



Lucy Cavendish College
University of Cambridge

Welcome to the Summer Application Bootcamp!

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Today's session

- What is the Academic Enrichment Programme?
- How will the programme work?
- What are the goals of the programme?
- How do I make the most of the programme
- Introduction to Oxbridge
- Questions

Summer Application Bootcamp

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Admissions Assessment Preparation Workshops

Sciences & Maths

- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (NSAA)
- Computer Science (TMUA)
- Economics (TMUA)
- Engineering (ENGAA)
- Medicine (BMAT)
- Natural Sciences (NSAA)
- Veterinary Medicine (NSAA)

Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

- Archaeology
- Classics
- English (CELAT)
- History (HAA)
- History and Modern Languages
- Law (LNAT)
- Modern & Medieval Languages



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What are the goals of the programme?



Background to the programme

- Summer Preparation Programme
- Academic Enrichment Programme
- State schools often don't have the resources to provide comprehensive support for highly selective HE applications
- State school students have been disproportionately disadvantaged by the pandemic
- Lucy Cavendish College aims to increase participation of students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds in highly selective higher education

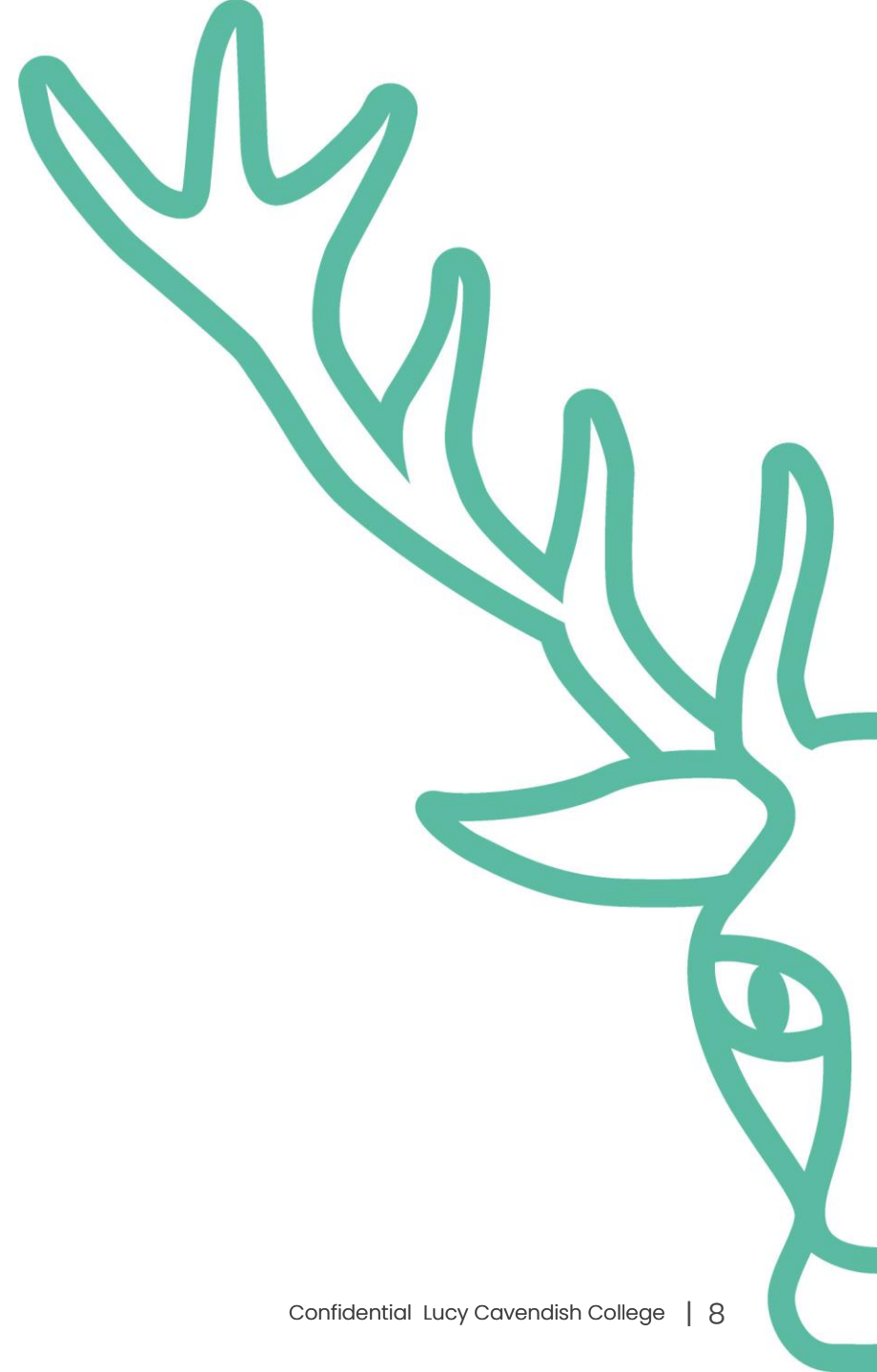
What is the goal of the programme?

To provide high-achieving state school students with comprehensive information, advice and guidance to make competitive applications to Cambridge and other highly selective universities



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What do you want to find out
from this programme?





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Making the most of the programme



How can I make the most of the programme?

- Try to attend as many relevant sessions as possible
- Be active and engage with sessions
- Complete extension activities
- Ask questions and ask for support – we're here to help!



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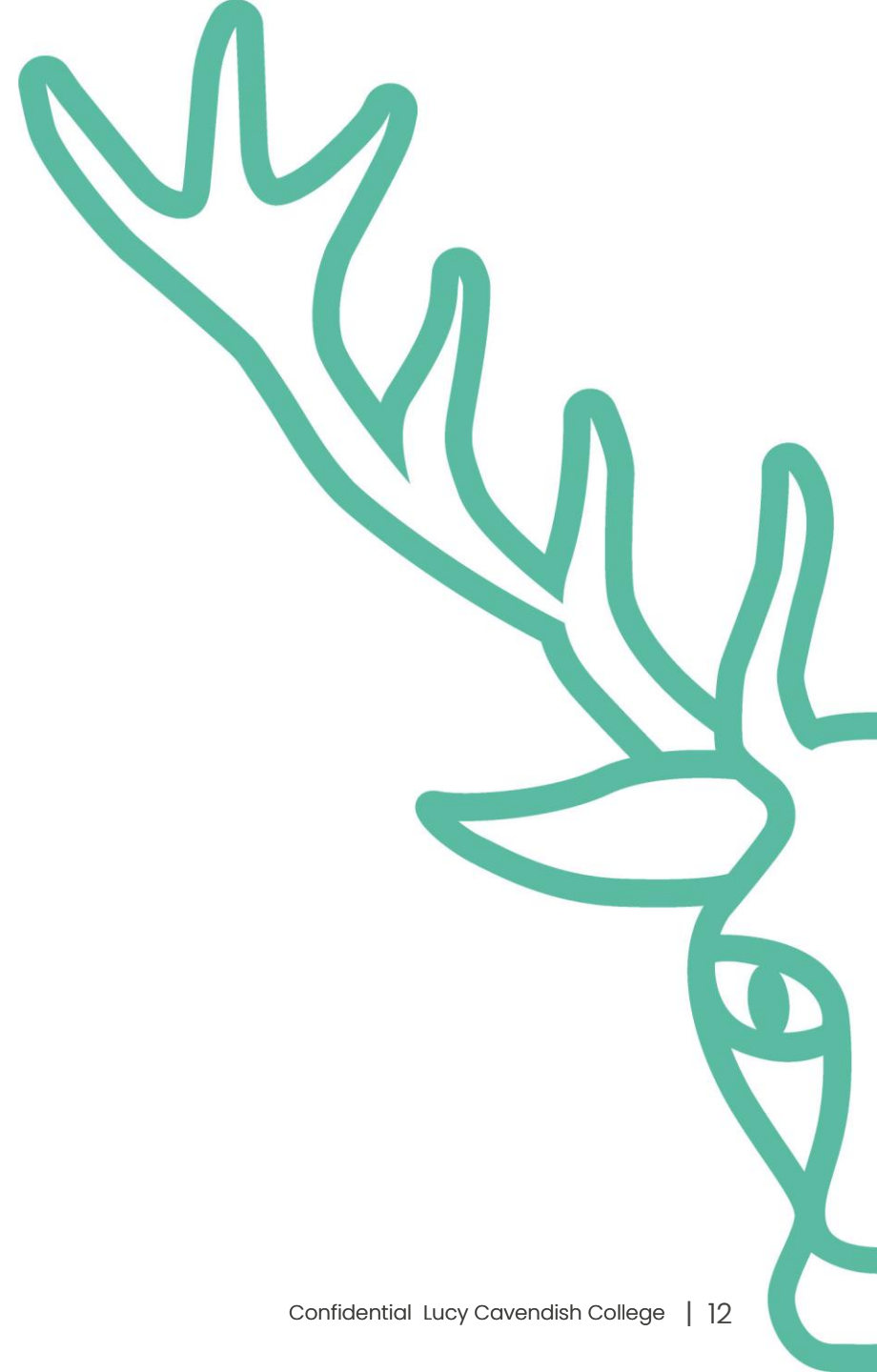
Making a Competitive Application





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What qualities do you think
Oxbridge looks for in a
competitive applicant?

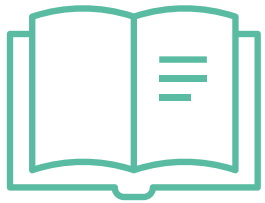


What are we looking for?

- Academic ability and potential
- Satisfy any subject requirements
- Ability to think critically and independently
- Genuine subject interest – motivation and enthusiasm
- Vocational commitment (where appropriate)

All universities are looking for the brightest and the best students, irrespective of social, religious, school or financial background. So go for it!

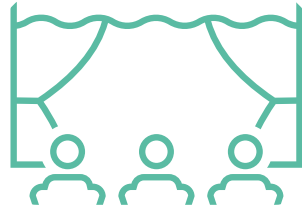
Supracurricular exploration



Wider reading



University lectures and talks, MOOCs



Theatre



Academic taster sessions or workshops



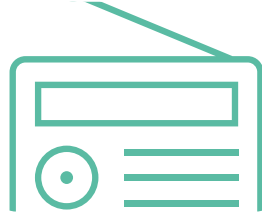
Work experience



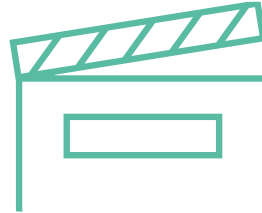
Visits to museums/exhibitions (also digital collections)



Keeping up-to-date with current events



Podcasts and radio shows



Films and documentaries



Practicing key subject-specific skills/competitions

Helps you discover what subjects really interest you

Show universities that you can work independently & your interest goes beyond the school curriculum

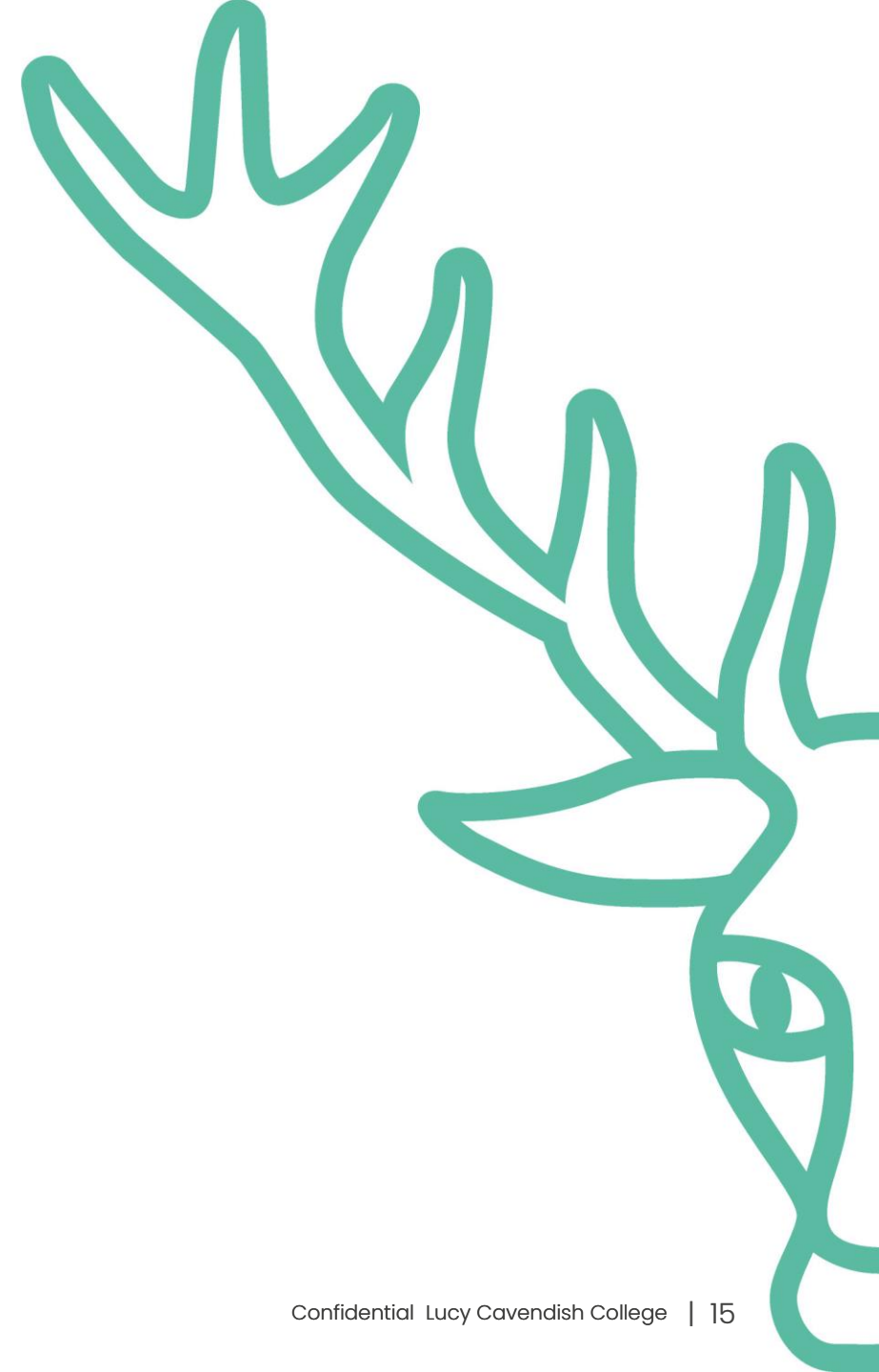
Beneficial for your current studies, all aspects of the application process and beyond

An interesting and rewarding process: supracurricular exploration should be fun!



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What information do we use to assess applications?

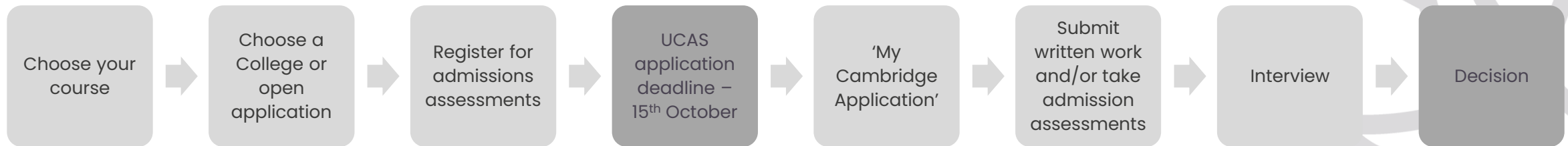


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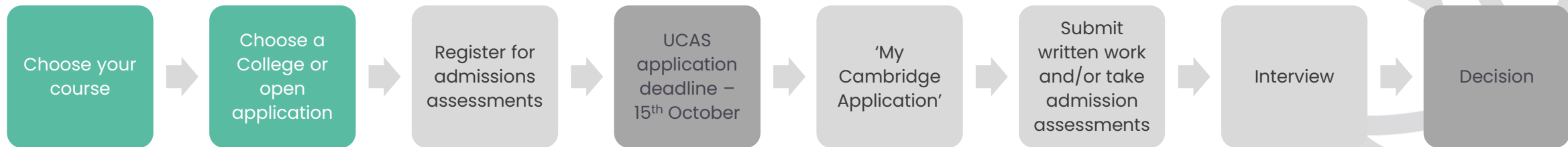
- Academic record
- Personal statement
- Teacher reference
- Performance in any admission test/assessment (where required)
- Written work (where required)
- Contextual information
- Interview (if interviewed)

No part of an application is considered in isolation – all available information is looked at together before decisions are made. We consider every application individually, taking all aspects into account.

The Cambridge application process



The Cambridge application process





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Choosing your course



Which of these best describes my current situation?

- A. I think I know what subject I want to study at university
- B. I'm torn between a couple of subjects
- C. I have no idea what I want to do



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Choosing which universities to apply for



Universities can differ regarding...

Courses on
offer

Modules on
offer

Style of
teaching

Reputation
and quality of
teaching

Entry
requirements

Facilities

Location

Type (campus,
city,
collegiate)

Checking your profile

- What grades does the university require?
- What subjects does the university require?
- Are there any subjects which the university doesn't accept?
- Will my application be competitive?

Cambridge:

A*AA – Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

A*A*A – Sciences & Maths (and Economics)

Typical Medicine entrants (A Level and IB)

For 2017, 2018 and 2019 entry, the majority of entrants from an A Level background achieved at least grades A*A*A* (77% of entrants). All of these successful applicants took Chemistry, 98% took Mathematics and 97% took Biology. For the same period, the majority of IB entrants achieved at least 44 points overall and/or grades 777 at Higher Level.

This information is intended to give you a sense of the academic standard of our typical A Level entrants. We welcome applicants from a range of [qualification backgrounds](#).

Activity

1. Find the course page for the subject you want to study at 2 different universities you're considering
2. Find 3 ways in which the courses differ from each other

What modules are covered?

How many hours of teaching are there per week?

How is the course assessed?

Who teaches the course? Are they experts in the areas you want to learn about?

What options are there for specialisation?

Does the course offer a year abroad/year in industry?



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Choosing a College or open application



Choosing a College or open application

Some criteria you could think about...

- Location
- Size
- Age
- Gender
- Accommodation
- 'Feel'
- Make sure that your college offers your course!

Remember that your course is standard across the colleges and that ultimately they are more similar than they are different.



The Winter Pool

- If the College you apply to thinks you are a strong applicant but does not have enough space, they can put you in the Winter Pool
- This allows other Colleges to view your application
- From here, you could receive an offer from a different College
- Pooling isn't a negative reflection of your application – 20% of Cambridge students are pooled
- Just under 30% of pooled applicants receive an offer
- Don't worry!



Lucy Cavendish College

- Modern, informal campus with beautiful gardens
- A short stroll from the centre of Cambridge, within easy reach of all University departments and facilities
- 135 undergraduates admitted each year
- We accept applications from all students in every subject apart from Music

Who we are

- Previously a College for women aged 21+, now **open to all**
- We pride ourselves in having the **most diverse student community** in Cambridge
- We admit the highest proportion of students from **state schools** of any Cambridge College
- Uniquely among Cambridge Colleges, a majority of our students come from **underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds**
- Our students are driven by a desire to **make a difference** and who are committed to having a **positive and lasting impact on society**



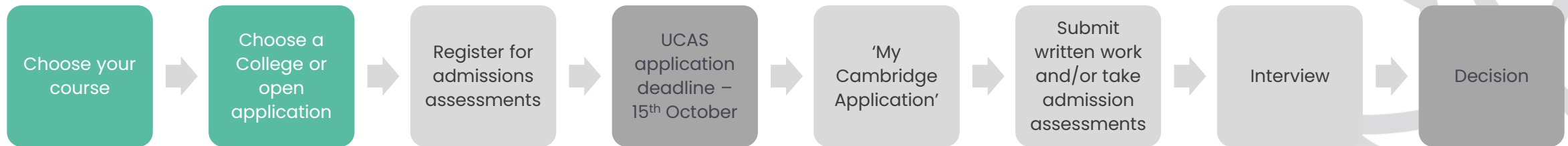


Our Admissions Policy

We are proud to take a bold stance on widening participation at Cambridge. We have three specific targets:

1. To admit a majority of our students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds
2. To have a student population that is representative of UK society by 2025
3. To increase our number of international students from underrepresented countries

The Cambridge application process



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Making the most of the Summer

P Programme of study

R Results

E Engage and Explore

P Practice

P Programme of study

- Course choice is the most important decision
- Courses are broad and often interdisciplinary
- It is worth looking around at related subjects as you may find subjects that are a better fit
- There might be subjects you haven't heard of!
- Research different courses thoroughly – be open to subjects you may have not even have heard of!

R Results

- Work hard to do as well as you can in your current studies

E Engage and Explore

Be proactive in your learning:
undertake **supracurricular activities**

- Subject-specific academic exploration
- Goes beyond your studies in school
- Directly relevant to your chosen degree subject
- Activities you do for fun in your free time
- Supracurricular activities are directly focused on academic exploration, whereas extracurricular activities are not

Helps you discover
what subjects really
interest you

Show universities that you
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Beneficial for your current
studies, all aspects of the
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An interesting and
rewarding process:
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P Practice

- Get used to discussing your academic interests with teachers, friends, family...
- Practice 'thinking out loud'
- Key subject-specific skills
- Past/example admissions assessment papers

P Personal Statement!



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Any questions?

Or you can always email me at outreach@lucy.cam.ac.uk

**Think of three questions that you want to be answered
over the course of the SAB.**

