

Update for schools

September 2011

Congratulations to Cambridge Pre-U students for the second year

Our congratulations go to all students who sat examinations in the second full Cambridge Pre-U examination series. Entry and student numbers are growing rapidly and we are pleased to welcome new members to the Cambridge Pre-U community.

The second full examination series for Cambridge Pre-U has been another resounding success – for students, teachers and examiners. Fifty percent more schools entered candidates this year compared to last, and next year that number will rise again.

We have demonstrated that Cambridge Pre-U works: it delivers on its promise to develop students' deep subject knowledge and independent study skills, and enables teachers to rediscover their passion for their subjects.

“Our results at Cambridge Pre-U were even stronger [than A Level]. There was a 100% pass rate for both A Level and Cambridge Pre-U.”

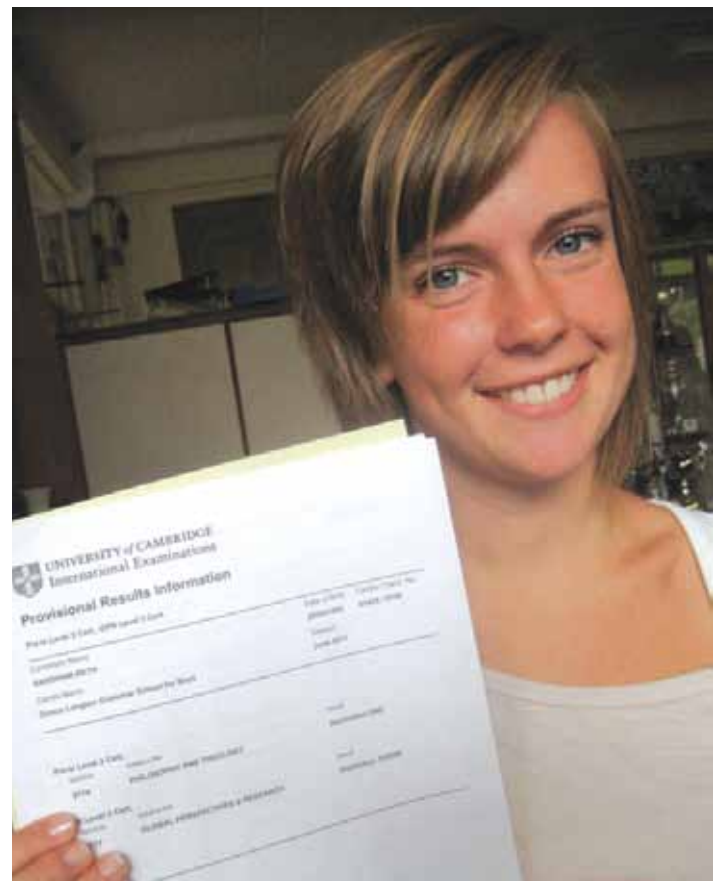
Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks

“I am absolutely ecstatic about today's Cambridge Pre-U results. We've had six D1s and three D2s in Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy and Theology.”

Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury

“The results of this year's examinations have confirmed the wisdom of the School's decision to move to the Cambridge Pre-U in 2008.”

Winchester College, Winchester



Beth Sandham, a Cambridge Pre-U student at Simon Langton Grammar School, who achieved D1 in Philosophy and Theology and D3 in Global Perspectives and Research.

“Cambridge Pre-U has taken the lid off what we can achieve...it has just been so much more stimulating to teach and learn.”

Westminster School, London

Where are they now?

With the help of schools, universities and UCAS, we have collated information on Cambridge Pre-U students' next steps in education.

The 20 UK universities that made the most offers to Cambridge Pre-U students in 2010 are listed here in order of the number of offers made. We are also gathering information about Cambridge Pre-U students who study at universities overseas.

Ann Puntis, Chief Executive, University of Cambridge International Examinations, said: "The first schools to opt for Cambridge Pre-U are now seeing the benefits of that decision. It is excellent preparation for university study – demonstrated by the fact that all the UK's top universities made offers to last year's Cambridge Pre-U students, including Cambridge, Oxford, Sheffield, Warwick, Nottingham, Durham, York and Bristol."

We continue to work with university admissions offices in the UK and abroad to ensure that Cambridge Pre-U is widely known and understood.

University	Number of offers made to Cambridge Pre-U students
University of Bristol	136
University of Leeds	122
University of Exeter	121
Durham University	119
The University of Warwick	112
University of Manchester	106
University of Nottingham	101
Oxford University	93
The University of York	75
University College London (University of London)	74
University of Cambridge	61
The University of Birmingham	53
The University of Edinburgh	52
Imperial College London (University of London)	50
Newcastle University	47
University of Bath	47
University of Southampton	47
King's College London (University of London)	44
Oxford Brookes University	42
The University of Sheffield	41

Consultation leads to new developments

Our regular consultation with the Cambridge Pre-U Advisory Committee has led to two new developments that will benefit schools and students.

We developed Cambridge Pre-U with schools and universities, and continue to consult with them on its development. One of the ways we do this is through the Cambridge Pre-U Advisory Committee, a body made up of representatives from 20 UK schools.

The committee meets once a term to help develop Cambridge Pre-U and shape policy. We are pleased to announce two new initiatives following consultation with the committee:

November exam series to be introduced

We are going to introduce an extra exam series for re-sit purposes. This is in response to demand from schools.

Global Perspectives Short Course available from September 2011

Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) is taught as two successive one-year courses: Global Perspectives develops research and thinking skills

during the first year, preparing students for the extended project in the second year (the Research Report).

Some schools have told us they want to offer Global Perspectives as a stand-alone one-year course, and so the Cambridge Pre-U Advisory Committee has been discussing how to make this happen.

Following consultation, we submitted a stand-alone Global Perspectives qualification to Ofqual for accreditation. We are pleased to announce that the Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives Short Course has now been accredited and schools can begin teaching it from September 2011.

Go to www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu to download the syllabus.

For more information on the Cambridge Pre-U Advisory Committee, please contact our UK Schools Manager, Peter Monteath at international@cie.org.uk

Warm welcome for US-bound Cambridge Pre-U students

One of the key pieces of evidence that Cambridge Pre-U delivers on its promise to prepare students to be successful at university comes from admissions offices, in the UK and increasingly in the US.

Cambridge Pre-U students are welcomed at all UK universities, and now at all Ivy League universities in the US, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Brown. Cambridge Pre-U students are also welcomed at MIT and Stanford.

Cambridge Pre-U is widely known and understood by universities in the UK and increasingly in the US, but we are always happy to provide information for admissions officers at universities around the world. Contact us if you would like us to speak to a university admissions office on your behalf.

When members of our US Higher Education Advisory Committee met in Cambridge recently, we took the opportunity to ask them about Cambridge Pre-U. Some of their comments are below, and you can see a short video of each committee member talking about Cambridge Pre-U on our website at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu



“There are certain skills and certain experiences which we find make students particularly well prepared for higher education, and certainly at a school like ours. They include collaboration, analysis, looking at things from a global perspective not just a local perspective, an interdisciplinarity where a student will look at a topic from several subjects. They include being able to apply what they have learned in a practical way to real world problems. Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) is a particularly felicitous combination of those [skills].”

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University

“One of the things that we find really helps students to be successful on our campus is a real engagement with the material they are learning, a deep understanding of it; students who don’t just memorise facts and formulas, but who actually think about what they are doing and understand the concepts behind it. We feel that the Cambridge Pre-U GPR programme really does help students develop these skills that help them be successful when they get to MIT.

“We recognise Cambridge Pre-U qualifications because we recognise and acknowledge that the subject matter, and the way it is taught, really does prepare students for when they get to our campus.”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

“Last year I had the opportunity to meet with some students who were engaged in Cambridge Pre-U GPR, and I was so impressed by their enthusiasm for learning and the skills that they developed through the course: their ability to deconstruct an argument, to reflect upon it and then to put it back together again. The students talked about how valuable this experience has been for them and how they apply these principles to all of the things they are looking at, so it’s not simply an isolated exercise, but they are using those skills of enquiry and communication throughout their careers.”

Mary Adams, Associate Director of Admissions, Pennsylvania State University

Interim assessment moderation continues this year

We will run our very popular interim assessment materials and moderation service again in 2012.

We provide materials to help teachers set exam-style questions for their students at the end of the first year. Teachers mark the scripts and send them to us. Our examiners review the marked responses and report on the application of the mark scheme and general patterns of performance.

“Cambridge Pre-U teachers are enjoying a high level of personalised advice and guidance from us,” said Di Palmer, Director, Assessment Services. “We aim to continue to make this service available to teachers at no charge for as long as it continues to be useful to schools.”

If your school is interested in this service, please contact us at international@cie.org.uk. Please type ‘interim assessment’ in the subject line of your email.



Introducing Dr Tristian Stobie, Director of Education

Dr Tristian Stobie joined us as Director of Education on 1 July 2011. His role is to lead the development of our education strategy for schools, supporting Cambridge teachers and learners and working in partnership with those engaged in education reform.

Tristian’s career in education has spanned a wide range of international and educational contexts. Starting as a classroom teacher working in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Southern Africa and Western Europe, he then moved into school administration.

He has also worked in a number of roles for the International Baccalaureate Organisation, most recently as the Head of IB Diploma Curriculum Development from 2006 to 2009.

Speaking of his new role, Tristian said: “This is a pivotal role and a pivotal time to become part of the team. I have followed the development of Cambridge Pre-U

with interest and I am not at all surprised at its early success. The need for a holistic approach to curriculum and assessment that thoroughly prepares students for university, encourages independent, creative and critical thinking, and provides subject depth has long been recognised.

“I am looking forward to working in partnership with schools who offer Cambridge Pre-U to ensure its continued success and growth.”

“The Global Perspectives and Research course is particularly suited to developing well informed, principled and skilled people equipped for the challenges of life on the global stage. I am looking

forward to working in partnership with schools who offer Cambridge Pre-U to ensure its continued success and growth.”

Why I chose Cambridge Pre-U

We asked schools to tell us why they introduced Cambridge Pre-U and what benefits it offers to their students. Here are a few responses...

**Tim Davies, Director of Studies,
Simon Langton Grammar
School for Boys, Canterbury**

"About five years ago we started to worry about the watering down of A Levels. Their lack of credibility and the grade inflation was regularly mentioned in the press and we began exploring other alternatives. The governors, in particular, were looking for alternatives and said that we must explore Cambridge Pre-U as so many of our students go on to university.

"We see ourselves as a halfway house between school and university and we have got very much a university feel about the sixth form. So Cambridge Pre-U was an obvious course to look at.

"I particularly like the Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) programme. To have a two-year Cambridge Pre-U GPR course is excellent."

"We chose Cambridge Pre-U because we thought it was the best course for music."



**Lawrence Tubb, Director of Music,
Leweston School, Sherborne**

"I felt that Cambridge Pre-U offered a much broader range of topics for study in music compared to other qualifications.

"We talked to parents about Cambridge Pre-U and explained that we were fully behind it. One of the main concerns was that students would not receive a qualification if they dropped the course after a year.

"However, we reassured them that we were choosing Cambridge Pre-U because we thought it was the best course for music. I like the structure of Cambridge Pre-U where you have three discrete examined sections – the Concerto in the late Baroque and Classical periods, and then the set work."

**John Arthur, French teacher,
Westminster School, London**

"For us it was about wanting to put the responsibility for learning back onto the students. With A Level it was very much about how to pass the exam, what to do, how to write essays, and vocabulary was very much guided by the teachers all the time. With Cambridge Pre-U, the students really take responsibility for what they do.

"The Modern Foreign Languages Department presented Cambridge Pre-U as a whole new package, a whole new way of learning. The students have really bought into that and at the same time discovered that it really does work.

"We have found that:

- students take more responsibility for their learning
- vocabulary is being learnt organically
- a wider interest in French culture is developed
- the essay in English allows for in-depth literary study
- it's a new way of learning that really works."



"Our students have really bought into Cambridge Pre-U as a whole new way of learning. At the same time, they have discovered that it really does work."

Cambridge Pre-U INSET calendar

Book a place on a free Cambridge Pre-U workshop – for teachers new to Cambridge Pre-U or considering teaching for the first time. Attendance is free of charge, and lunch is provided.

Subject	Location	Date
Art History	Westminster	9 November 2011
Biology	London	12 October 2011
Business and Management	Cambridge	9 November 2011
Chemistry	London	13 October 2011
Classical Heritage	Cambridge	9 November 2011
Comparative Government and Politics	Hinchingbrooke	13 October 2011
Economics	London	12 October 2011
Geography	London	9 November 2011
Greek	Westminster	10 November 2011 – tbc
Global Perspectives	London	12 October 2011
History	Oundle	15 September 2011
Literature in English	London	12 October 2011
Latin	Westminster	10 November 2011 – tbc
Mandarin Chinese	Cambridge	13 October 2011
Maths and Further Maths	London	13 October 2011



These sessions cover:

- unique features of the Cambridge Pre-U syllabus in this subject
- resources to support teaching and example materials
- building a support network with other teachers.

Find out more from www.cie.org.uk/events and book a place.

We are also holding a seminar on Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research in November – see the back page for more details.

Cambridge Pre-U Learn More!

We are holding Cambridge Pre-U Learn More sessions in October for HoDs and teachers who want to find out more about the qualification.

These are half-day events and you have the option of attending a half-day Cambridge IGCSE Learn More session on the same day. The sessions are free to attend and lunch is included.

For more details, please contact our Events team at cieevents@cie.org.uk

Subject	Location	Date
Cambridge Pre-U Learn More	London	18 October 2011
Cambridge Pre-U Learn More	Leeds	19 October 2011





Are you attending these events?

We take part in many events, to help teachers learn more about Cambridge Pre-U and Cambridge IGCSE. Will you be going to the same events? Let us know where you would like to meet us.

Date	Event
October 2011	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Annual Languages Conference
October 2011	9th Annual National Admissions to Higher Education Conference
October 2011	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Humanities Conference
November 2011	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) 18th National Conference
November 2011	IPD (Independent Professional Development) Conference: Academic Directors and DoS
November 2011	IPD (Independent Professional Development) Conference: Curriculum Leaders (Senior)
January 2012	ASE (Association for Science Education) Conference
January 2012	BETT (the Education Technology Show)
January 2012	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Arts Annual Conference
February 2012	UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) Annual Conference for Teachers and Advisers
February 2012	NATE (The National Association for the Teaching of English) Conference
February 2012	ISMLA (Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association) Annual Conference
March 2012	The Education Show
March 2012	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Chatham House, Student Conference on China
March 2012	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Business and Enterprise Conference
March 2012	ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders) Conference
March 2012	CILT (National Centre for Languages) 14–19 Language Teachers Conference
March 2012	NSEAD (National Association for Education in Art and Design) AGM
April 2012	Mathematical Association Annual Conference
April 2012	Geographical Association Annual Conference
April 2012	UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) Admissions Officers Conference
May 2012	Higher Education Futures Forum
May 2012	Historical Association Annual Conference
May 2012	Higher Education and Schools Partnerships Conference
May 2012	MMA (Music Masters Association) Annual Conference
June 2012	Conference for HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) Deputy Heads
June 2012	EBEA (Economics and Business Education Association) Annual Conference
June 2012	Sunday Times Festival of Education
June 2012	Sixth Form Colleges Forum Summer Conference
July 2012	ALL (Association for Language Learning) Annual Conference
July 2012	ATP (Association for the Teaching of Psychology) Conference
July 2012	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Maths and Computing Conference
July 2012	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Science Conference

Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research seminar – book now!

Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) develops critical thinking and independent research skills. We are inviting teachers to a special one-day seminar on GPR in November, led by university and HE staff.

The *Getting in and Getting on* seminar will focus on making the jump between sixth form and university study, followed by a workshop on the study skills required for the Research Report – the extended project taught in the second year of GPR. The rest of the day is a ‘GPR student challenge’ where students work in cross-school groups to prepare a brief presentation on a global issue. They will receive feedback from an examiner and university tutors.

Alongside the student sessions, we will hold a series of workshops for prospective GPR teachers. These will focus on practical topics, including: getting started and lesson planning for GPR; applying the Critical Path and Global Perspectives to other subjects; and linking Global Perspectives to the Research Report. The workshops will be facilitated by current GPR teachers. There will be cross-over points during the day so teachers can see what the students are working on.

The seminar takes place on Thursday 10 November in Cambridge. If your school is teaching Cambridge Pre-U GPR, or considering teaching it, and you would like to attend this seminar, please contact our Events team at cieevents@cie.org.uk



Facts and figures

148 schools registered to teach Cambridge Pre-U in July 2011 (up from 101 in 2010)

45% state schools

55% independent schools

90 schools made entries in 2011 (up from 60 in 2010)

Entries up **34%** on last year and **50%** more schools entered candidates this year.

The most popular Cambridge Pre-U subjects are

Literature in English, French, History, Mathematics and Global Perspectives and Research (GPR).

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