



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Destination Canada

Using your Cambridge
qualifications to study
in Canada

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About us

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

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.

A pathway to university success with Cambridge International

Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised as a passport to success in education, university and employment. They are valued by Canadian universities as academically rigorous qualifications that equip students with the skills they need to succeed, both at university and beyond.

Our qualifications are recognised by over 50 Canadian universities, including some of the country's most prestigious, globally top-ranking institutions.

Students who have earned Cambridge qualifications are not just equipped to get into universities in Canada – they are also well prepared with the necessary academic skills to succeed in their studies. We offer over 55 subjects at Cambridge International AS & A Level, so they can choose the subjects they enjoy and want to specialise in.

Did you know?

- In 2015, there were 353 000 international students in Canada – 1 per cent of the entire population.
- Around 30 per cent of the international student population comes from China, followed by students from India, South Korea, France and Saudi Arabia.



Please note: All information is correct at June 2018.

“ McGill has a highly selective admission process that focuses on the academic merit (grades) of applicants. The University attracts bright, accomplished students from around the world and many present Cambridge International A Levels as their basis of admission. When reviewing an application from a Cambridge International A Level candidate, our admissions officers can be confident about the accuracy and security of the information provided. Cambridge International A Level subjects are consistently assessed favourably for equivalency by our Faculty subject experts. Finally, and most importantly, admitted Cambridge International A Level students perform well at McGill. ”

Kim Bartlett, Director of Admissions, McGill University

Why choose Canada?

There are many reasons to consider studying at undergraduate level in Canada. Canada is home to some of the world's leading universities and welcomes applications from students around the world.

Canadian universities are renowned for their world-class facilities, vibrant student communities and innovative research programmes. Canada's institutions value high academic standards and rigorous quality control. This means that you can gain a quality education, with long-term career benefits. A Canadian degree, diploma or certificate is globally recognised as equivalent to those obtained in the United States or from Commonwealth countries.

While living standards and education quality are among the highest in the world, the costs of attending university in Canada are generally lower than in the US or UK.

Canada is a proudly multicultural society, with Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver home to large immigrant communities. This makes it much easier for international students to find familiar foods or cultural activities, while enjoying all that is unique to Canada.

The United Nations consistently ranks Canada as one of the best places in the world to live. International students enjoy the same freedoms as local Canadians – including respect for human rights, equality, and a stable and peaceful society.



Key facts

- Canada is the world's second largest country, behind Russia.
- Canada is a bilingual country. Academic programmes are offered in English or French, so you can improve your language skills while you study.
- According to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), Canada tops the national rankings of spending per student on public post-secondary education.
- More than one-third of Canada's research is undertaken by its universities – one of the highest rates of academic research among OECD and G8 countries.
- International students are able to apply for a range of work permits while studying in Canada. This work experience gained while studying can help you make valuable contacts in the business world and count towards a residency application after graduation.



Studying in Canada – What you need to know

Canada has over 90 universities and 135 additional colleges. There are also a number of non-university-level institutions focusing on vocational training.

There is no federal Canadian Ministry of Education – instead, each institution is the responsibility of the province or territory it is located in. Canadian higher education operates a trimester calendar system, with admissions accepted in September, January and May.

Colleges

There are over 8000 college programmes, offered by around 135 institutions. College courses are closely aligned to the needs of business and industry, covering a wide range of technical and professional fields. College programmes lead to a variety of recognised credentials such as certificates, diplomas or academic or applied degrees. Programmes vary in length from a few months to four years, and 90 per cent of college graduates (on average) find employment within six months of graduation. Fees can range from CAD 5500 to CAD 15 000 per year, depending on the programme.

Universities

Canada has 96 public and private universities and university degree-level colleges, ranging from small liberal arts teaching schools to larger, research-intensive universities. Together, Canada's universities offer over 15 000 undergraduate and graduate degree programmes, with pathways from undergraduate to PhD. Professional designations, certificate and diploma courses, and short career-focused programmes are also offered.

Three levels of degree are offered: bachelor's degree, generally three or four years of undergraduate study; master's degree, one or two years of study post-bachelor's degree; and doctoral degree, a further three years of study, usually after a master's degree. Tuition fees range from CAD 7000 to CAD 29 000 depending on the programme, but there are opportunities for cooperative education and internships. International students often work while they study.

For up-to-date information on Canadian colleges and universities accepting Cambridge qualifications, search our recognitions database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance. Check with your preferred institution for information on programme fees.

“The prestige of Cambridge International A Levels meant that I was regarded as a student who had undergone rigorous academic training, which enabled me to be accepted into the University's prestigious Mathematics Faculty. The mathematical content in my A Level courses gave me a strong foundation for university study. I also learned how to express ideas clearly and succinctly and improved my written communication skills. I was glad to be challenged by the academic rigour of the Cambridge programme, which changed my perspective on study. Instead of just aiming to ace the exam, I also seized the opportunity to learn the material and gain insights into solving some of the problems in our daily lives.”

Anzo Teh Zhao Yang, University of Waterloo

What are the entry requirements for Canadian universities?

Academic requirements

College

For college entry, students are typically asked for at least five Cambridge IGCSE or O Level qualifications or a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs (specific requirements are detailed on individual college websites). Some colleges will accept students with IGCSEs or O Levels only. A combination of IGCSEs, O Levels, AS and/or A Levels is better proof of eligibility.

University

Students with at least four AS Levels and/or at least two A Levels are eligible to apply to a Canadian university, but every course will have specific entry requirements. The more competitive programmes (such as the sciences or business) may have additional minimum requirements. Successful university applicants will usually receive a 'conditional offer of admission', specifying the conditions they have to meet in order to confirm their place. This usually requires maintaining a specified academic grade average and successfully completing and graduating from secondary school.

Language requirements

All Canadian universities will ask for evidence of language proficiency in either English or French.

Additional requirements for international students

International students may be asked to meet some additional entry requirements – get in touch with your preferred institution for details.

Additional standing and transfer credit

Cambridge International AS & A Level students may be eligible for advanced standing credit, which can reduce a degree course from four to three years. Advanced placement (and in many cases also advanced credit) may be given for secondary school subjects where high levels of academic achievement have been recorded, and all coursework and exams completed before joining a degree course. Be sure to check the policy of your preferred institution for details.



How do I apply to study at a Canadian university?

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 courses offered, the location of the university, the choice of activities on offer and the costs.

In Canada, the application process varies by institution and by province. If you are applying to a university in British Columbia or Ontario, you can use the common electronic application portal for the province.

In all other provinces, applications are made through individual university admissions offices. Check with your preferred institution for details.

Application deadlines will also vary, but they are typically in January or February. Many universities use a 'rolling admissions' policy where a decision is made within weeks of the application being received.

There will be an application fee (mostly non-refundable) and you will need to provide a range of supporting information including:

- evidence of your high school qualifications, grades and any additional external examinations taken
- details about your extracurricular activities and community involvement
- a personal reference
- an essay of intent
- a portfolio
- a criminal record check.

This is not a complete list. Do check with your preferred institution about the particular requirements for the programme you are interested in.

The application process

Step 1: Choosing courses – 10–12 months before courses start

- Identify Canada as your preferred destination
- Decide on a study programme and institution
- Check entry requirements for the course and submission deadlines

Step 2: Applying

- Make your application – make sure you understand the process for your preferred institution
- Check your eligibility for advanced standing and transfer credit related to your Cambridge qualifications
- Receive conditional offer of admission

Step 3: Starting your course

- Use your conditional offer of admission to start the application process for a study permit (international students must have a valid study permit to enrol on study courses that are longer than four months)
- Plan your travel

Good luck!

Student success stories

A passport to study in Canada



Samved Dhar

Course: Business
Economics School:
Alliance World School, India
University: University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Samved gained Cambridge International A Levels in Mathematics, English, Economics, and Business Studies, as well as six Cambridge IGCSEs.

“As my first and second year course choices related to my A Level subjects, my prior subject knowledge gave me confidence and allowed me to settle easily into classes. My Cambridge qualifications also allowed me to take second year courses in my first semester. Considering the cost of tuition, this is a big advantage as I will be able to complete my degree in less time. I received 21 credits for my four A Level qualifications. I need 120 credits to graduate, so the 21 credits are worth more than one semester of study.”

Ishan Saxena



Course: Computer Science
School: Alliance World School, India
University: University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Ishan studied Cambridge International A Levels in Physics, Mathematics, and ICT, and AS Level English.

“The University of Saskatchewan awarded me 12 credits for my Cambridge International A Levels, out of the 30 credits that I needed in the first year. As a Cambridge learner, I have always been used to application-based learning, so whenever I'm introduced to new concepts in my field, I want to apply them to real-world problems to better understand how things work. This is a fantastic approach to learning. Because I was fortunate enough to have been educated in a Cambridge school, this approach comes naturally to me now.”

Adeline Esses

Course: Finance
School: Da Vinci International School, Belgium
University:
Concordia University, Canada
Adeline took Cambridge International AS Level Art and A Level Mathematics, ICT and Business Studies.



“With my A Level Mathematics grade, I was exempt from some of the university's compulsory mathematics courses, so could take economics courses right away. A Level Mathematics developed my problem-solving skills which have greatly helped me in my economics and statistics courses. At university, good time management is essential and can be hard in the beginning. Thanks to Cambridge International, I already knew how to manage my time effectively to stay on track with my studies.”

Chen Jiaxuan

Course: Computer Science
School: Shanghai Experimental Foreign Language School, China
University: University of Toronto, Canada
Chen studied Cambridge International AS & A Level Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics, as well as five Cambridge IGCSEs.

“I chose the University of Toronto because of the beautiful scenery, great academic atmosphere and also because it is one of Canada's top universities. My Cambridge IGCSE and GPA scores were very important in my application and helped me gain an offer and high grades in the Cambridge exams. My Physics and Chemistry qualifications gained me two extra credits, while Mathematics laid the foundation for my future computing study, helping me deal with data and numbers.”





Xiaochuan Yu

Course:
Political Studies and Philosophy
School:
Zhengzhou Foreign Language
School A Level Center, China

University: Queen's University, Canada

Xiaochuan took Cambridge International AS & A Levels in Mathematics, Physics, Economics, and Chemistry.

“ Studying Cambridge International AS & A Levels helped me to achieve academic excellence, and to gain the critical learning skills needed to succeed at university. I'm studying Philosophy and Political Studies, two of the most demanding arts majors for international students. With the writing and reading skills I gained from the Cambridge curriculum, I find it less challenging than others to understand the complicated treatises and philosophical course materials. I also appreciate my previous experience preparing for Cambridge examinations, which taught me how to manage my time and improve my efficiency.”

Sinamys Bagh

Course:
Physiology and Neuroscience
School: Kuwait English School,
Kuwait; Fieldstone King's
College, Canada

University:
University of Toronto, Canada

Sinamys took Cambridge International AS Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and English, as well as eight Cambridge IGCSEs.

“ In Kuwait, I had followed the Cambridge curriculum so when I moved to Canada I made sure I joined another Cambridge school. I really believe that Cambridge International provided me with a strong and rich foundation in preparation for university, and my four Cambridge International AS Levels were accepted when I applied for a place. Although it was a challenging journey, I highly recommend Cambridge qualifications to current students. If you like a challenge and are willing to put in the extra effort, it will all pay off in the end.”



Wenya Deng

Course:
Rotman Commerce programme
School: Shenzhen College of
International Education, China
University: University of
Toronto, Canada

Wenya took Cambridge International AS & A Levels in Mathematics, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, and English as a First Language.

“ I've always believed I would be a businesswoman one day, so I chose the University of Toronto as its Rotman Commerce programme is ranked No 1 in Canada, and my straight A Cambridge International A Level results gave me the confidence to apply. Studying A Levels was a perfect introduction to university in an English-speaking country, especially for students like myself who have English as a second language. I was able to fit right in, without any gaps in my knowledge or understanding. The style of teaching and learning is similar and, more importantly, the challenging nature of Cambridge assessments trained me to think critically when solving problems.”

Nadine Mukondiwa

Course:
Management Information Systems
School:
Chisipite Senior School, Zimbabwe
University:
University of Alberta, Canada



Nadine took Cambridge International A Levels in Chemistry, Geography and Mathematics, and an AS Level in Global Perspectives.

“ As a student in the Faculty of Business, I have to make many presentations. I know that Global Perspectives helped me develop my presentation and communication skills. Academically, Cambridge International helped me maintain a high standard in my coursework. The biggest challenge I'd found was managing my workload, but this has now helped me adjust very quickly to university life.”

Student success stories

A passport to study in Canada continued



Syed Hussain Raza

Course: Computer Science

School:

Beaconhouse School, Pakistan

University: University of Waterloo, Canada

Syed gained Cambridge International A Levels in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, and Economics.

“Cambridge International A Levels are considered to be advanced and are valued by Canadian universities. According to other students, Cambridge International A Level courses are difficult compared to Canadian high school courses. My good performance in my Cambridge courses helped me gain a place at the University of Waterloo. I have already covered some of the material in my first year at university in my Cambridge International A Level courses, so the transition will be easy. I have also been granted credits and exemptions from some of my university courses because of my Cambridge qualifications.”

Deep Patel

Course: Process Engineering and Chemistry

School:

Academic International Secondary School, Tanzania

University: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Deep took Cambridge International AS & A Levels in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Advanced Mathematics.

“My Cambridge International A Level results were recognised by all of the Canadian universities I applied to, making the process easy. My Cambridge qualifications also gained me 33 transfer credits before I even started my first class.

Though it was dependent on my grades, it still kick-started my university career. Process Engineering is a mix of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering and it was definitely a very good career choice for me. Living in Newfoundland (known as ‘The Rock’) is also an adventure.”



Tom Stubbs

Course: Mechanical Engineering

School:

Peterhouse School, Zimbabwe

University: University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Tom gained nine Cambridge O Levels and Cambridge International AS & A Levels in English Language, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics.

“Having good grades in my Cambridge exams meant that all of the universities I contacted were quick to accept my application. Cambridge exams made me stand out from the thousands of other applicants – the courses teach you a great deal academically and give you an in-depth understanding of how you work best. The Cambridge courses are similar in structure to university courses, and I found that I had already dived deeper into the fundamentals than in many first-year courses. Cambridge study methods, exam techniques, assignments and laboratory-based science practicals set me up well for university.”





Madhumita Varma

Course:
BA in International Relations
University:
University of British Columbia

“When I started Cambridge A Levels, I did not imagine that it would play such an important role in taking me to where I am today. During my last year in school, I realised how much of an advantage the Cambridge curriculum gave me in terms of applying for university programmes across the world. I recently completed a four-year Bachelor’s degree in International Relations at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. The grades I received for the Cambridge A Level examinations were recognised by UBC and I was awarded credits, which meant that I could delve right into second year courses in my first year at UBC. More importantly, however, I am amazed by how well the material I learned in A levels stuck with me all these years. I had not taken any science courses in university, and yet, thanks to the education I received in school, I was able to have meaningful discussions with my friends in the faculty of science at UBC. This shows that the kind of education I received through my excellent teachers and through the Cambridge curriculum has helped me retain the information I learnt, and to use logic and reason to solve practical issues. In my opinion, this is what sets the Cambridge curriculum apart from other syllabi, for it is in putting learned theories to practice that the true value of education is discovered.”

Anoop Nair

Course: Chemical Engineering
University: Ryerson University, Toronto

“Taking Cambridge International A Levels has had a significant impact in my life, both inside and outside the classroom. The application based approach of the syllabus has moulded me to see the bigger picture of whatever I learn, which was how I ended up realising Chemical Engineering was what I wanted to pursue. The problem solving skills that I gained and sheer depth of the syllabus have made the transition to post-secondary education seamless. I forged great bonds with the school faculty members, who were extremely approachable and supportive of my aspirations for which I am always grateful. Learning in such a diverse environment has also sharpened my interpersonal and communicational skills. The Cambridge Syllabus has proved to be an instrumental role in laying a solid foundation and giving me the desire required to achieve my goals.”



Angie Ruiz

Student, ranked #1 in her Senior Class, South Broward High School
School: South Broward High School, Florida, USA

“Cambridge courses are as rigorous as other senior classes but the final exams focus on whether you have learned the material and can reason and make connections, not on memorisation. The curriculum is always up to international standards and presents information from a global perspective, given that the same material is taught all over the world. Cambridge classes therefore efficiently equip students for life outside high school. Not only do you learn more information and skills, you learn how to apply your learning and think in terms of a worldwide platform.”

Recognition of Cambridge qualifications

More than 50 universities across Canada welcome applications from Cambridge students.

Cambridge International A Levels are widely accepted for direct entry to undergraduate degree courses. A growing number of universities now also accept Cambridge Pre-U, an alternative to A Level taken in UK schools.

Here is a snapshot of some of the leading Canadian universities and how they consider Cambridge qualifications from applicants.

University of Toronto

Cambridge students must provide:

- a Cambridge Pre-U certificate in three Principal Subjects, or the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma (including three Principal Subjects, or a combination of A Levels and Principal Subjects), Global Perspectives and the Independent Research Report.
- prerequisites presented as AS or A Levels or Principal Subjects – some programmes may consider excellent Cambridge IGCSE or O Level results for fulfilling a prerequisite.

Students taking A Level exams in the academic year of application will be considered for a provisional offer of admission.



University of Toronto

McGill University

Minimum requirements are three Cambridge International A Levels with predicted and final grades of B B C or better, or two A Levels and two AS Levels with grades of B B C C or better, or B C B B or better.

Most programmes are competitive and require higher grades for Cambridge IGCSEs, Cambridge International AS & A Levels, CAPE and Cambridge Pre-U. Applicants presenting minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission. A maximum of 30 credits of advanced standing may be granted for final official results.

Students completing Upper Form VI will be considered on Cambridge IGCSEs, AS Levels and predicted A Levels. Students only completing Lower Form VI with AS Levels, with a minimum of five appropriate IGCSEs with clearly superior marks, can be considered for admission on an individual basis.

Students attending a school where all exams are taken at the end of the second year (and who do not sit for unit/module examinations and/or do not claim AS Level qualifications at the end of AL1) must tell McGill University. If completed, AS Level results must be submitted.

For students with Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, the minimum grade is M3, with not more than one at M3.

University of British Columbia (UBC)

Students must provide standing in at least five academic subject areas, including English, with at least three UBC-approved academic Cambridge International A Levels (or six AS Levels). A subject may not be counted at both A Level and at IGCSE or O Level. A Level and AS Level courses that are not sufficiently academic in content (as determined by UBC) cannot be used. The admission average is calculated on at least two IGCSEs or O Levels and three A Levels or six AS Levels. Students may be eligible for first-year credit at UBC. Visit the university website for more details.

University of Alberta

Students may use a combination of AS or A Level and O Level courses to meet the five required admission subjects. A minimum of two (sometimes three) subjects must be at A or AS Level – remaining subjects may be at O Level. Some applicants may qualify for admission based on forecast results.



Concordia University

Two appropriate Cambridge International A Levels (Grade C or better), plus three appropriate IGCSEs, are accepted for entry. Two appropriate AS Levels may be accepted in lieu of an A Level, and Business School applicants must also have at least three O Levels with a B average. Certain programmes require additional material – visit the website for more information. Engineering and Computer Science applicants must have a minimum B grade in A Level Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, plus superior grades in five appropriate IGCSEs. Students who have not completed Year 13/Upper Form VI need superior grades in a minimum of five appropriate IGCSEs plus one year of formal schooling beyond IGCSE.

University of Saskatchewan

Applicants must present five acceptable O Levels (including Mathematics and a first-language literature/composition course) and at least two acceptable A Levels. Students may apply for admission in the year they sit A Level exams if they submit at least five suitable O Level results and predicted A Level results. Students not taking A Levels may be considered for admission if they have completed four acceptable AS Level subjects.

For up-to-date details and a full list of Canadian colleges and universities accepting Cambridge qualifications, search our recognitions database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance

“ Cambridge International helps us to go to university and to be accepted because we have more knowledge. ”

Zongyan Yao, student at Fieldstone King's College School, Toronto, Ontario

Canadian universities that accept Cambridge qualifications



Additional sources of information

For further information for universities, schools and students, visit the Cambridge Assessment International Education Recognition web pages: www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance

For further information about studying in Canada and choosing a school, college or university, visit the Government of Canada website:

www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/choose-school-college-university.html

For further information about applying to study at a Canadian university, visit www.universitystudy.ca

Cambridge Assessment International Education
The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
t: +44 1223 553554 f: +44 1223 553558

www.cambridgeinternational.org

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