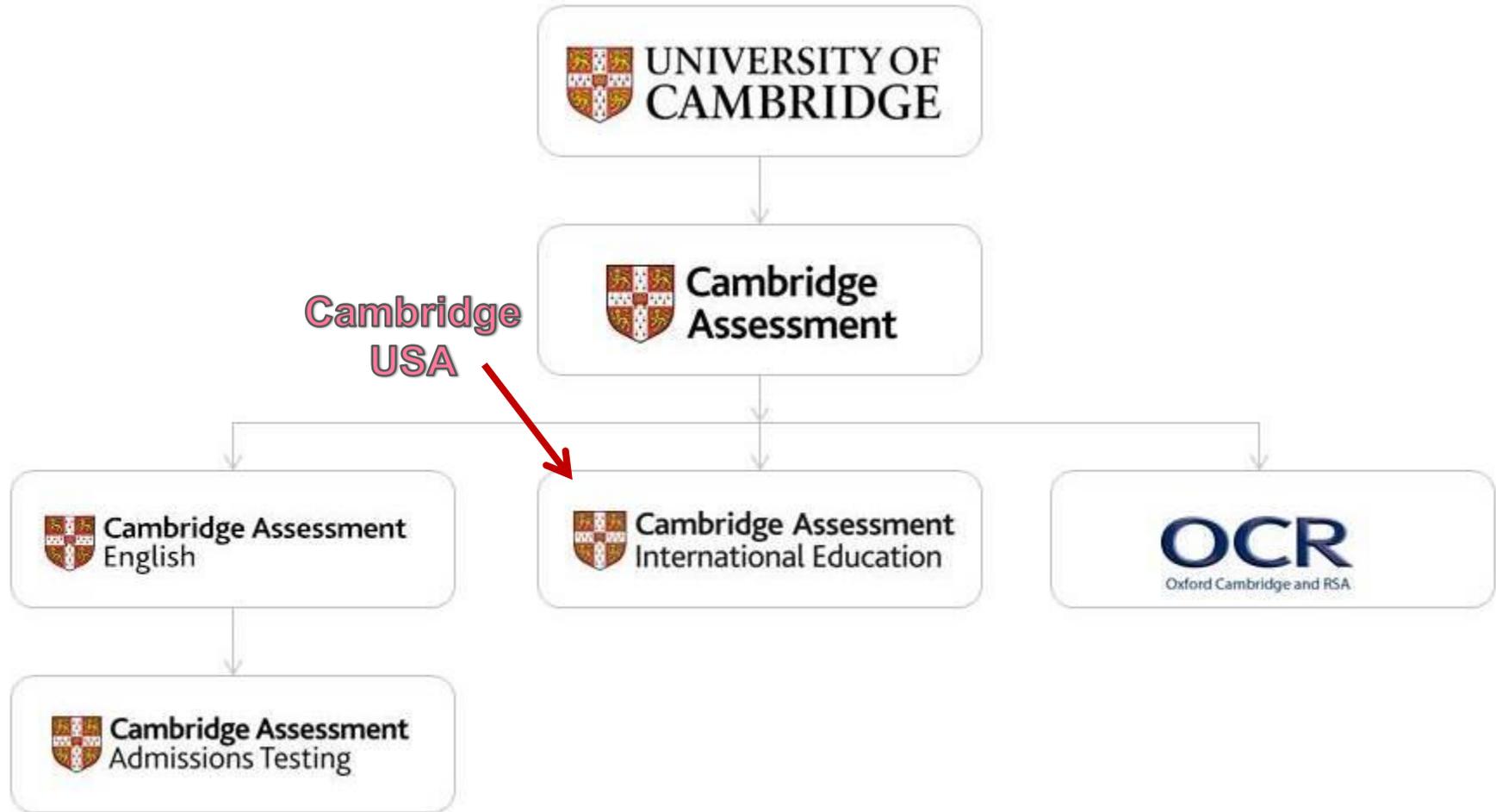


# Cambridge AS and A Levels in the US Context: What You Need To Know...

Adina Chapman  
Recognition Manager, North America  
April 3, 2019



# Cambridge Assessment Structure



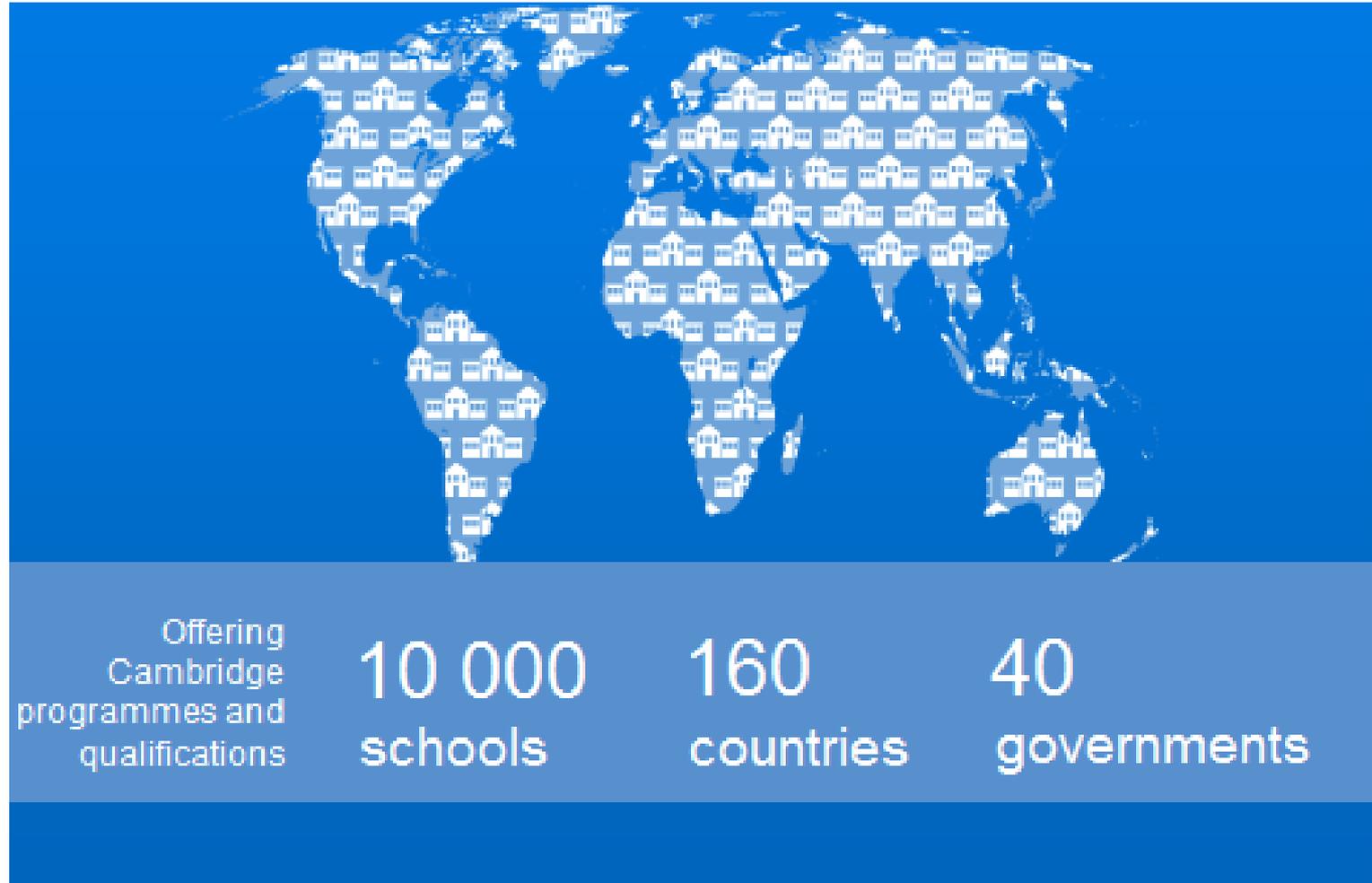
# Cambridge Assessment International Education

## A not for profit department of the University of Cambridge

- We prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning
- We are at the heart of a global learning community including more than 10,000 schools, including the US
- We work in partnership with educators worldwide, including 40 national governments and education reform projects

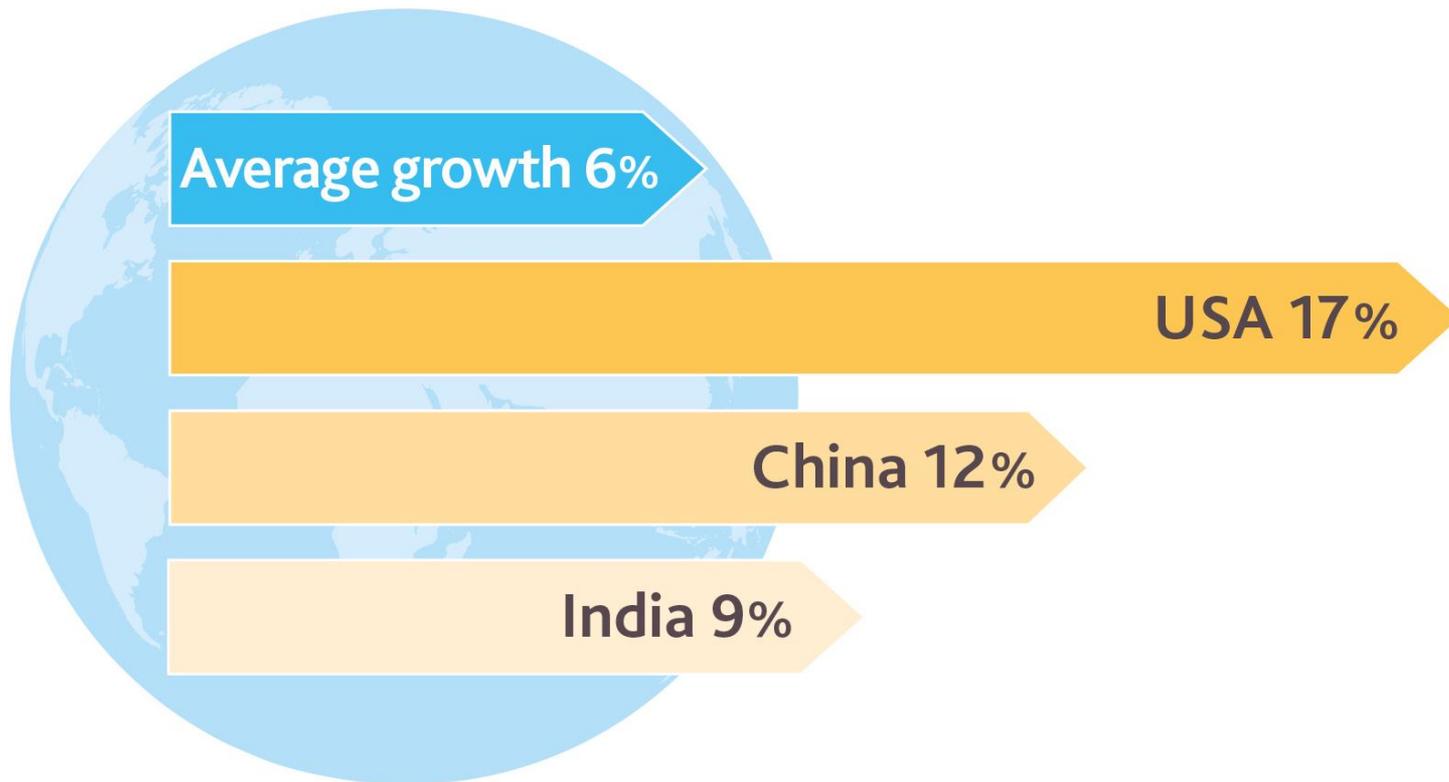


# Global Reach

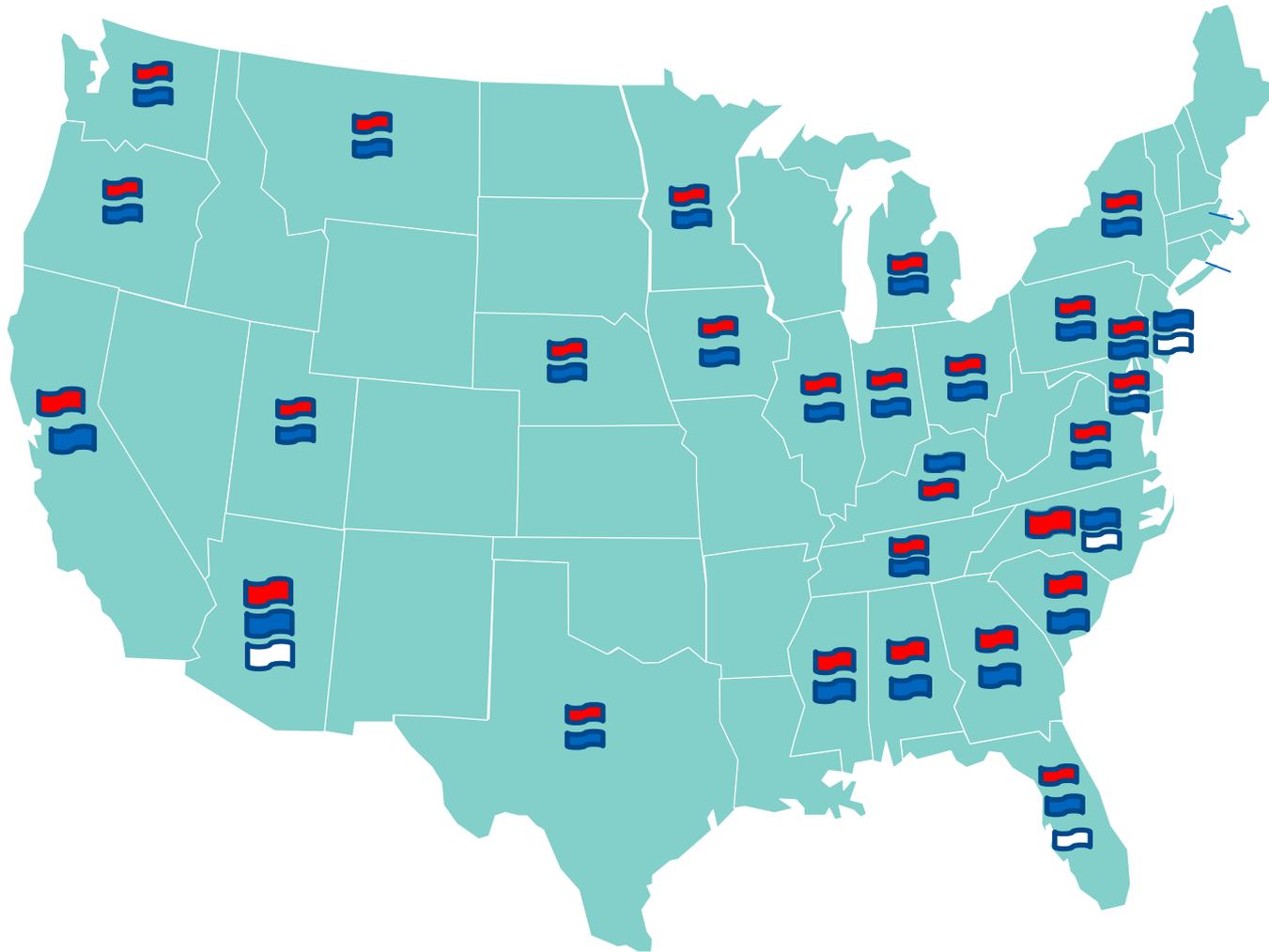


# Our changing international schools market

Annual growth in entries 2012/13 to 2017/18



# Cambridge in the United States

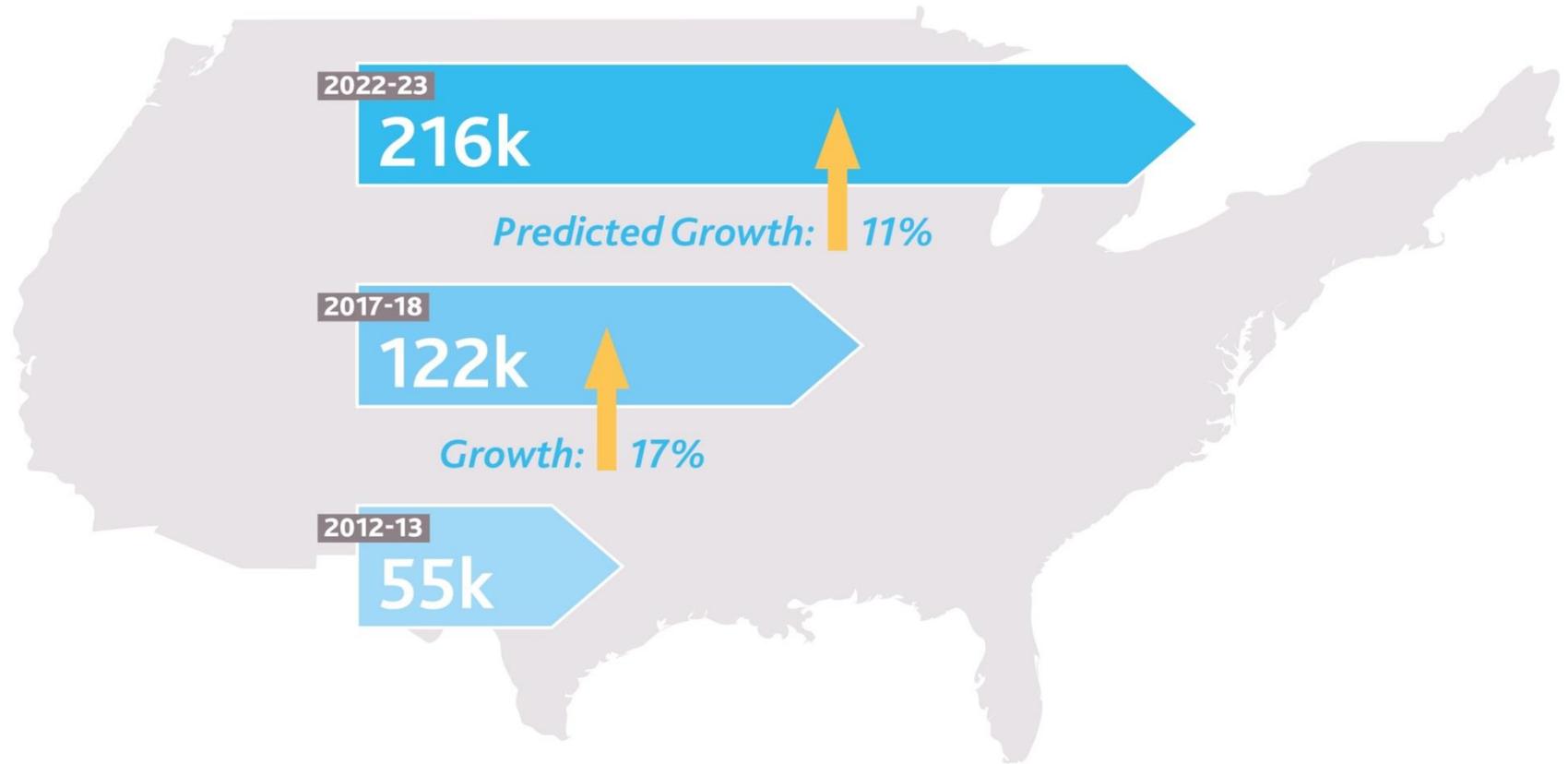


-  Primary
-  Secondary
-  Advanced (AICE)

- United States is the fastest growing region for Cambridge AS and A-levels
- Over 400 Schools offering Cambridge

April 2018

# Cambridge International in the US



# 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

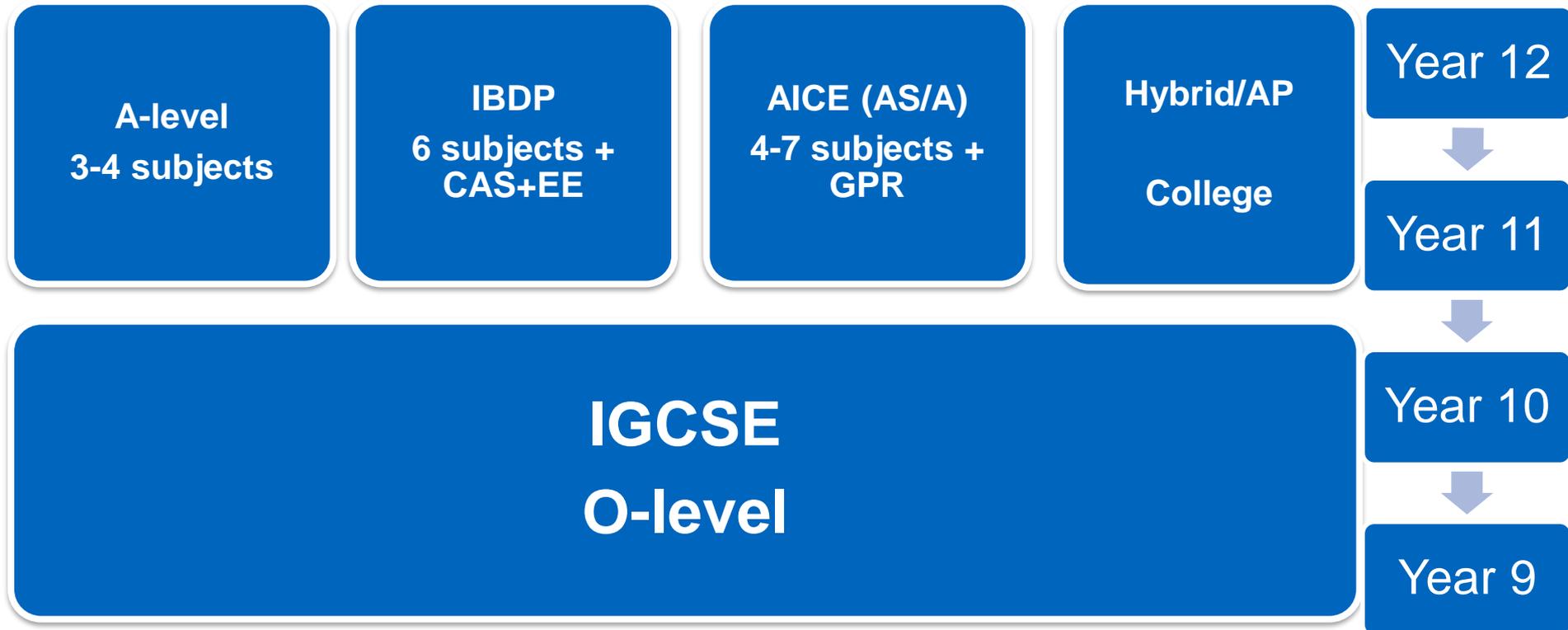
**Professional Development** for teachers and school leaders

\*Age ranges are for guidance only

# US vs British Education Systems

US Education System	British Education System
Pre-major and major specific requirements (3 years)	University (3 years focused on major)
General education	A level courses
Community College or lower division coursework at a college or university	AS level courses 16-19 year olds
High School Diploma	Upper Secondary – IGCSE (14-16 year olds)
Middle School	Lower Secondary 11-14 year olds
Elementary School	Primary 5-11 year olds

# IGCSE: A Foundation for College-Level Rigor



# Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced (A) Levels

- **A two year established and well known rigorous curriculum that gives students the opportunity for a deep dive in a wide choice of subjects**
- **Focus on developing the skills and knowledge required for university study in higher education around the world**
- **Cover essential key concepts for the subject**
- **Tens of thousands of students use it every year to gain entrance at leading universities worldwide**
- **International in outlook with local relevance**
- **A Levels include 360 class contact hours, usually over 2 years, the first 180 hours is for AS Level**
- **Over 55 subjects – specialize or retain breadth**

# Cambridge Advanced Assessment Structure

There are three possible assessment approaches for Cambridge International AS and A Level:



Learners take the Cambridge International AS Level only. The syllabus content for Cambridge International AS Level is half of a Cambridge International A Level programme.

Learners take the Cambridge International AS Level in Year 1 and in Year 2 complete the Cambridge International A Level.

Learners take all papers of the Cambridge International A Level course in the same examination series, usually at the end of the second year of study.

# CAMBRIDGE AS AND A LEVEL COURSES IN SUBJECT GROUPS

Group 1 Mathematics and Science	Group 2 Languages	Group 3 Arts and Humanities	Group 4 Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Information and Communication Technology</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Computing</li> <li>• Design &amp; Technology</li> <li>• Environmental Management (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Further Mathematics (A Level only)</li> <li>• Marine Science</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Physical Education</li> <li>• Physics</li> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afrikaans Language (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Arabic</li> <li>• Chinese Mandarin</li> <li>• English Language</li> <li>• First Language Spanish (AS Level only)</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• German</li> <li>• Hindi</li> <li>• Marathi</li> <li>• Portuguese</li> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• Tamil</li> <li>• Telugu</li> <li>• Urdu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accounting</li> <li>• Art &amp; Design</li> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Classical Studies</li> <li>• Design &amp; Textiles</li> <li>• Divinity</li> <li>• Economics</li> <li>• Environmental Management (AS Level only)</li> <li>• French Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Hindi Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Islamic Studies</li> <li>• Language &amp; Literature in English (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Literature in English</li> <li>• Media Studies</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Portuguese Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Sociology</li> <li>• Spanish Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking Skills</li> <li>• General Paper (AS Level only)</li> <li>• Research Report (A Level Global Perspective and Research component 4)*</li> </ul> <p><i>*Note:</i>  <b>Subject Group 4 does not include the compulsory CORE AS Level Global Perspectives and Research components 1,2 &amp; 3.</b>  <b>Subject Group 4 only includes GPR's component 4: Research Report.</b></p>
			 Cambridge Assessment International Education

# A Level entries for 2017-18

	<b>Top 10 countries</b>
<b>1</b>	Pakistan
<b>2</b>	Mauritius
<b>3</b>	Malaysia
<b>4</b>	China
<b>5</b>	United States of America
<b>6</b>	Zimbabwe
<b>7</b>	India
<b>8</b>	Brunei Darussalam
<b>9</b>	Nepal
<b>10</b>	Bangladesh

# AS Level entries for 2017-18

	<b>Top 10 countries</b>
<b>1</b>	United States of America
<b>2</b>	Pakistan
<b>3</b>	China
<b>4</b>	Mauritius
<b>5</b>	Malaysia
<b>6</b>	India
<b>7</b>	New Zealand
<b>8</b>	Bangladesh
<b>9</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>10</b>	Brunei Darussalam

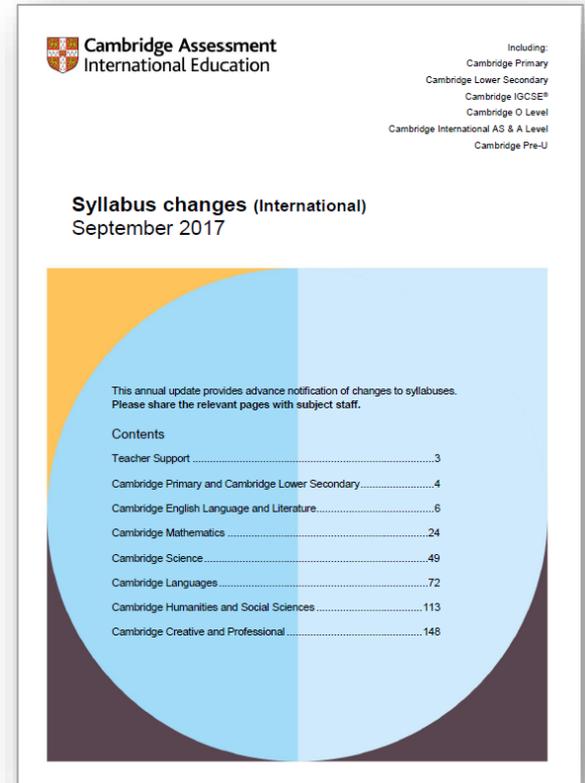
# Top 10 AS Level subjects studied in the USA in 2017-18

	Top 10 AS Level subjects studied in USA
1	General Paper
2	History
3	English Language
4	Global Perspectives & Research
5	Thinking Skills
6	Literature in English
7	Marine Science
8	Psychology
9	Environmental Management
10	Spanish Language

# Curriculum changes: What's new?

We provide advance notice of changes to syllabuses at least a year before first teaching.

- ▶ Visit the What's new pages on our public website.
- ▶ Download our Syllabus Changes guide for full details of updated syllabuses.
- ▶ Sign up for e-Updates to keep up to date with the syllabuses you teach.
- ▶ [www.cambridgeinternational.org/new](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/new)



# Key concepts

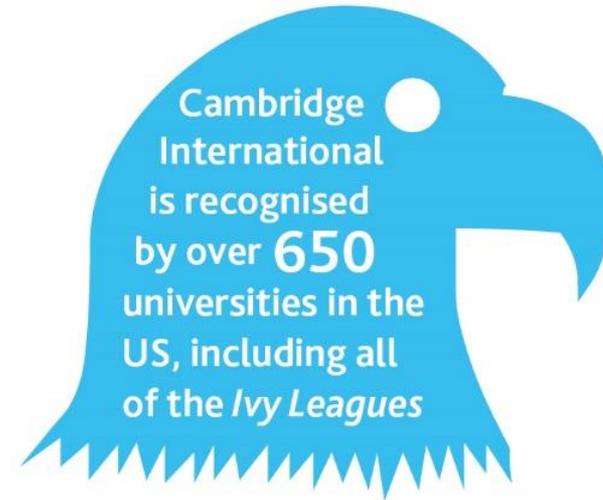
Some of the world's leading higher education institutes told us that what really helps learners succeed at university is a firm grasp of the subject's key concepts.

- ▶ Key concepts help **link** units and topics to wider themes.
- ▶ Teaching with key concepts can help stimulate intellectual interest and unify what can appear to be random and separate areas of learning.
- ▶ Schemes of work will include guidance on using key concepts effectively in the classroom
- ▶ Teach by topic structure of syllabus and relate content to key concepts
- ▶ Teach by key concept to cover the topics.

# Cambridge and Higher Education

Syllabuses developed in conjunction with higher education faculty worldwide: USA, UK, Canada, Singapore, Australia, South Africa, etc.

- ▶ Over **180 institutions** in the US recognize IGCSE/O-Level as minimum entry requirement
- ▶ **US is the top destination** for Cambridge students worldwide



*“The depth of knowledge displayed by the best A Level students makes them prime targets for America’s Ivy League universities” – Yale University*

# Comparability with the US system

- ▶ Credential evaluators usually agree that IGCSE and O Level are comparable to the level of a US high school diploma and recommend credit for A Levels. Many also recommend credit for AS Levels.
- ▶ What do Cambridge grades mean?

Grades for Cambridge International AS & A Levels	
A*, A	Excellent
B	
C	Good
D	
E	Satisfactory
U	Not Passing

# US Grade - Cambridge Equivalents

US Grading Scale	Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education Level	Cambridge International AS Level	Cambridge International A Level
A+	A*		A*
A	A	a	A
B+	B	b	B
B	C	c	C
C+	D	d	D
C	E	e	E
D+	F	n/a	n/a
D	G	n/a	n/a
F	Ungraded	Ungraded	Ungraded

Cambridge letter grades can be converted to a US-style grade in this manner according to credential evaluators

HOWEVER, the true meaning of a letter grade is a standard achieved: students' proficiency on well-defined course objectives

# IGCSE Grade Meaning

Grade	Standard Achieved
A/A*	Knowledge is specific, appropriate and comprehensive; evidence of exceptional comprehension skills; and outstanding high-order, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
B	Knowledge is specific, appropriate and comprehensive; evidence of exceptional comprehension skills; very good high-order, problem-solving and critical thinking skills
C	Knowledge is specific, appropriate to the task – evidence of sound comprehension skills; good high-order, problem-solving skills
D	Knowledge is specific and appropriate to the task – comprehension evident, critical thinking and problem-solving skills satisfactory
E	General basic knowledge exhibited, also evidence of an ability to comprehend this knowledge and limited problem-solving skills
F	Basic knowledge still limited – goes beyond the recall and recognition level to show some understanding of this basic knowledge; very limited problem-solving skills evident
G	Limited basic knowledge about the tasks required and only at the recall or recognition level; with no comprehension and no problem-solving skills evident.

A, B & C – Above Average

D – Average

E, F & G – Below Average

# Cambridge exam grade equivalencies

AACRAO Edge + College Board AP College Course Grade Equivalent			
Cambridge International A Level	Cambridge International AS Level	US Grade Equivalent	AP College Course Grade Equivalent
A*		A+	5
A	a	A	5
B	b	B+	4
C	c	B	4
D	d	C+	3
E	e	C	3
Ungraded	Ungraded	F	1-2

For additional information, check out:

- AACRAO Edge's UK/US grade comparisons at <http://edge.aacrao.org/>
- College Board's comparability studies of AP Exam scores associated with college course grades at <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/courses-exams/scoring>.

# Recommended Credit by Examination Award

	(AS Levels) 1 semester	(A Levels) 1 year
Humanities & other fields	3 credits	6 credits
Laboratory sciences	4 credits	8 credits

# AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) Diploma

**Group 1: Science and Math**

At least 1 point

**Group 2: Languages**

At least 1 point

**Group 3: Arts and Humanities**

At least 1 point

**Group 4: Interdisciplinary Skills  
Based Courses**

**Optional:** Max of 2 points

**Core: Global Perspectives and  
Research**  
Required: 1  
point

4 Required  
+  
3 Choice =  
7 points

## AICE Diploma Requirements

- *Combines breadth of study with choice and flexibility*
- *Selection comes from three curriculum areas and one Core*
- *Total of 7 points required: at least one from Groups 1-3; one from Core; three from learner's choice*
- *Passing scores are required on all exams to receive Diploma*

# Sample Statement of Results

Other hidden security features are also present on official Cambridge documentation

**Statement of Results**  
INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION  
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL

Candidate Name <b>A SPECIMEN</b>	Date of Birth <b>DD/MM/YYYY</b>	Centre / Cand. No. <b>XXXXX/XXXXX</b>
Centre Name <b>CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE CENTRE</b>	Series <b>November 2013</b>	To be quoted on all correspondence

**IGCSE**

Syllabus	Syllabus Title	Result	Percentage Uniform Mark
0450	Business Studies	B(b)	77 %
0455	Economics	B(b)	75 %
0495	Sociology	B(b)	73 %
0510	English as a Second Language With Grade 1(ONE) in Oral/Aural	A(a)	86 %
0653	Combined Science	A(a)	83 %

**SPECIMEN**

**Explanatory Notes**  
This statement of results is not a certificate. Cambridge International Examinations reserves the right to amend the information on this statement. Results will be confirmed by the issue of certificates.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) results are reported on an 8-point scale of grades: A\*(a\*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d), E(e), F(f) or G(g); grade A\*(a\*) being the highest and grade G(g) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade G(g).

General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O Level) results are reported on a 6-point scale of grades: A\*(a\*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d) or E(e); grade A\*(a\*) being the highest and grade E(e) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade E(e).

NO RESULT indicates that a result cannot be issued because of absence for the whole part of the examination in the syllabus or because of a decision not to issue a result for some other reason.  
PENDING indicates that a result cannot be issued at present but will follow in due course.  
TO BE ISSUED indicates that the results will be awarded in the next series.

In some IGCSE syllabuses Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication is reported separately on a 5-point numerical scale. Grade 1(ONE) being the highest and grade 5(FIVE) the lowest. Candidates who fail to reach minimum standard for grade 5(FIVE) will not receive an Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication endorsement. The endorsement grade for Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication will be reported on IGCSE certificates provided the overall IGCSE syllabus result grade G(g) or higher.  
For English as a Second Language 0510 and 0520 the Oral/Aural is compulsory and is reported separately. For English as a Second Language 0511 the Oral/Aural is compulsory but is not reported separately.  
For First Language syllabuses and Afrikaans as a Second Language, speaking & listening is optional and is reported separately. For First Language English 0522 the Speaking & Listening is compulsory but is not reported separately.

The Percentage Uniform Mark for IGCSE and GCE O Level is provided in addition to the grade for a syllabus. The Percentage Uniform Mark is not the total mark achieved for the syllabus. It is a common scale for all syllabuses to show whether the candidate's result is Ungraded, No Result, Pending or To be Issued.

Only grades A\*(a\*) to G(g) achieved in IGCSE syllabuses will be reported on certificates.  
Only grades A\*(a\*) to E(e) achieved in GCE O Level syllabuses will be reported on certificates.

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

**Cambridge Assessment**  
International Education

Upper and Lower case reporting of grades achieved

Percentage Uniform Mark

Watermark

Serial number

# Sample Certificate: Cambridge International AS and A Level

**Other hidden security features are also present on official Cambridge documentation**

The image shows a sample Cambridge International Certificate of Education. The certificate is titled "General Certificate of Education" and certifies that in the June 2013 examination series, a specimen was awarded the following grades in the syllabus(es) shown:

Syllabus	Grade
Further Mathematics	A(a)
Portuguese	C(c)
Portuguese With Distinction in Speaking	
Literature in English	c(c)
Applied Information & Communication Technology	d(d)

SYLLABUSES REPORTED: FOUR

The certificate also features a watermark, a signature of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, a red "SPECIMEN" stamp, and a hologram. The bottom of the certificate includes the candidate number, certificate number, and the Cambridge International Examinations logo.

Annotations with arrows point to the following features:

- Number of subjects
- Watermark
- Signature of VC of University of Cambridge
- Upper and Lower case reporting of grades achieved
- Hologram
- Serial number

# CIE Direct- verify students' results online

**On-screen Search** **Multiple Candidate Search**

To search for candidate results, complete the fields below - all the fields are mandatory.  
You can add up to a maximum of 20 rows.

Centre Number	Candidate Number	Date of Birth			Series
AB123	1234	22	Nov	1992	January 2005
ZZ123	0001	01	Jan	1995	June 2013
		dd	mmm	yyyy	Select
		dd	mmm	yyyy	Select
		dd	mmm	yyyy	Select
		dd	mmm	yyyy	Select
		dd	mmm	yyyy	Select

Display results:  On screen  Export to file (CSV)

I am missing the results for a candidate or some candidates. [Why is this?](#)

Free online services to universities

Email [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk)

## Results

Candidate Name	Candidate Number	Date Of Birth	Gender	Centre	Country	Series	<input type="button" value="Expand all"/>
	0001	01/Jan/1995		ZZ123		June 2013	<input type="button" value="Expand"/>

Series	Qualification	Subject	Syllabus/Option	Result
June 2013	IGCSE	Biology	0610CY	A* (97)
June 2013	IGCSE	Business Studies	0450AY	A* (91)
June 2013	IGCSE	Chemistry	0620CY	A* (98)
June 2013	IGCSE	Economics	0455AY	A* (95)
June 2013	IGCSE	First Language English (Oral Endorsement)	0500CU	A (80)
June 2013	IGCSE	Foreign Language French	0520BY	A* (95)

An application form is available on our website at:  
[www.cie.org.uk/ciedirectaapplicationform](http://www.cie.org.uk/ciedirectaapplicationform)

# Recognition Database – search results

## Search Results

**> Recognition and acceptance**

- > Register your organisation's admissions policy
- > Recognition search**

**Latest recognition**

- [Villanova University](#)
- [North Carolina State University](#)
- [Villanova University](#)

Your results are displayed below. Where recognition data has been provided by organisations, it can be sorted by organisation name, type or location. To do this, click the corresponding list header. The results displayed represent only written statements or recognition received but these qualifications are also accepted by many other organisations which have not provided us with a statement.

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

You searched on:

Organisation Type:	Universities and colleges
Organisation Name:	
Country:	United States
State:	All
Qualification Group:	Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE Diploma

[Print](#) [Search again](#)

Recognitions that match your search criteria:

— Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE Diploma 503 results

Organisation Name	Type	Location	Recognition Details
Abilene Christian University	Universities and colleges	United States Texas	Cambridge International A Levels are recognised for matriculation purposes. Please contact the university for further details. <a href="#">Details</a>
Adams State University	Universities and colleges	United States Colorado	Adams State University is willing to offer academic credit/transfer credit based upon the university's respective academic department's evaluation and recommendation of coursework completed at A Level. Adams State University may also evaluate AS Levels for academic credit/transfer credit. Please contact the university for more information. TOEFL and SAT/ACT requirements will not be required. However, students must have their transcripts evaluated by an authorized agency as mentioned in our international student FAQ section <a href="http://www.adams.edu/international/interfaq.php">http://www.adams.edu/international/interfaq.php</a>

# How to add a university statement of recognition

[www.cambridgeinternational.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/)

## Register your organisation's admissions policy

[Home](#) > [Programmes and qualifications](#) > [Recognition and Acceptance](#)

- > Recognition and Acceptance
  - > **Register your organisation's admissions policy**
  - > Recognition search

If you would like your organisation to appear in our recognition search listings, please complete the form below.

Please contact us if you'd like to know how we will use the information you provide or if you have any other queries relating to our recognition search listings.

If you are a school and want to register with Cambridge, please go to the [Join Cambridge](#) section.

If you have a general enquiry about Cambridge qualifications, please contact [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk).

### Organisation details

Organisation name \*

Address (line 1) \*

Address (line 2) \*

Address (line 3)

Address (line 4)

Address (line 5)

Post Code

Country \*

Please select

### Join Cambridge

 Find out how to become a Cambridge school.

### Where will a Cambridge qualification take you?

 Read our guide to the recognition and acceptance of Cambridge qualifications.

 [Cambridge recognition brochure \(PDF, 4MB\)](#)

Or email: [recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org.uk](mailto:recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org.uk)

# Florida State University study – Cambridge, IB and AP student performance

Key Findings on Freshman GPA after controlling for race, gender and SAT score:

**- Cambridge students' freshman year GPA was statistically equivalent to AP students**

**- Cambridge students' freshman year GPA was statistically higher than IB students**

**- All three groups earned higher freshman year GPA compared to matched students who did not earn credit through an advanced program.**

**Sample:** The sample included more than 8,500 students who entered FSU during the academic years of 2007-2010.

Additional findings of Cambridge students (from FSU study):

**- Increase in probability of undertaking study abroad; DIS (directed individual studies); research; honours in major; also less likely to drop out of college than IB in accordance with increasing numbers of credit hours earned**

**Sample:** Expanding freshman GPA data modelling work - cumulative GPA n=30,144; 2007-2012]

[1] Shaw, S., & Bailey, C. (2011). Success in the US: Are Cambridge International Assessments Good Preparation for University Study? *Journal of College Admission*, (Fall 2011), 6-16. [2] Shaw, S.D, Warren, J. & Gill, T. (2014). Assessing the Impact of the Cambridge International Acceleration Program on US University Determinants of Success: a Multilevel Modelling Approach. *College and University*, 89(4): 38-54





# THANK YOU

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