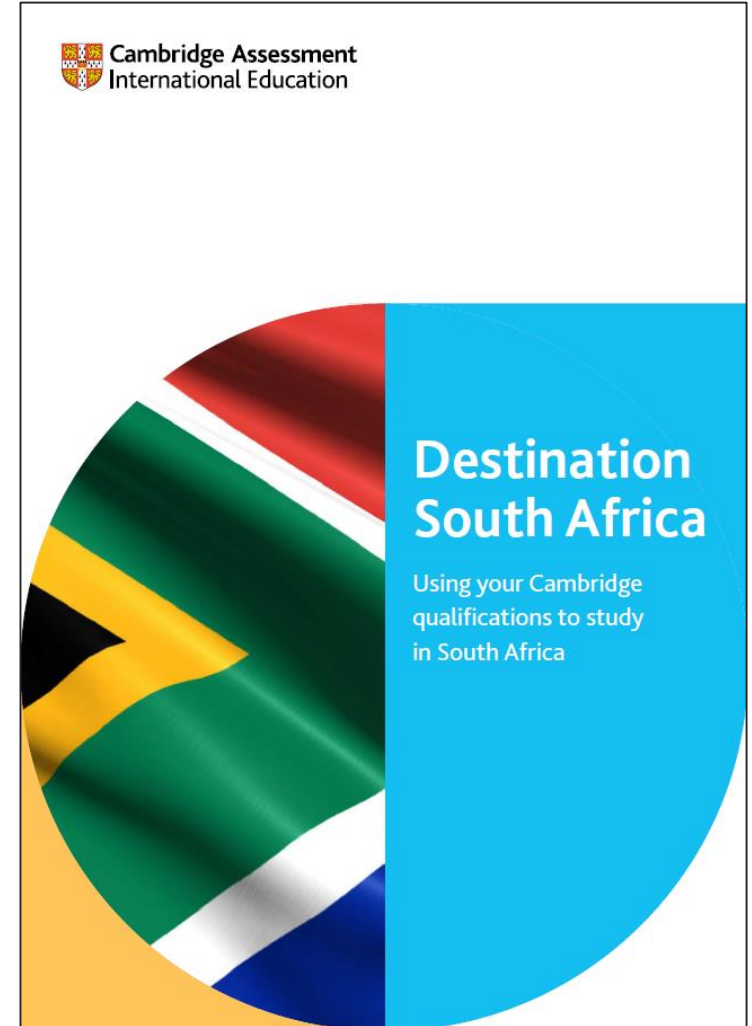
South Africa: university admission requirements

Common challenges

- ▶ Misunderstanding that Certificate of Exemption (CoE) and programme entry requirements are the same
- ▶ Choosing the correct subjects that meet the CoE and programme entry requirements
- ▶ English Language requirements: IGCSE vs AS/A Level English
- ▶ Recognised vs unrecognised subjects
- ▶ Recognised but ungrouped subjects
- ▶ Admission Points Score (APS)
 - not all universities use the same conversion table
 - confusion as sometimes A Levels are given the same score as AS Level

Further information

- ▶ Universities South Africa [brochure](#)
- ▶ [Recognition page](#) of our website
- ▶ University of Cape Town welcomes Cambridge students [video](#)
- ▶ Destination South Africa



DESTINATION: UK

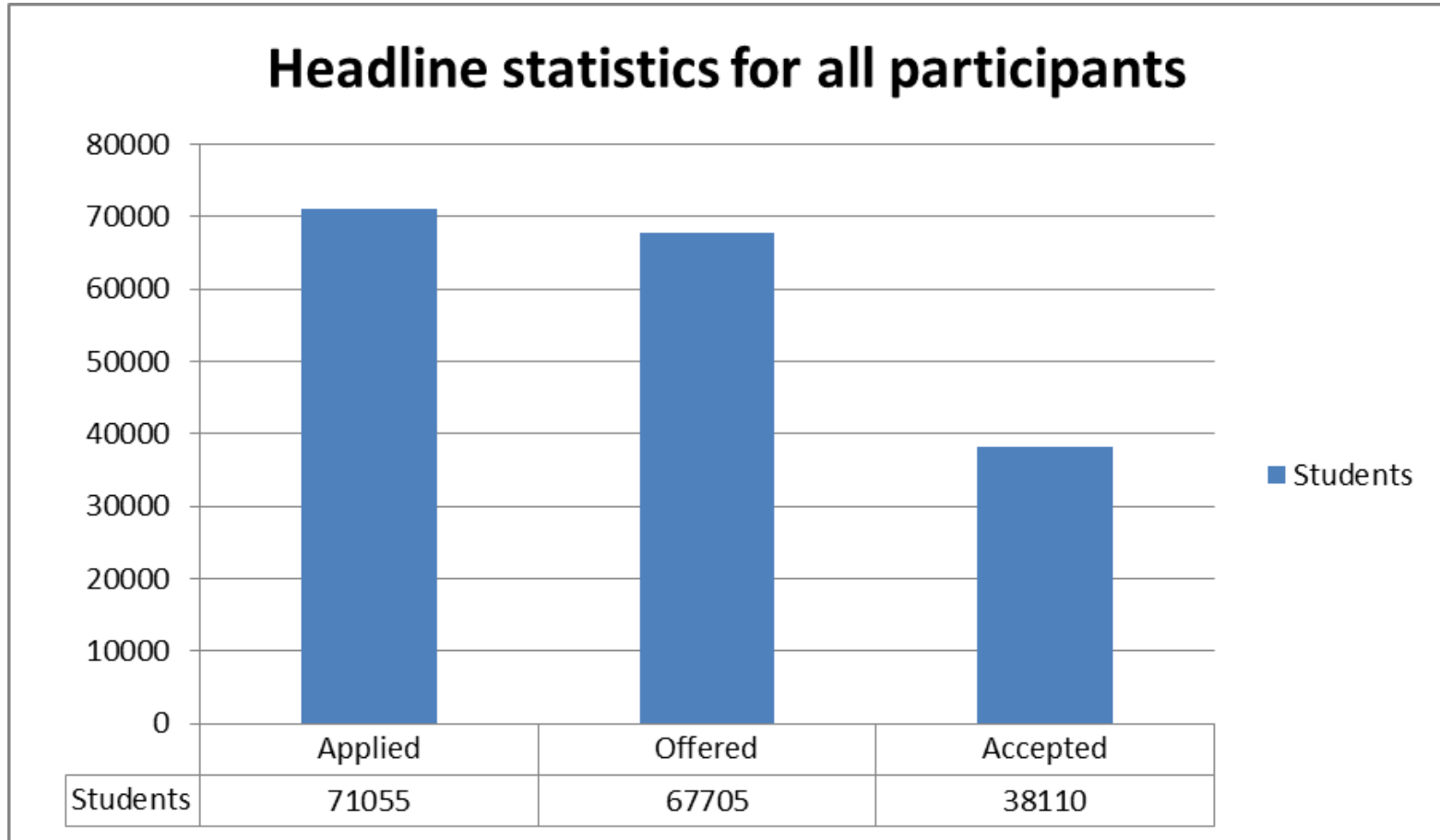


UK University Admissions Requirements

- ▶ Cambridge International AS and A Levels qualifications are recognised by universities in the UK
- ▶ Competitive courses require at least 3 good A Levels
- ▶ IGCSE/O Level accepted as direct equivalent of UK GCSE, especially English and Maths
- ▶ Some universities require an additional English language test to meet their visa requirements

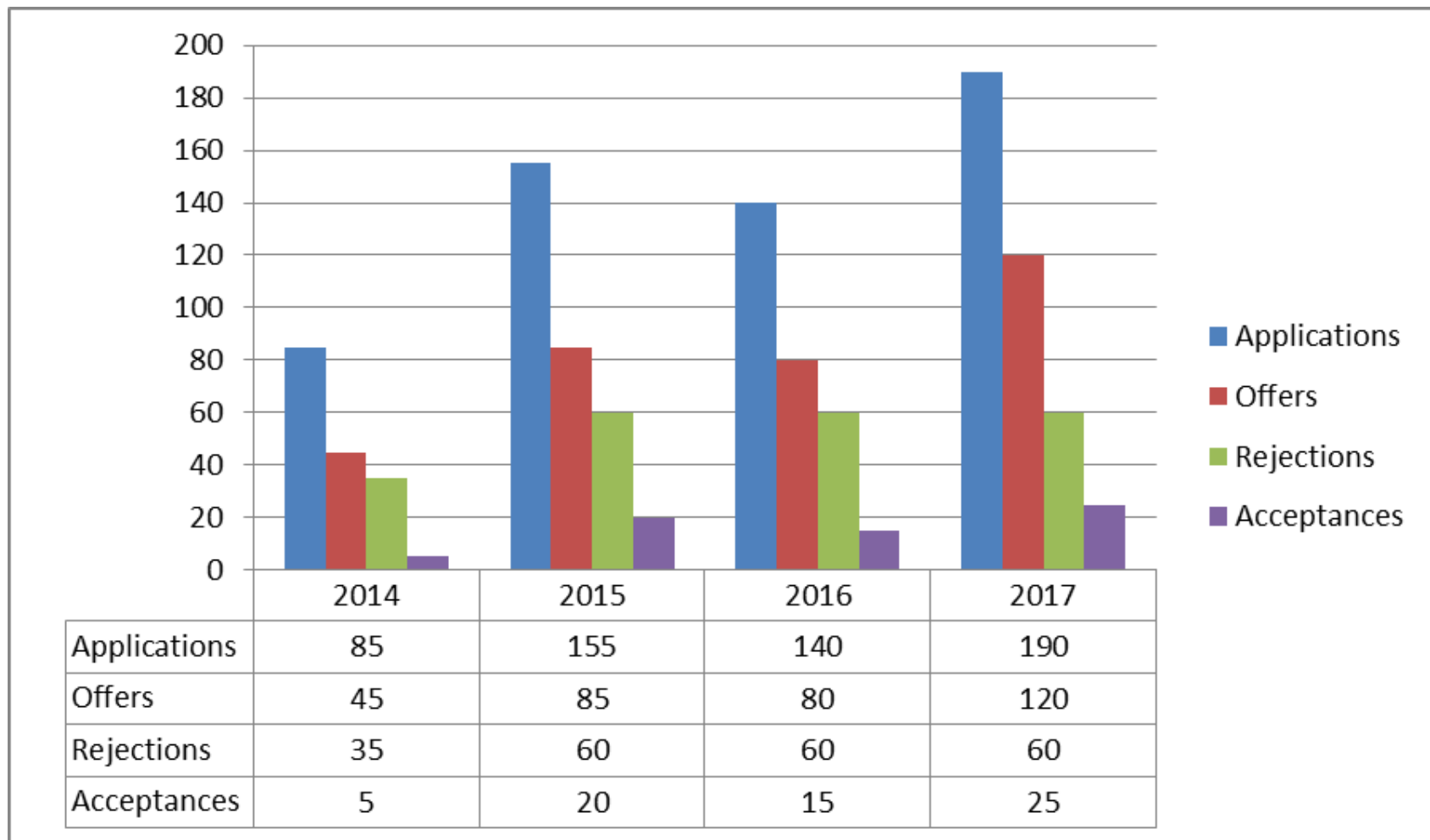


UCAS DATA for Cambridge International Students between 2014-2017



Source: UCAS STROBE

Key figures by cycle year for South Africa



Source: UCAS STROBE

UK Admissions Systems

- ▶ Centralised system - UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
- ▶ Applications generally open in August
- ▶ Oxbridge, courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine / science have earlier deadline of October 15
- ▶ Students can apply to Oxford OR Cambridge but not both
- ▶ Tuition fees: to be eligible to pay fees at the UK/EU rate, must normally be a national of an EU country, or the relevant family member of an EU national, and have been ordinarily resident within the EEA for the three year period before the first day of the first academic year of the programme.

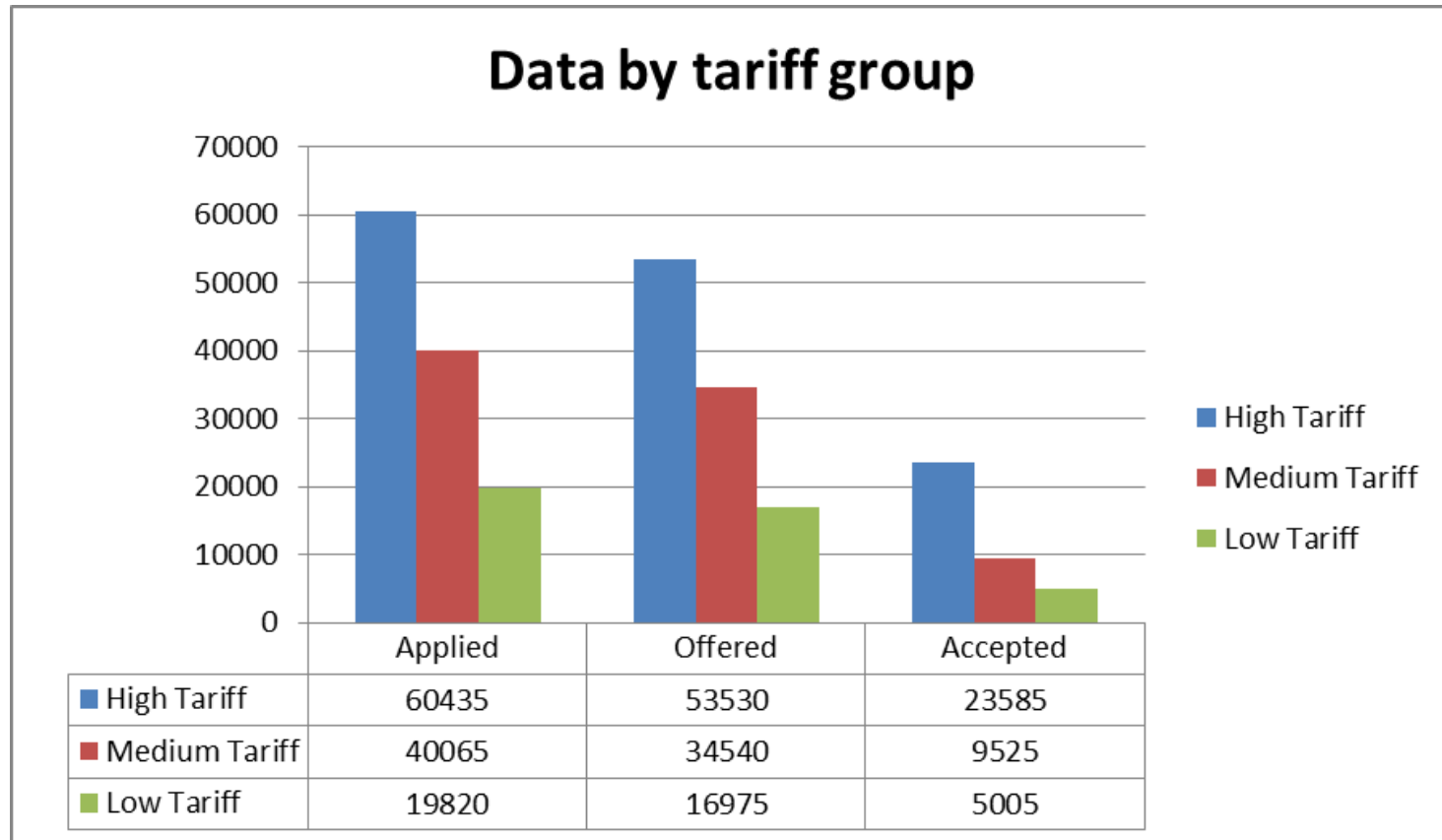
UCAS Tariff

- ▶ The UCAS Tariff was developed to allow for broad comparisons to be made about a wide range of qualifications by universities and colleges to help them with their management information.
- ▶ Not all qualifications attract UCAS Tariff points and Cambridge International A & AS levels are not included in the UCAS Tariff.
- ▶ Only around one third of course entry requirements on the UCAS website make reference to the Tariff. Most prefer to express their entry requirements and make offers in terms of subjects and grades rather than in Tariff points.
- ▶ In general universities in the UK accept Cambridge International A Levels as equivalent, grade-for-grade, with standard A Levels.
- ▶ **Students applying with Cambridge International A Levels will not be disadvantaged in any way.**

UCAS Tariff Groups

- ▶ UCAS groups higher education providers across the UK based on the average levels of attainment of their UK 18-year-old acceptances summarised through UCAS Tariff points.
- ▶ They created three tariff groups, referred to as higher, medium and lower tariff providers, which each account for around a third of all UK 18-year-old acceptances in recent cycles.
- ▶ Higher tariff providers are those that have accepted UK 18-year-old applicants with the highest Tariff points in recent cycles, while lower tariff providers are those that have accepted those with the lowest.

Cambridge International data by provider tariff group



Source: UCAS STROBE

Selective universities

- ▶ Oxford and Cambridge are highly selective
- ▶ The Russell Group universities are generally research-based and selective



Russell Group Acceptances

Cambridge International A Level	Cycle Year				Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	
UCL (University College London)	235	420	465	545	1665
University of Manchester	290	445	405	395	1535
Imperial College London	210	295	265	325	1095
University of Warwick	155	270	265	250	940
University of Edinburgh	135	200	205	285	825
University of Bristol	135	200	210	235	780
University of Sheffield	130	170	230	210	740
LSE (London School of Economics & Political Science)	120	165	195	215	695
King's College London	70	155	160	200	585
University of Nottingham	100	140	170	165	575
Durham University	85	110	150	175	520
Cardiff University	100	125	135	150	510
Queen Mary University of London	95	125	130	145	495
University of Leeds	50	95	135	150	430
University of Exeter	60	95	125	120	400
Newcastle University	55	100	105	130	390
University of Oxford	75	85	105	120	385
University of Cambridge	60	80	105	135	380
University of Birmingham	45	110	105	115	375
University of Southampton	85	95	85	80	345
University of Liverpool	30	60	85	95	270
University of Glasgow	35	95	65	65	260
University of York	40	55	75	80	250
Queen's University Belfast	25	45	40	45	155
Total Russell Group acceptances	2420	3735	4015	4430	

Data from UCAS EXACT

Further information

- ▶ Destination UK [brochure](#) and [video](#)
- ▶ [Recognition page of our website](#)
- ▶ [Cambridge for universities and colleges](#)
- ▶ [UCAS website](#)



DESTINATION: USA



USA university admissions

- ▶ Over **610** universities officially recognise Cambridge qualifications for entry
- ▶ Five Grade Cs in Cambridge IGCSE/
Cambridge O Level meet **minimum** freshman level entry requirements for some colleges & universities (including Maths and English)
- ▶ A Levels are required for competitive universities such as Yale, MIT and Harvard
- ▶ Advanced credit is available for A Levels in most universities
- ▶ Advanced credit is available for AS Levels in some universities



US admissions systems

Application procedures vary:

- ▶ [Common Application](#) with A Levels specifically included from August 2013
- ▶ Supporting documentation and full high school transcript from school – extremely important
- ▶ Individual application forms or supplements to the Common Application for each university



Deadlines vary:

- ▶ Usually mid-December to mid-January
- ▶ 1–15 November for early decisions

US admissions systems – things to consider

- ▶ Applications are made to the **university**, not to a particular course
- ▶ Undergraduates do not specialise until Years 3 and 4 of their degrees, with some subjects only available at postgraduate level
- ▶ Grade Point Average (GPA) is **not** always required
- ▶ Standardised tests (SATs or ACT) are often required
 - ▶ Students with AS & A Levels may be exempt from the SAT subject tests (SAT-II)
- ▶ Applicants may require IELTS or TOEFL but a good grade in Cambridge IGCSE English (First or Second Language) is often accepted instead
- ▶ Scholarships are often available (but highly competitive)

Check the university's specific requirements

School profile

TO INSERT SCHOOL LOGO HERE, THERE MAY NEED TO BE A SPACE
TO INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE, THERE MAY NEED TO BE A SPACE

HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

CLASS OF 2017–2018

Director:

Principal:

Guidance Counsellor:

Cambridge Coordinator:

CEEB

Centre No.

UCAS No.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

- <Insert information about your school background>
- <Insert information about your school staff (quantity, teacher/student ratio, etc.)>
- <Demographics (if applicable: % by ethnicity, % receiving financial aid or merit scholarships)>
- <Insert information about international student population>
- <State what language (s) classes are taught>

GRADING AND RANKING

- <Explanation of how class rank is calculated>
- <Explanation of how GPA is calculated>
- The school year is divided into <semesters/trimesters/quarters>. Evaluations are given each <semester/trimester/quarter>.
- <Insert name of school> uses a <_> grading scale.

CAMBRIDGE GRADE	DESCRIPTOR	AMERICAN CONVERSION	
A+	Outstanding	A+	
A	Excellent	A	
B	Very Good	A-B	
B	Good	B	Credit given
C	Satisfactory	C	
D	Average	D	
F	Ungraded	F	Credit not given

<INSERT GRADING CHART HEADING HERE>

<INSERT GRADING CHART HEADING HERE>

CURRICULUM AND ACCREDITATION – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- <Insert accreditation information>
- <Graduation requirements>
- <Academic tracks or streams, requirements for selection>
- <Average number of IGCSE, AS, A-levels or other advanced courses taken per student>
- Preparation for Cambridge exams is offered in the following subjects:
 - Art & Design
 - Biology
 - Business Studies
 - Chemistry
 - Dutch
 - Economics
 - English Language
 - English Literature
 - French
 - Geography
 - German
 - History
 - Information Technology
 - Mathematics
 - Music
 - Philosophy
 - Physics
 - Spanish

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International School

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

During the <insert month> <insert year> testing session, <insert number> Cambridge students took <insert number> exams.

XX students took the IGCSE exams and XX passed with an E or above; XX passed with a C or above, XX received an A or A*.

XX students took AS exams and XX passed with an E or above; XX passed with a C or above, XX received an A or A*.

XX students took A-Level exams and XX passed with an E or above; XX passed with a C or above, XX received an A or A*.

OTHER ADVANCED PROGRAMS (AP)

In <insert month> <insert year>, <insert number> students of the Class of <insert year> took <insert number> exams; <insert number>% of students scoring 4 or 5, <insert number>% of students score 3 and above. <insert number> exams were graded at 3 or higher.

SAT Summary

Exam	Mean				
Class (Grade)	09	10	11	12	13
Critical Reading	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Math	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Writing	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Students Tested	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">

ACT Summary

Exam	Mean				
Class (Grade)	09	10	11	12	13
English	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Math	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Reading	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Science Reasoning	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Composite	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">
Students Tested	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">	<input type="text">

FURTHER SCHOOLING OF GRADUATES

Student from the Class of <insert month> <insert year> have enrolled in the following colleges, universities, professional schools:

<insert country>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert country>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert country>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert country>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

<insert School or University name>

Some students will travel, pursue a gap year, work or fulfil military obligations.

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International School

Students applying without a school profile may be at a disadvantage

“

I took Cambridge International AS Level Biology, and I have since had a very successful career in the biological and natural sciences at Stanford University. The same applies with Mathematics and English. I can't recommend the Cambridge programme highly enough. It got me into one of the top universities in the world and in the US.

Chris Hanson, Florida



”

Further information

Cambridge International Examinations resources:

- ▶ [Destination USA page of our website](#)
- ▶ [Cambridge for universities and colleges](#)
- ▶ Destination USA [video](#) and [brochure](#)

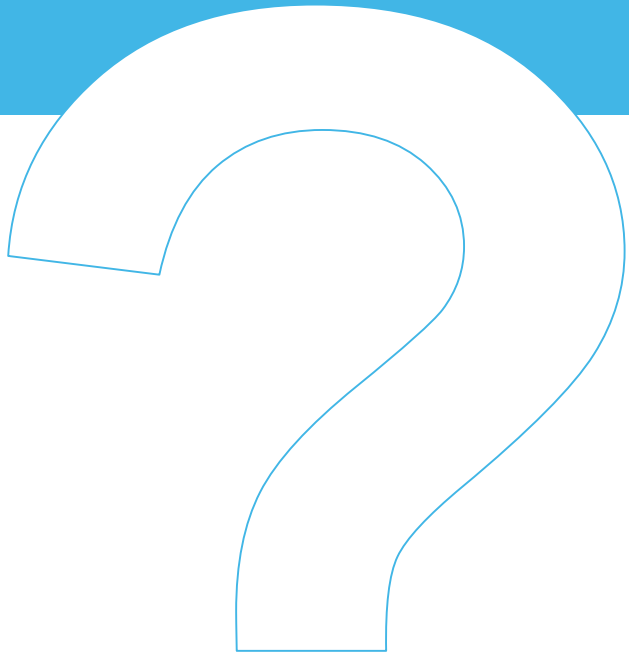
Other resources:

- ▶ Fulbright Commission
- ▶ [Common application tips and hints](#)



Further resources from Cambridge

- ▶ [University recognition worldwide](#): Guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications
- ▶ [Destination: UK](#)
- ▶ [Destination: USA](#)
- ▶ [Destination: Australia](#)
- ▶ [Destination: India](#)
- ▶ [Destination: Canada](#)
- ▶ [Destination: South Africa](#)
- ▶ Recognition of Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U in [Germany](#)



Any questions?