

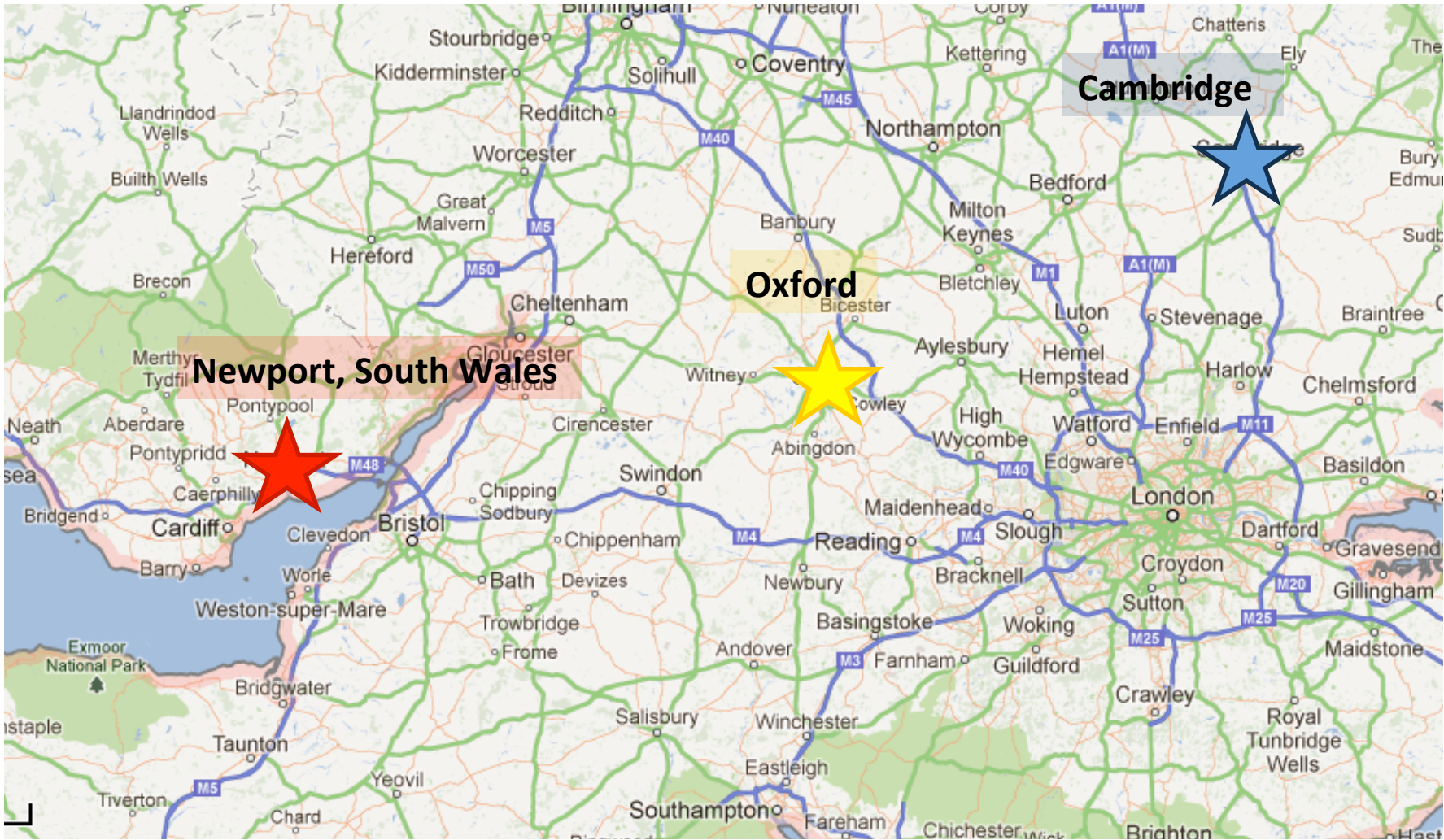
Applying to the University of Cambridge



Andrew J Murray

Admissions Tutor – Trinity Hall, 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





Cambridge Undergraduate Courses

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Cambridge courses is that they cover the subject very broadly in the initial years and then become more specialised and offer a wide range of options in the later years.

“Academic rather than vocational in Nature.”

*...Architecture, History, Medical Sciences,
Mathematics, Engineering...*

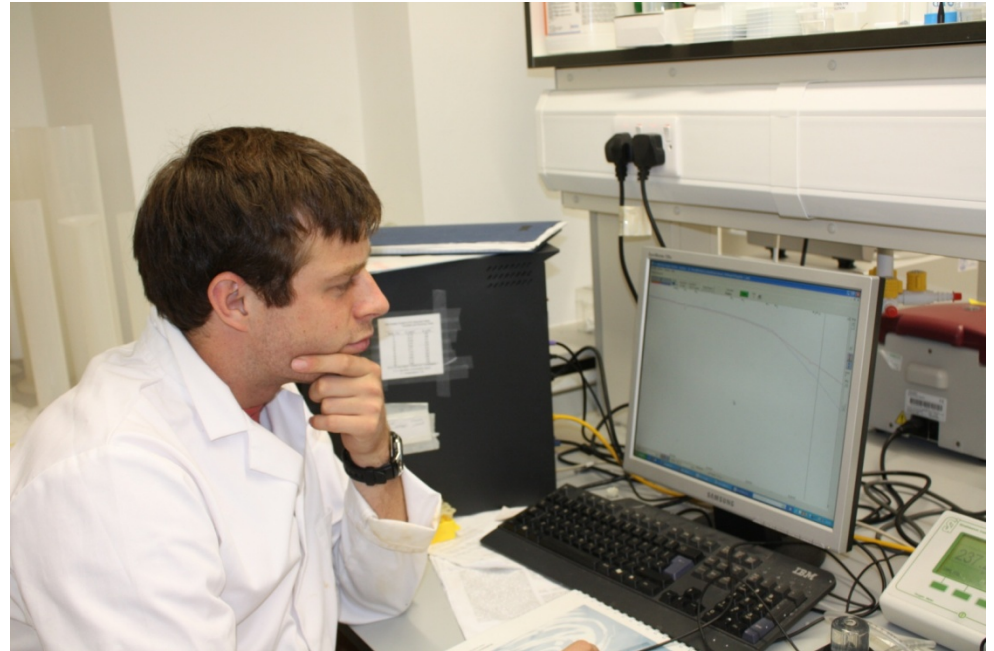
“Traditional rather than contemporary.”

*We do not offer Film and Media Studies, Journalism,
Business Studies, Drama, Dentistry or Sports Science.*



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



Does a Cambridge course sacrifice depth for breadth?

Cambridge graduates are expected to achieve the same standard and depth in their final year as graduates from courses elsewhere which have a narrower or more specialised scope. This is because:

- We are fortunate to start with some of the world's ablest students
- We provide them with some of the best teaching and learning facilities
- We work them hard!

Our courses offer a tough challenge, but one most of our students relish. We demand a lot, but we give a lot too:

- Expert teachers and lecturers;
- Excellent library and computing facilities;
- State-of-the-art laboratory facilities;
- Lots of support through personalised teaching.

Assessment

- Through the University not the colleges
- Two components:
 1. Continuous assessment (typically 20-30%)
 2. Examinations (70-80%)



In the majority of subjects grades are not cumulative and students receive a mark for each year of their three year undergraduate course (‘Tripos’). Typically:

Class	I	II.1	II.2	III	other
%students	23%	58%	15%	3%	1%

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?



Investigate colleges carefully

- Do they support your chosen course?
- Check any age, gender or disability issues
- Facilities?
- Do you fancy an ‘old’ or ‘new’ college?
- Where is it?
- Somewhere ‘small’ or ‘large’ ?
- Do not make an Open application unless you are happy to be placed in any old college...

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.

Pre-Interview 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.

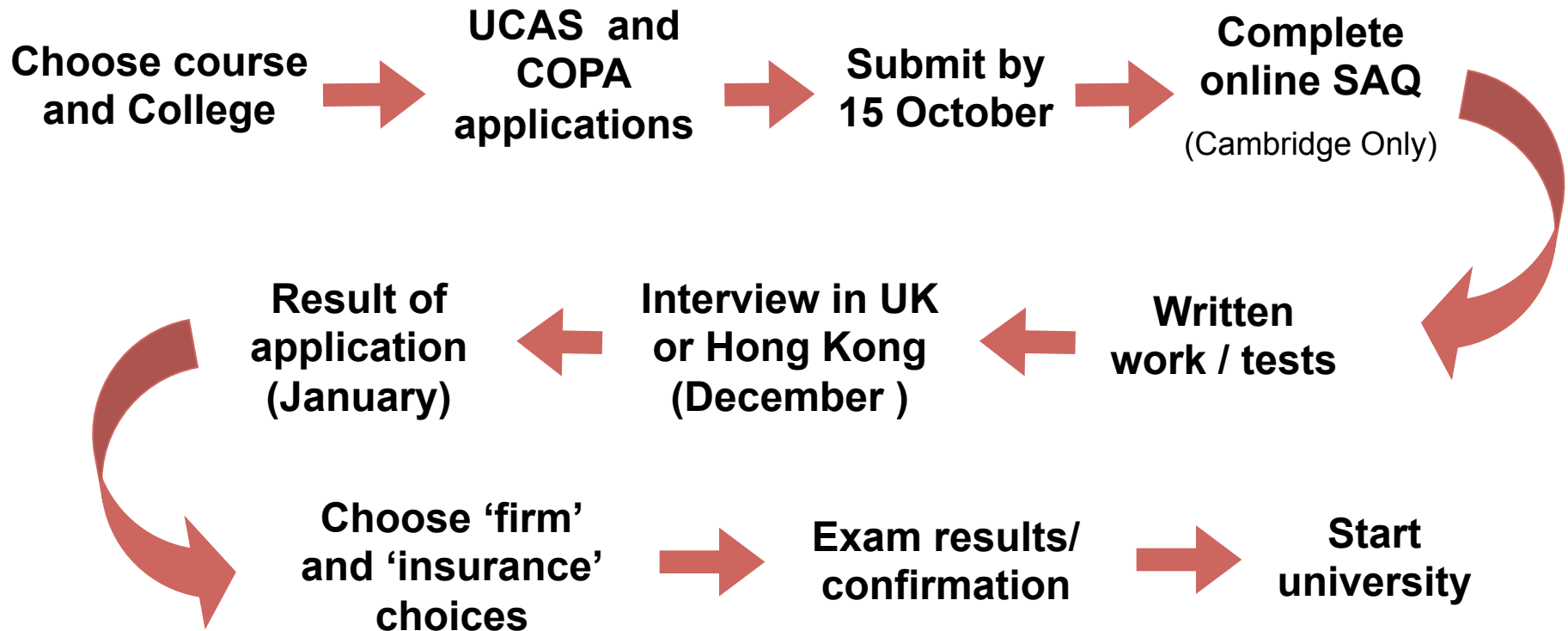


Cambridge Winter Pool

- 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

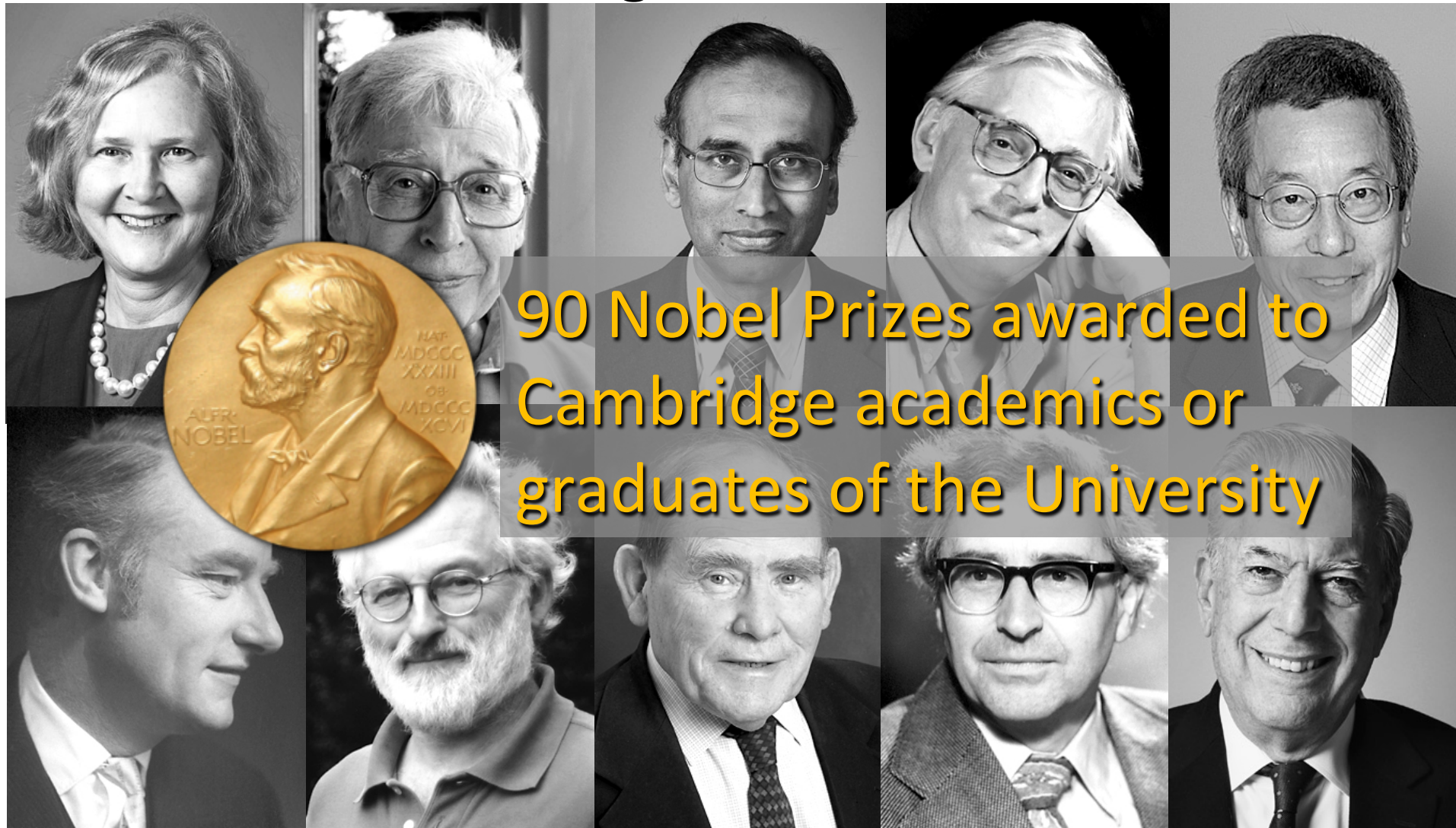


Fees and Finances

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.

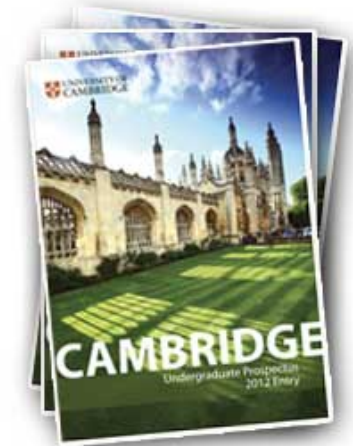
Frequently-asked questions

- 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



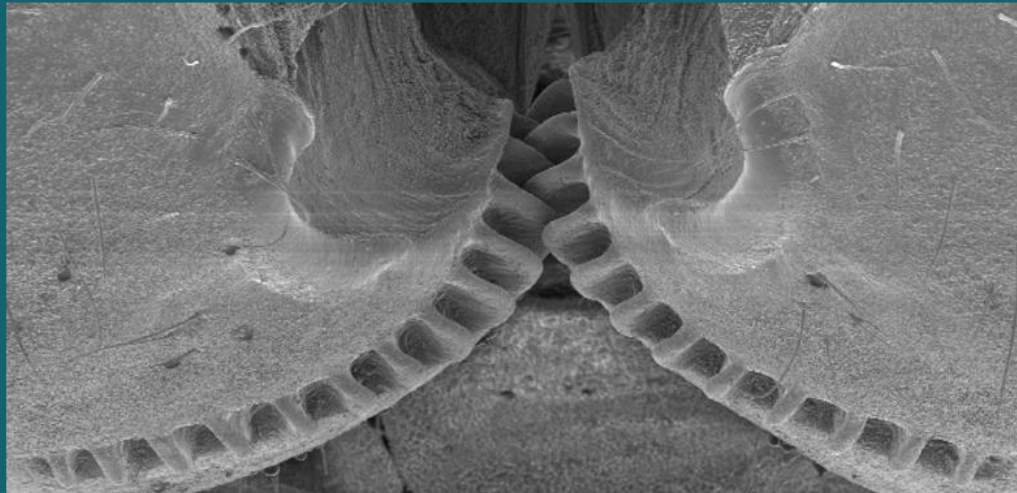
Finding out more

- Join a University of Cambridge Summer School in Hong Kong 2015
- Held at the Canadian International School in early August
- Spend a week studying with a Cambridge lecturer!



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

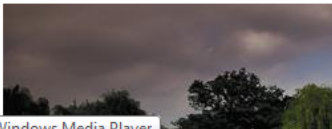
[You've got your exam results. What next?](#)

[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

Welcome | Why Cambridge | Courses | Colleges | Student life | Applying | Finance | Open days and events | Access | Find out more



Courses

Our Courses - Find out what courses are available at the University of Cambridge - Courses

Colleges

Applying

Student Life



View online prospectus



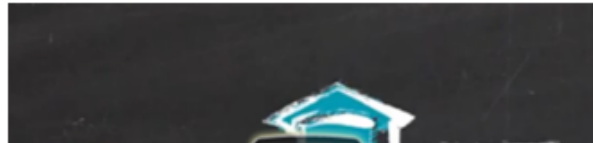
- View prospectus online
- Download a pdf version
- Publications download area
- Order a paper version

International students



If you are from outside the European Union, visit the International students pages for

Video and photos



Open days and events

Care Leavers - Taster Day

This FREE day event will involve uncovering the messages behind art, exploring contemporary sculpture, and learning about coding puzzles

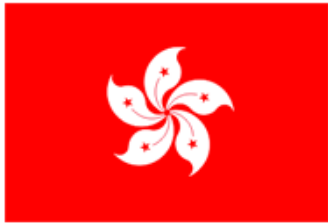
www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate
admissions@cam.ac.uk

Undergraduate Study

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 [Applying](#) |
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 [Access](#) |
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Home > International students

Information for applicants from Hong Kong.



Undergraduate Statistics

	Application cycle		
	2009	2010	2011
All applications	286	346	367
All offers	56	66	65
All admissions	48	59	59

Total number of undergraduate students in 2010 - 11: 17



RELATED LINKS

- [Order a prospectus](#)
- [Visa and immigration](#)
- [Choosing a College](#)
- [Overseas Interview Locations](#)
- [Back to International students](#)

FIND OUT MORE

- [Additional information - Hong Kong](#)

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

Thank You

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



Finding out more

- Join a University of Cambridge Summer School in Hong Kong 2014
- Held at the Canadian International School in early August
- Spend a week studying with a Cambridge lecturer!
- Express interest and sign up for mailings on:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/LY3RV7X