

Cambridge Pre-U: Guide for framing offers

This is a short guide for admissions tutors on how to frame offers to students whose applications include either Cambridge Pre-U Certificates, that is Pre-U Principal Subjects, Pre-U Short Courses, and/or GPR or the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma.

What is Cambridge Pre-U?

Cambridge Pre-U is a new post-16 qualification which aims to better prepare students for higher education. It is designed to help them gain an in-depth knowledge of the subjects studied, and to develop the skills needed for university study.

This guide is intended to be read in conjunction with *Cambridge Pre-U: Guide for UK Higher Education Admission Staff* and *Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) – Information for Universities* which discuss these qualifications in more detail.

Cambridge Pre-U Band	Cambridge Pre-U Grade	Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject UCAS Tariff	Cambridge Pre-U Short Course UCAS Tariff	Cambridge Pre-U GPR UCAS Tariff	Equivalent A Level grades and comments
Distinction	D1	TBC*	TBC*	TBC*	D1 has no equivalent A & AS Level grade. It represents a standard of excellence across all papers in the subject.
Distinction	D2	145	TBC*	140	D2 is set with the A* at A & AS Level in view.
Distinction	D3	130	60	126	The D3 standard is aligned to that of A grade at A & AS Level, in that the standard of work required to achieve a D3 will be the same as that required for an A grade. But note: a Pre-U candidate has to cover more ground (the syllabus is bigger), additional stretch is built into the question papers and students have to take all papers in one session.
Merit	M1	115	53	112	M1 has a similar tariff score to A grade at A & AS Level, reflecting the bigger syllabus and the fact that individual components cannot be retaken.
Merit	M2	101	46	98	M2 has a tariff score equivalent to B grade at A & AS Level.
Merit	M3	87	39	84	M3 and P1 tariff scores fall equal distances on either side of the A & AS Level C grade.
Pass	P1	73	32	70	
Pass	P2	59	26	56	P2 has a tariff score equivalent to D grade at A & AS Level.
Pass	P3	46	20	42	The standard of work required for P3 is aligned to that of E grade at A & AS Level. The higher tariff reflects the characteristics described above.
Ungraded	U				

*TBC = A UCAS tariff will be set once candidate evidence becomes available. Please see the last page of this document for further information regarding the UCAS Tariff.

Examples of suitable offers to students with mixed qualifications

Student A - mixed Level 3 qualifications

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Philosophy and Theology	D3
A Level	Government & Politics	A
A Level	English	B

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, B

Offer structured by the university:

"This offer is subject to you obtaining GCE Advanced Level grades A, A, B including Government and Politics. Please note that we will accept Pre-U Philosophy and Theology in lieu of one A-Level on the following basis:

Grade D3 in lieu of A-Level grade A

Grade M2 in lieu of A-Level grade B."

Student B- mixed Level 3 qualifications

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Geography	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Government and Politics	D3
A Level	English	B

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, B

Offer structured by the university:

"This offer is subject to you obtaining Cambridge Pre-U grade D3 in two subjects and GCE A Level grade B in one subject. or D3, M2 in Cambridge Pre-U and an A in GCE A Level"

Student C- mixed Level 3 qualifications

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
A Level	French	A
A Level	Law	A
A Level	Politics	A*
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Global Perspectives and Research)	Global Perspectives and Research	M2

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, A at A2 Level and Grade B in AS Level.

Offer structured by the university:

"This offer is subject to you obtaining three A grades at A Level and a pass in Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Global Perspectives and Research)."

Examples of suitable offers to students with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications only

Student D-with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications only

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	French	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	English	M2
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Italian	D3

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, B

Offer structured by the university:

"This offer is subject to you obtaining grades D3 in French at Pre-U Level (Principal Subject) and D3 and M2 from two further subjects at Pre-U level (Principal Subjects)."

Student E-with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications only

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Mathematics	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Biology	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Chemistry	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Global Perspectives and Independent Research)	Global Perspectives and Independent Research	M2

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, A at A2 Level and grade B in AS Level.

Offer structured by the university:

“This offer is subject to you passing the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma and obtaining grades D3 in Biology and Chemistry.”

Examples of unsuitable offers to students with mixed qualifications

Example 1: Student A- mixed Level 3 qualifications

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Literature in English	D3
A Level	Spanish	A
A Level	Geography	B

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, B

Offer structured by the university:

“This offer is subject to you obtaining grade A at A level Spanish and a Cambridge Pre-U grade D3 in Literature in English. In addition, you must obtain a grade B from one further A level subject or A level equivalent.”

The Cambridge Pre-U grade requirement in Example 1 has not been framed correctly. The grades available at distinction level are: D1, D2 and D3. The D3 standard is aligned to an A grade at A level, therefore the offer should have stated Cambridge Pre-U D3 in Literature in English.

Examples of unsuitable offers to students with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications only

Example 2: Student B-with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications only

Level 3 Qualification	Subject	Predicted Grade
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	French	D3
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Literature in English	M2
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal Subject)	Italian	D3

Typical A Level Offer for the chosen course: A, A, B

Offer structured by the university:

“This offer is subject to you obtaining Pre-U diploma.”

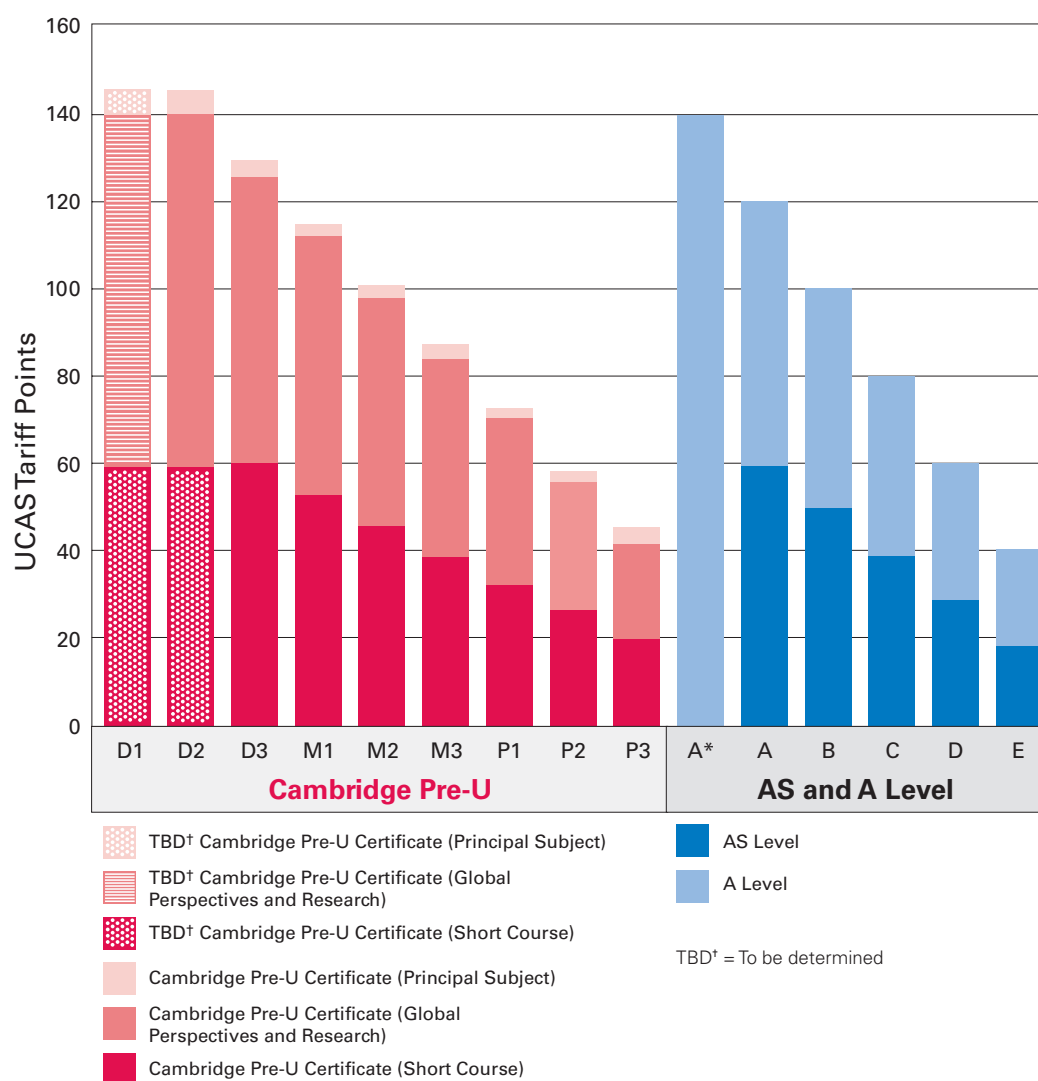
Grade requirements in Example 2 have not been allocated for the three individual Cambridge Pre-U Certificates (Principal Subjects). For example, the student must obtain a D3 grade in two of the following subjects: French, Italian and/or Literature in English, and M2 in the third Pre-U Principal subject (certificate). The student has not taken Global Perspectives and Independent Research (GPR), and therefore would not qualify for the Pre-U Diploma.

Students with the Cambridge Diploma are also awarded a numerical score. For further clarification, please refer to the diagram on the following page.

Contribution of each component to the Diploma score

	Band	Principal Subject	GPR
Distinction	1	24	24
	2	22	22
	3	20	20
Merit	1	18	18
	2	16	16
	3	14	14
Pass	1	12	12
	2	10	10
	3	8	8

UCAS Tariff comparison



Learn more! For more information on Cambridge Pre-U visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu or contact Customer Services on **+44 (0)1223 553554** or email international@cie.org.uk

