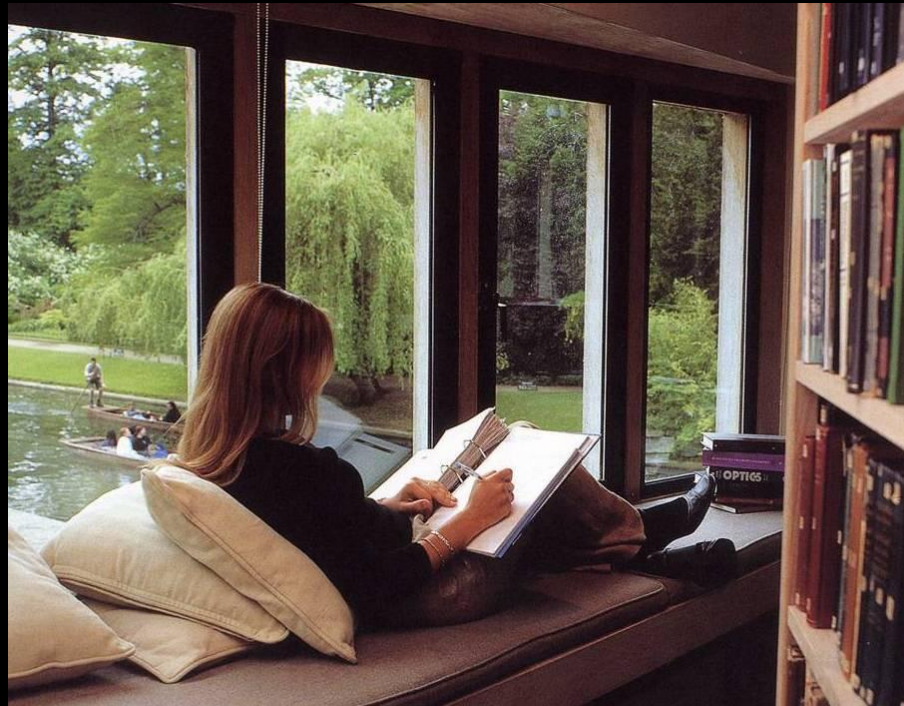


Applying to the University of Cambridge



Andrew J Murray

Admissions Tutor – Trinity Hall, Cambridge





Newport, South Wales

Oxford

Cambridge



Harvey Court (Gonville & Caius)

What we have to offer

- Challenging, stimulating courses
- Top-rated education
- Small-group teaching
- Superb facilities
- Collegiate structure
- Great social life
- Supportive environment
- Excellent career prospects



Academic life

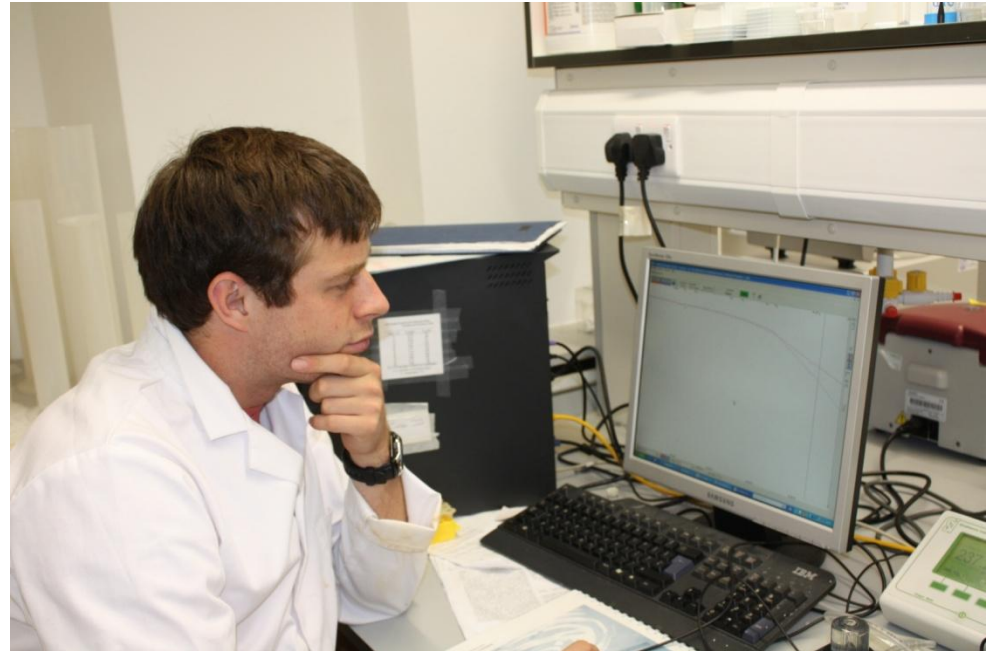
- Small-group teaching – tutorials / supervisions
- Lectures, classes, seminars, practicals
- Independent study
- Director of Studies – oversees academic progress and welfare
- Assessment – end of year, rather than termly





Undergraduate Courses (Sciences)

- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Medical Science
- Natural Sciences
- Psychology and Behavioural Sciences
- Veterinary Science



Note also other options such as: Mathematics with Physics; Computer Science with Mathematics etc...

Sciences... Offering Academic Diversity

Engineering

Broad Foundation in first year:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Structures and Materials
- Electrical and Info Engineering
- Mathematical Methods

Natural Sciences

Choice of three sciences from:

- Chemistry
- Biology of Cells
- Evolution and Behaviour
- Physiology of Organisms
- Physics
- Materials Science
- Earth Sciences
- Computer Science

Plus a supporting mathematics course

Sciences...Offering potential to specialise

Part II Natural Sciences: 16 single subjects...(* means can be for 1 or 2 years with 2 years leading to a MSci) :

Biological

*Biochemistry, *Chemistry, Genetics, Neuroscience, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology (Development & Neuroscience), Plant Sciences, Psychology, Zoology, Systems Biology (4th year only).

Physical

*Astrophysics, Chemistry, *Experimental and Theoretical Physics, *Geological Sciences, *Materials Science.

Other

*History and Philosophy of Science.

Undergraduate Courses (Arts)

Languages

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Classics
- English
- Linguistics
- MML (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian)

Other Arts

- Architecture
- Theology
- History
- History of Art
- Geography
- Music
- Philosophy

Social Sciences

- Economics
- Education
- Land Economy
- Law
- Human, Social and Political Sciences



Choosing a course

- **What are you good at? What do you enjoy?**
- **What would you like to study for 3 – 4 years?**
- **What do you hope to be doing in 5 – 10 years?**
- **Read the prospectus!**



College Life



The Collegiate System

- All Cambridge Colleges offer accommodation for *all* years of undergraduate study.
- Provides a focus for social life; sport, drama, music etc.
- Small group teaching (supervisions) and academic support arranged through your Director of Studies (DoS) in the subject.
- Personal support and welfare arranged by a Tutor.
- Monitor academic progress through regular meetings.
- Tutor or DoS will write references for jobs and/or Masters/Ph.D. applications etc.

Choosing a College

Common facilities include:

- accommodation
- JCR
- library and computing facilities
- dining hall and bar
- sports facilities

Differences include:

- subjects offered
- size / number of students
- location
- specific facilities
- appearance

Where would you like to live?



Choosing a college

- If in the UK, try and visit the University and colleges on a specified college, subject or University Open Day
- For overseas students, colleges are often able to make individual arrangements if you happen to be in the UK
- We conduct admissions interviews in Hong Kong on behalf of all colleges



What are my chances of getting in?

Whichever subject you choose, places are highly competitive!

- **Success rate by subject: 11-55%**
- **On average 20-25% of applicants receive offers***

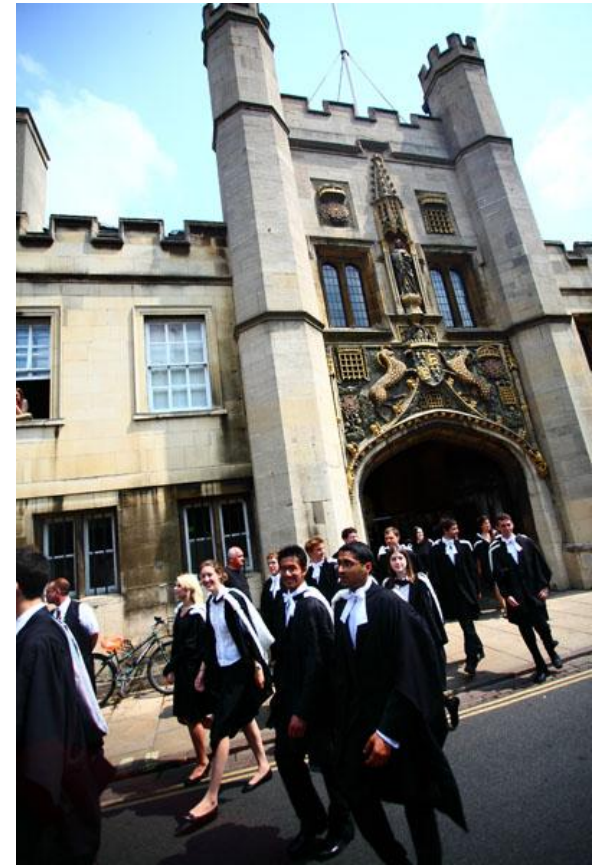
Applicants are not advantaged or disadvantaged by their choice of college.

- Colleges are aware of the overall distribution of applicants by subject each year.



Applying: What are we looking for?

- Are you academically able?
- Does Cambridge offer a course you are passionate about?
- Will you enjoy the challenging education Cambridge offers?



Making an Application

- If you find a course which seems well-suited to you then you should consider applying!
- Check for any University/college requirements by course [information in the University prospectus].

You are not advantaged or disadvantaged by your choice of interview venue.

Choose a college or make an Open application

Fill in a UCAS form (by 15 October)

Grades and predictions

Personal statement

Reference

The majority of applicants are called for interview in October (SE Asia) and early December (HK); you may also elect to go to Cambridge (early to mid Dec.)

Personal Statement

- Write your personal statement for *all* your university choices
- Information on relevant school/college study
- Information on relevant independent study
- Reason for choice of course
- Other information about yourself
- Gap year?



Be honest!

Written tests

Most courses require you to sit pre-interview written tests:

- Medicine/Veterinary Science: BMAT (taken at school)
- Law: CLT
- For Natural Scientists and Engineering applicants, colleges will ask you to do a 90 min Thinking Skills Assessment test (the “TSA”) plus a 30 min essay in English.
- **Other subject tests: Mathematics, Architecture, English, Linguistics, Philosophy,...**

Other Information

Additional Forms

Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA) form

- this is compulsory for all living and/or attending school outside the European Union.

After submitting your **UCAS** and **COPA** forms, you are then invited to complete a SAQ (**Supplementary Application Questionnaire**):

- additional information about your educational background -
any specific difficulties you have had
- any opportunities you have had to extend your knowledge beyond the syllabus.

Submitted Work

Copies of marked work from current school study (mostly for humanities subjects); art portfolio for Architecture.

Assessment

Interviews are **ONE** part of the admissions process

Admissions decisions are based on your:

- IB, AP AL predictions and actual grades, HKDSE predictions, IBMYP school reports
- IGCSE grades
- UCAS school/college reference
- UCAS personal statement
- Submitted work (where requested)
- Test results (where applicable)
- **Interview** performance

The Interview itself...

- Exact arrangements vary by subject...
...but are typically held in Cambridge and HK in early December.
- Usually one 30 min interview (in HK) or two in Cambridge
- Typically two interviewers at each interview
- Mock admissions interviews on website:
www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/interviews/
- Strong academic bias – e.g. biochemistry for Medicine; maths & physics for Engineering.
- Questioning on your course/test/submitted work/personal statement.
- Usually a small non-academic component to the interview.

Interviews: An overview



Interviews: What are Admissions Tutors looking for?

- Academic ability and potential to be successful
- Self-motivation, commitment and passion for the chosen course
- Ability to think independently and critically
- Subject-specific selection criteria (see website)

No trick questions!
Not the ‘final hurdle’



Offers

- Post A-level are normally unconditional.
- Otherwise a conditional offer, usually A*A*A (sciences) or A*AA (arts and PBS) at A2 or 39-42 points in the International Baccalaureate (with 7s specified in some HLs) or Distinction grades in the Cambridge Pre-U.
- May include Advanced Extension Awards if you study them – usually as an alternative offer.
- Sometimes additional requirements stipulated (e.g. 1,1 in STEP particularly for Mathematics and sometimes for Computer Science or Engineering).
- HKDSE to be 5*,5*,5 in three relevant Electives, plus other specified grades in relevant Core subjects.

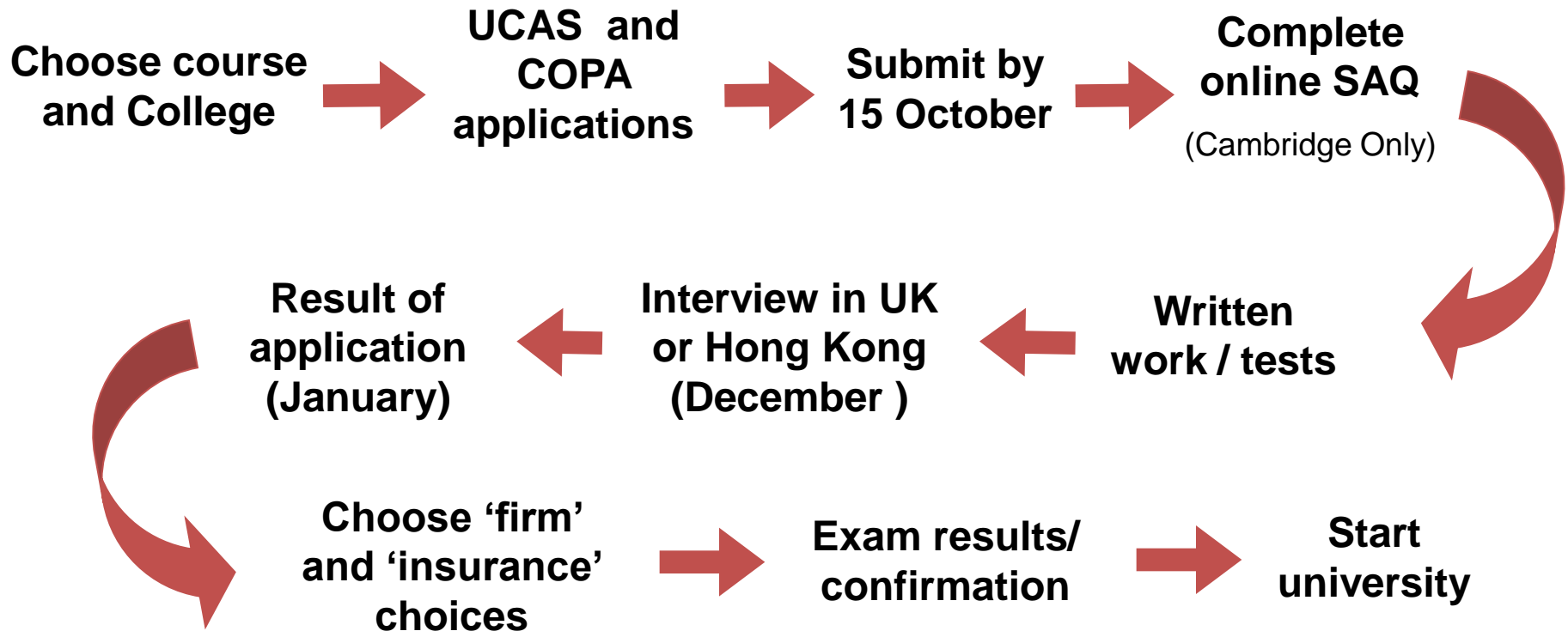


Cambridge Winter Pool

- Held early January
- Strong applicants without a place considered by other Colleges for one of their last places
 - * Those who would ‘normally’ have received an offer
 - * Those who need reassessment due to disagreement between interviewers on performance
 - * Exceptional academic record but poorer performance
- Outcome
 - * Offer without further interview 😊
 - * Re-interview (unusual for overseas applicants) 😐
 - * No further interest 😞



The Application Process

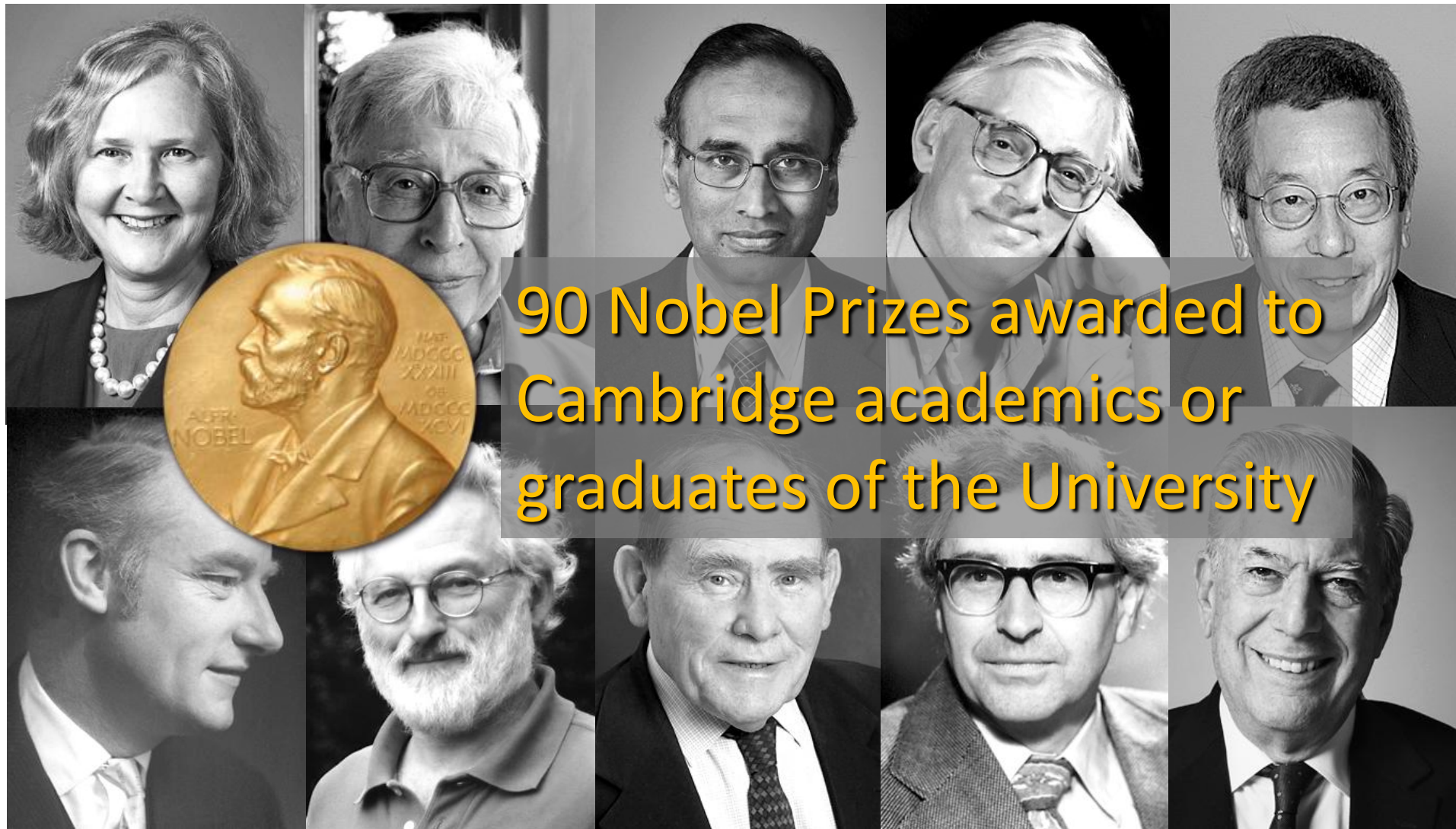


Fees and Finances

Tuition fees, College fees, living expenses:

- Tuition fees from £12K - £28.5K (2011/12), depending on subject; college fees about £5K;
- *Prince Philip Scholarship*: www.cambridge.org.hk
- *Jardine Foundation*: www.jardinefoundation.org

Research in Cambridge



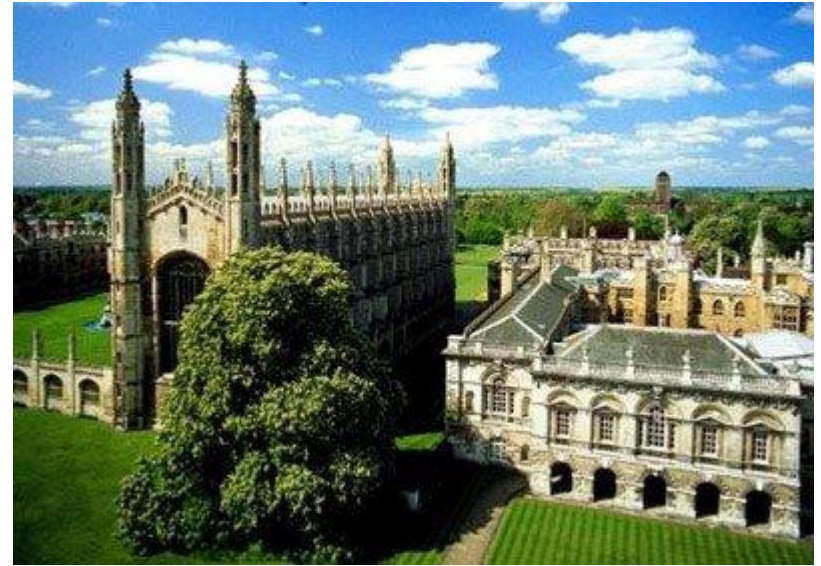
Not only are the Lecturers and College Fellows internationally leading experts in their own fields, but they are also intimately involved in undergraduate teaching...

Research in Cambridge

QS World University rankings 2014

Cambridge:
world ranking 2nd place

#1 outside USA



Many students in their third or fourth year undertake original research at Cambridge whilst undergraduates through research projects or summer placements.

Often leads to articles in academic journals.

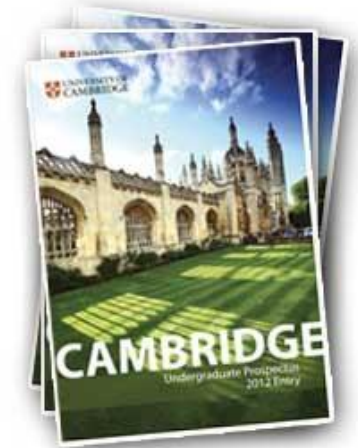
Frequently-asked questions

- Can I apply to both Oxford and Cambridge?
- How does Cambridge view exam resits?
- Is there a minimum GCSE requirement?
- Which Colleges are better for which subjects?
- Are some Colleges easier to get into than others?
- What extra-curricular activities will help my chances of admission?



Finding out more

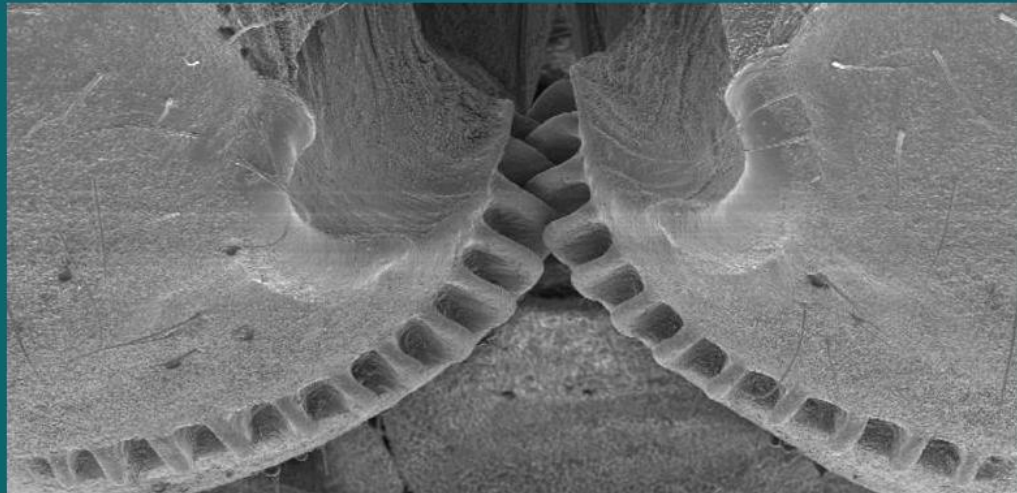
- Undergraduate Prospectus
- College and alternative prospectuses
- University website
- Open days
- Contact the central Cambridge Admissions Office, or any College Admissions Office





UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- > For staff
- > For current students
- > For alumni
- > For business
- > Colleges and departments
- > Libraries and facilities
- > Museums and collections
- > Email and phone search



"The skeleton is used to solve a complex problem that the brain and nervous system can't"

Functioning 'mechanical gears' seen in nature for the first time

1 of 3



Focus on



About the University



Study at Cambridge

Latest News

Silent killer

13 September 2013

Many of us are infected with a virus we'll never clear. While we're healthy, it's nothing to worry about, but

www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate
admissions@cam.ac.uk



Study at Cambridge

Home

Undergraduate study

Graduate study

International students

League tables

Learning and teaching

Continuing education



New website for international students

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Related links

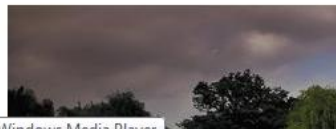
[You've got your exam results. What next?](#)

[Funding](#)

[Open days and events](#)

[Information for teachers and advisers](#)

[CamData](#)



Undergraduate study

Site dedicated to undergraduate study providing information about courses, colleges, student life, the application process, finance, access and support

Latest news

[Homerton College Summer Schools 2013](#)

www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate
admissions@cam.ac.uk

Undergraduate Study

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Find out more



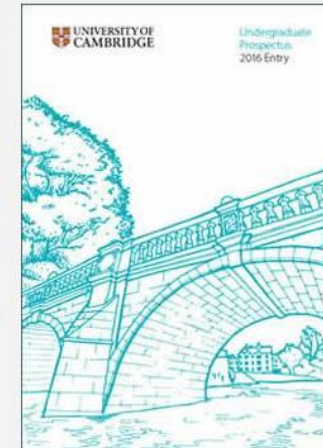
Exam results what next? If you've received your exam results and are holding a conditional offer here is what to do next.

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2016 Cambridge Prospectus

Order a 2016 Cambridge Prospectus >

Undergraduate Prospectus 2016 Entry



2016 Prospectus: All sections

www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate
admissions@cam.ac.uk

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Information for applicants from Hong Kong

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Application statistics

Number of undergraduate applications and admissions from Hong Kong:

	2011	2012	2013	2014
All applications	367	193	414	481
All offers	65	32	69	82
All admissions	59	27	59	63

Total number of students at Cambridge from Hong Kong:

Related links

[International qualifications](#)

[Application statistics](#)

[English language requirements](#)

[International financial support](#)

[International applications](#)

[UCAS application](#)

[Cambridge Online Preliminary Application](#)

[Tuition fee status](#)

Related Documents

[Applicants from Hong Kong](#)

[Applicants from Hong Kong](#)

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/hongkong>
admissions@cam.ac.uk

Thank You

- One of the world's leading universities
- Outstanding resources: laboratories, libraries and above all, *people*

