Cambridge Seminars College



University Foundation Programme

Shaping your future in the heart of Cambridge

About Cambridge Seminars College

Cambridge Seminars College was founded in 1981 and over the past 45 years has been educating students from around the world and successfully preparing them for entry to university in the UK.



Why should I study a University Foundation Programme?

Students who complete their school education in the UK normally study for 13 years and complete either A-Levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma for entry to university. Most international education systems last for 12 years, where students graduate with a high school diploma at the end of Year 12. The CSC University Foundation Programme, available as a Three-Term or Two-Term (Accelerated) course therefore helps students to bridge the gap between high school and university. Students in the UK who previously completed A-Levels but who did not achieve the grades required for university might also benefit from studying a Foundation Programme.

Cambridge Seminars College, located in the heart of the city, has an excellent track record of teaching Foundation students. Students can study a wide range of subjects, and class sizes are small. Students also receive a lot of individual attention in class. The excellent support and guidance students receive with the university application process has led to over 100 universities in the UK accepting CSC Foundation students, testament to the quality of the Programme and the teachers who teach it.

How is the University Foundation Programme structured?

The course consists of 3 to 4 subjects, along with modules in Academic English and TRACES, which develop the academic, research, and personal skills essential for success at university and beyond. Students select their specialist subjects based upon their interests and the subject they hope to study at university. In addition, students may also complete a mini research project similar to the Extended Project Qualification which many A-Level students elect to complete.

The diagram below provides a visual representation of the course structure.



What is the difference between the Three-Term and Two-Term Accelerated University Foundation Programmes?

The academic content and assessment of the Three-Term and Two-Term Accelerated options are the same, apart from the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is completed at the end of the final term of the Three-Term course. The only difference otherwise is in the pace at which the programme is delivered. The Two-Term Accelerated option is more intensive and is better suited to those students who have achieved excellent high school results and who have higher levels of fluency in English.

Is the University Foundation Programme of the same academic level as A-Levels or the IB Diploma?

The CSC University Foundation Programme is taught and assessed at broadly the same academic standard as A-Level, and the course syllabus for each subject is broadly the same as that for a typical A-Level. The University Foundation Programme successfully integrates all the key subject material taught throughout a typical two-year A-Level course.

Who are the teachers?

Staff who teach on the University Foundation Programme come from a variety of backgrounds, but common to them all is their experience of teaching at pre-university level. Many hold postgraduate qualifications and are experts in their respective subject areas. Many also have experience of working in industry which enables them to share with students ways in which the theory taught in the classroom can be applied to real life situations.

How is the University Foundation Programme assessed?

A variety of assessment methods are used to assess students' knowledge and understanding of their subjects. These include formative and summative examinations, essays, laboratory reports for science subjects, presentations, and reports. The use of a variety of assessment methods ensures that students have every opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they study.

What are the entry requirements?

Students must have successfully completed their high school education with good overall grades and must normally have a level of fluency in English equivalent to at least IELTS 5.0 (in all sub-skills). Students interested in joining the two-term accelerated programme must normally have a level of fluency in English equivalent to at least IELTS 5.5 (in all sub-skills). Students with lower levels of fluency in English will be able to complete an English language course before enrolling on the University Foundation Programme.

What is the application procedure?

Students should complete a copy of the CSC Application Form, available on the CSC website, and return it by email to admissions@csc.uk. All applications will be considered on their individual merits and assessed based on academic background, English language level, and suitability for the University Foundation Programme. Successful applicants will then receive an offer letter with details of the next steps in the enrolment process.

What are the fees?

Up-to-date information on fees and other costs associated with the course can be obtained by visiting www.csc.uk.



Does the College provide accommodation to students?

The College has its own boarding houses which students can apply for a place in. Other accommodation options are also provided for students. Details of these are available by visiting www.csc.uk.

Which universities can I progress to in the UK after completing the Foundation?

The CSC University Foundation Programme is widely recognised by universities in the UK, with over 100 universities having accepted CSC students for entry to undergraduate programmes. After completing the first module of the University Foundation Programme, all students take part in UCAS workshops, where they receive step-by-step guidance and support with their university applications.

Which universities do not accept the University Foundation Year?

A small number of the high-ranking, research-intensive universities tend to prefer students for entry who have completed either A-Levels or the IB Diploma. Many of these universities, and lots of others, offer their own Foundation programmes, but these courses have been designed specifically with entry to these specific universities in mind. The CSC University Foundation Programme provides students with the flexibility to apply to the universities of their choice which many other Foundation courses often don't.

Where can I get advice on whether to study A-Levels or the University Foundation Programme?

Every student's individual circumstances will be different, but it is important to take time to research the universities to which you wish to apply to establish their entry requirements, and which entry qualifications specific universities accept. Cambridge Seminars College staff are highly experienced in advising students on their university choices and will be only too happy to offer advice to help you make this important decision.

If I have any more questions about the course, where can I get help?

If you have any questions, or would like more information about the course, please email ask@csc.uk and your request will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff, who will get in touch with you.



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