

Cambridge programmes and qualifications in New Zealand

University of Cambridge International Examinations is the world largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5–19 year olds. We are a not-for-profit organisation and a department of the University of Cambridge.

Welcome to Cambridge

University of Cambridge International Examinations offers New Zealand's most popular international education for secondary learners. We share the educational values of the University of Cambridge and its commitment to research and investment in education.

Local perspectives

We work in over 160 countries and our qualifications are designed to be taught in an international context. This means that concepts can be taught from a New Zealand perspective where possible. For example, the new Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives investigates many of the issues facing New Zealand, including trade, climate change, economic development and politics.

What is the Cambridge programme?

The Cambridge programme is a four-stage learning programme for students aged 5–19. Learners can join the programme at any stage:

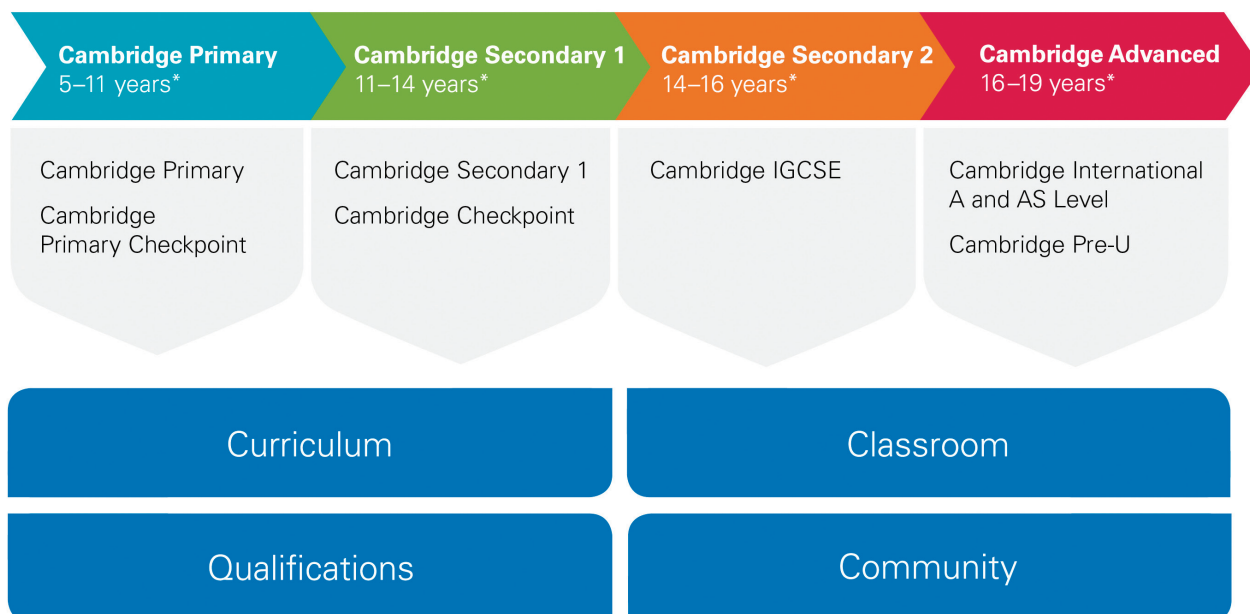
Cambridge Primary is for young children in Years 1–6, and helps them to develop core skills of numeracy, literacy and understanding scientific observation.

Cambridge Secondary 1 for Year 7, 8 and 9 learners builds on skills in Mathematics, English, Science and ICT.

Cambridge Secondary 2 includes Cambridge IGCSE, an international curriculum that develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, and gives them excellent preparation for advanced study. Schools can offer any combination of subjects and each subject is certificated separately. Over 70 subjects are available, offering a variety of routes for learners of different abilities. New Zealand students regularly gain the top marks in the world for Cambridge IGCSE subjects.

Cambridge Advanced includes Cambridge International A and AS Levels and Cambridge Pre-U, which are accepted as proof of the skills and knowledge required to enter a degree course. Each year, thousands of Cambridge International A and AS Level students from New Zealand and around the world gain places at top universities, in countries including the UK, US, Canada, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. Cambridge international qualifications open up national and international career opportunities in business, law, engineering and medicine among many others.

[Learn more](#) ►



*Age ranges are for guidance only

Progressive and flexible

Schools can offer all stages of our international education programmes and qualifications, or choose just one or two stages for specific groups of learners. Each stage builds on the learners' development in the previous stage. Our programmes and qualifications are flexible so that schools can adapt them to meet the needs of different learners. They are fully compatible with other curricula, enabling schools to build a curriculum that reflects their own values.

What do students study?

Most New Zealand students take a minimum of five Cambridge IGCSE subjects at Year 11 and three to four Cambridge International AS and/or A Levels at Years 12 and 13. Cambridge is flexible and requires no compulsory subjects, or minimum or maximum subjects, and many schools will deliver a variety of subjects at different year levels that best suit their students. Universities New Zealand recognises 3 AS Level subjects at grade D or above as being the minimum entry criteria for non-restricted University courses. In addition, Cambridge awards both percentages and grades. The reported mark is out of one hundred and is recorded on the statement of results issued to all candidates.

Are there any compulsory Cambridge subjects?

No, although schools offering Cambridge qualifications often have their own curriculum requirements. There are over 70 subjects offered at Cambridge IGCSE (Year 11) and these can be offered in any combination. Schools will often have a dialogue with parents, students and teachers and decide what should be offered. Schools often make subjects like Mathematics, English and the Sciences compulsory.

Are Cambridge qualifications aimed at top students only?

No, the standard of Cambridge international qualifications is benchmarked against qualifications for students typically aged 14–19 years, delivered in the United Kingdom and in other countries. They are designed to be flexible and accessible to students with a wide range of abilities.

Is Cambridge just about examinations?

No, a Cambridge international education develops a broad range of skills which equip students for the challenges of university and employment. Students develop problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamworking, independent learning, and communication skills.

Students get the chance to prove their subject knowledge and the skills they have gained in the classroom through a variety of end of year assessments including examinations, internal coursework assessment and practical tests.



How is the Cambridge programme taught?

Cambridge encourages a learner-centred and enquiry-based approach to learning. It develops skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving all students excellent preparation for the next stage in their education. Schools build a Cambridge curriculum to suit their students and can introduce cross-curricular perspectives as they choose. Clearly defined learning outcomes and content allow Cambridge to be compatible with some NCEA subjects. Cambridge is internationally-focused and inclusive of New Zealand's cultures and environment.

Teachers deliver the Cambridge programme in the classroom using the course syllabus as the underpinning document. Each Cambridge syllabus features a structured content that puts knowledge and understanding first and encourages teachers to introduce their own ideas including elements of New Zealand culture and environment.

Courses are taught in an integrated manner allowing students to understand how various topics within a subject affect each other. All Cambridge syllabuses are available free of charge on www.cie.org.uk.

“ My staff and students find Cambridge's integrated and knowledge-based approach to learning both engaging and challenging. The curricula and assessment are transparent and relevant and provide our students with the best possible preparation for university. ”

Jackie White, Headmistress, Pinehurst School

Comprehensive support

Cambridge offers comprehensive support, designed carefully around the needs of Cambridge teachers and learners.

Curriculum

Develops learners' knowledge, understanding and skills. Our curriculum sets clear goals for learners and teachers while being flexible enough to work within or alongside other national curricula. The Cambridge curriculum is at the heart of the learning experience, and we recognize that the place to make decisions about curriculum design and delivery is within the school itself.

Qualifications

Open doors to new and exciting opportunities by providing learners with a global passport to success. Cambridge offers reliable, rigorous and flexible assessment, leading to international qualifications, which are recognized and valued by universities, educators and employers worldwide.



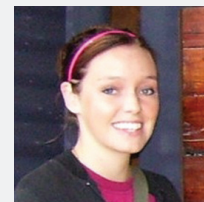
Classroom

Support and guidance help teachers and learners perform to their maximum ability. Cambridge offers world-class teacher and learner resources, including publications that support our syllabuses and expert training both on subject content and professional development skills e.g. assessment for learning or encouraging active learners.

Community

Bringing Cambridge schools, teachers and learners closer together through the sharing of best practice and ideas. Cambridge hosts a range of community events for school leaders, as well as teacher training with Cambridge experts. The Cambridge teacher support website has 48,000 members and brings schools and Cambridge experts together online, through discussion forums and social networks.

“ Cambridge qualifications have a testing but realistic workload that has prepared me nicely for university and my subsequent successes. Studying Cambridge Exams challenged me academically and encouraged me to perform to my potential. ”



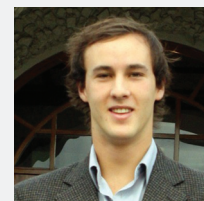
Melissa Brinsden, student, ACG Strathallan.

“ My experience of Cambridge qualifications has made me more driven as an individual, and has encouraged me to set more ambitious goals. Cambridge truly rewards you for your efforts, and it really opened my eyes with regard to what I was capable of. My Cambridge awards, particularly in my first year as an IGCSE student, affirmed to me in a great way that while the examinations were tough, if I put in the hard work I could achieve well beyond my goals. ”



Arkesh Patel, student, Westlake Boys High School.

“ The skill set I gained from Cambridge's emphasis on analytical thinking was a valuable asset to take to university. Developing the ability to reason and analyse – skills Cambridge emphasises – helps you retain what you learn in a meaningful way. ”



Sam George, student, Auckland Grammar School.

