

University
Matters

Cambridge Pre-U university offers 2010

The first cohort of Cambridge Pre-U students began to make their university applications through UCAS in autumn 2009. The main deadline for applications was 15 January, although Oxbridge and medical school applications had to be in by early October.

Before the cycle began, university admissions departments had been thoroughly briefed by the CIE Recognition Team with newsletters, factsheets, visits and seminars. Many universities stated their admissions requirements and published 'typical' offers well ahead of the application cycle. However, it was to be expected that some admissions tutors or others involved in the admissions process would need more information once applications started coming in, so CIE staff were (and are) on hand to assist schools should any issues arise.

With few exceptions, universities have made offers in line with their published policies, and in line with the equivalences that form the basis of the UCAS tariff, equating D2 with A*, D3 with A and M2 with B. Some universities have, following the UCAS tariff values, equated M1 with

A grade, thus showing awareness of the challenge involved in taking an examination in a linear way. In other cases, universities that make offers on the basis of three A Levels and one

AS have dropped the fourth subject requirement for Cambridge Pre-U applicants.

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Given that Cambridge Pre-U is a new qualification, the first application cycle has been remarkably smooth, with the main issues arising from an initial unfamiliarity with the grading scale. In almost all such cases, contact with the Admissions Office led to a revision of the initial offer.

Oxford University made it clear well in advance that it would not be using A*, and indeed offers have been based on three As or D3s.

Cambridge offers have been much more mixed, reflecting the decision to use a mixture of A* and A at A Level, which has translated into a mixture of D2 and D3 at Cambridge Pre-U. In some cases, offers including two A*s or two D2s have been made. In these cases, it is important to stress that the college concerned fully expects the applicants to meet the offer- the bar is not being set prohibitively high.

The examples of offers made for Engineering, English, History and Sciences reflect those subjects' popularity in a range of different universities. They also reflect the straightforward way in which the Cambridge Pre-U grading scale has been accommodated in offers.

The case study from Leeds shows use of the UCAS tariff as well as individual grade offers in a range of subjects.

Sample offers from selective universities

University	Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Birmingham	Geography	A/B/B	D3 / M2 / B
Bristol	Social Policy	A/B/C - B/B/B	A/B/M3 – B/B/M2
Cambridge	Natural Science	A*/A/A	A*/D3/D3
Leeds	Music	A/B/B	D3/B/B
Liverpool	Environment and Planning	B/B/C	B/B/M3
Manchester	Philosophy and Politics	A/A/B	D3/A/B
Newcastle	Economics	A/A/B	A/A/M2
Nottingham	Geography	A/A/B	D3/A/B
Oxford	Medicine	A/A/A	A/A/D3
Sheffield	Law	A/A/A	D3/D3/A
Warwick	Chemistry	A/B/B	D3/M2/B

Case Study - Engineering

University	Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Bristol	Mechanical Engineering	A/A/A – A/A/B	A/A/M1
Bristol	Mechanical Engineering with a year abroad	A/A/A – A/A/B	D3/A/A
Cambridge	Engineering	A*/A/A	A*/D3/A
Imperial	Chemical Engineering	A*/A/A	A*/D3/A
Imperial	Mechanical Engineering with a year abroad	A* (Maths)/A/A	A*/D3/A
Loughborough	Aeronautical Engineering	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Southampton	Aeronautics	A/A/A	D3/A/A

Case Study - English

University	Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Bath Spa	English Literature with Film and Screen Studies	240-280 tariff points	280 tariff points inc. 115 (M1) in English.
Durham	English Literature	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Exeter	English	A/A/A – A/A/B	360 points in three subjects inc D3 in Literature in English
Kent	English and American Literature and History	320 – 340 tariff points	340 tariff points (A in English and M2 or B in English and D3)
Oxford	English Literature	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Oxford Brookes	English and History	BBB	M3/B/B
Roehampton	English and History	240- 340 tariff points	300 tariff points
Sussex	English and Film Studies	A/A/A – A/A/B	D3/A/B
Swansea	English and Ancient History	260- 300 tariff points	280 tariff points
York	English	A/A/A	D3/A/A

Case Study - History

University	Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Birmingham	History and Political Science	A/A/B – A/B/B	D3/A/B
Cambridge	History	A*/A/A	A*/D3/A
Cardiff	Ancient History	B/B/B	M3/B/B
Durham	History	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Exeter	History	A/A/A – A/A/B	360 tariff points
Goldsmiths	History and Anthropology	A/B/B	A/B/M2
Leicester	International Relations and History	A/B/B	M2/ B/B
LSE	History	A/A/B	D3/A/B
Manchester	History	Grades A/A/A – A/ A/B	D3/A/A
Oxford	History	A/A/A	D3/D3/A
QMUL	Modern and Contemporary History	340 (A/A/B, with B in History)	340 tariff points inc a minimum of M2/B in the subjects
Southampton	History	A/A/B	D3/A/B
UCL	History	A*/A/A – A/A/A	D3/A/A
Warwick	History	A/A/B + AS Level C	D3/A/B
York	History	A/A/A	D3/A/A

Case Study - Sciences			
University	Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Bath	Biology	A/B/B or B/B/B	A/B/M2
British School of Osteopathy	Osteopathy	B/B/C	B/M3/C
Cambridge	Biological Natural Sciences	A*/A/A	A*/D3/A
Cambridge	Natural Sciences	A*/A/A	A*/D3/D3
Exeter	Biological Sciences	A/A/B – B/B/B	340 points
Imperial	Chemistry	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Manchester	Biochemistry	A/A/B – B/B/B	D3/A/M2
Nottingham	Natural Sciences	A/A/A – A/A/B	D3/A/A
Oxford	Biochemistry	A/A/A	D3/A/A
Oxford	Earth Sciences	A/A/A or A/A/B/B	D3/A/A
Oxford Brookes	Biology	B/B/C	M2/B/C
Southampton	Marine Biology with study abroad option	AAA	D3/A/A
Warwick	Chemistry	A/B/B	D3/M2/B or A/M2/M2

University Case Study - Leeds		
Course	Standard A Level Offer	Cambridge Pre-U offer 2010
Biology	A/B/B – B/B/B	A/M2/B
Business Economics	A/A/B	A/A/B or A=D3 and B=M2
Chinese and Japanese	A/A/B	A/A/B or D3/A/B or A/A/M2
Cinema and Photography	B/B/B	M2/ B/B
Classical Civilisation	A/B/B	320 tariff points
Economics	A/A/B	D3/A/B
French	A/B/B	A/M2/M2
Geography	A/B/B	340 tariff points – provided that a minimum A2 grade of B and a minimum Pre-U grade of M2 is achieved in the three subjects
History	A/A/A	D3/D3/A
International Relations	A/B/B	340 tariff points – provided that a minimum A2 grade of B and a minimum Pre-U grade of M2 is achieved in the three subjects
Music	A/B/B	D3 (music)/B/B
Politics	A/A/B	340 tariff points – provided that a minimum A2 grade of B and a minimum Pre-U grade of M2 is achieved in the three subjects
Social Policy and Crime	B/B/B	300 tariff points from a combination of the best three grades achieved at either A2 or Cambridge Pre-U, provided that a minimum A2 grade of B and a minimum Pre-U grade M2 is achieved in the three subjects
Sociology	B/B/B	M2/ B/B

