Cambridge Seminars College (CSC) Admissions Policy 2025/2026

Introduction, Purpose and Scope

Cambridge Seminars College accepts all students with a genuine desire to learn who meet the required academic standards and are in full compliance of all visa and other statutory regulations.

The college does not only accept ‘high flyers’ and believes that a student reaching their potential and progressing is the most significant achievement, whether that presents as A* or D grades.

Admittance to certain programmes may be limited by the applicant’s likely chances of success and progression - such as on to a medical degree - and the college strongly believes in openly discussing options with students both at the outset and throughout the course of study.

We consider our approach best summarised as optimistic but realistic.

Equal Opportunities

Our aim is to encourage applications from students with as diverse a range of backgrounds and native languages as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in creating an ‘immersion experience’ where English is the common language and there is a shared pursuit of knowledge and development. Cambridge Seminars College is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social background or age.

We believe in and promote the core values of:

a) democracy
b) the rule of law
c) individual liberty
d) respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.

Special Needs (SEN) and/or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We welcome students with special educational needs (SEN) and/or, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provided that we are able to offer them the help that they require. We accept pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site is appropriate for them.

The college welcomes students with EHCPs and is always willing to discuss the suitability of its provision, and whether reasonable adjustments can be amde, on a case by case basis.

We advise prospective students to discuss their specific requirements with the college before applying and advise that disclosures will be treated confidentially. Disclosure is requested at initial contact, and during the admissions process. Further details are provided in our Disability Equality Scheme.

Admissions & Language Level Requirements

2 Terms and 3 Terms University Foundation Programme:

These programmes cover a wide range of subjects.

As a minimum, the college requires the students to have completed iGCSEs or equivalent, with special reference paid to the prospective areas of study, though we acknowledge that prior study may not always have been possible.

Students are expected to have reached a standard of 4.5 in IELTS or equivalent, with a minimum of 3.5 in each component.

Provided it does not contravene the visa requirements, students may opt to take the CSC Internal English Language Test in lieu of IELTS or equivalent.

Medicine

The 9 month Foundation in Medicine is an extremely intensive programme. Students are expected to have 6.0 in IELTS with at least 5.5 in each component, as well as good grades (B and above) in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

A-Levels

Two Year and Eighteen Month Programmes

These programmes cover a wide range of subjects.

As a minimum, the college requires the students to have completed their iGCSE or equivalent, with special reference paid to the prospective areas of study, though specific prior study may not always have been possible.

Students are expected to have reached a standard of 5.0 in IELTS or equivalent, with a minimum of 4.5 in each skill.

One Year Programme

This is an extremely intensive course, and designed only for those with strong track records, ideally having taken A-Levels before and now wishing to improve on their grades.

As a minimum the college requires extremely strong iGCSE results, with a minimum of a ‘B’ or equivalent in the chosen subjects, which must have been studied at this level where possible.

Students are expected to have reached a standard of 5.5 in IELTS or equivalent, with a minimum of 5.0 in each skill.

Academic and Exam English

Cambridge Seminars welcomes students from IELTS 3.5 and any academic background onto their AEE course, regardless of their intended duration of study.

All students are required to take the pre-arrival English test, though this is to help place the student and plan the course, rather than determine admission.

The course is aimed at helping students to progress onto Academic Programmes, such as A-Level and Foundation, and is based around familiarisation with SELT and Cambridge Suite.

Accommodation

Cambridge Seminars provides different accommodation options to its potential students, with sufficient options to ensure that all students are able to enjoy a safe and productive stay in a welcoming atmosphere. All students studying at the college on a Study Visa are required to live within a 30 mile radius of the college.

General Principles of CSC Residence

Residential accommodation is available on a self-catering basis in two buildings. As part of the admissions process, the Admissions and Student Services Team will consider the age of the student, as well as their perceived or aspired level of maturity.

We see living in our accommodation as a part of the learning journey between high school and university, and encourage students to develop skills for independent living. This is evidenced most explicitly in the weekly supper club, where students are taught how to cook and prepare a specific meal each week.

Sedley Taylor Residential Accommodation

The college leases and lets Sedley Taylor Residence exclusively to its students. This six bedroom property is light, spacious and available to students aged 16+. As a self-catering property, this is appropriate for more mature minded students.

Three of the rooms have en-suite, with the remaining rooms sharing two showers and toilets. All students aged under 18 are housed in en-suite rooms for safeguarding reasons, each serving as a separate ‘accommodation block’.

There is a warden living in the residence to ensure that the property remains tidy, noise is kept to a minimum and the residence remains a pleasant environment, conducive to study. The warden conducts nightly check-ins post curfew for any students under 18.

Homestay Accommodation

Cambridge Seminars works with homestay hosts throughout the city to provide a home away from home for its students. While there is no ‘one size’ make up to a homestay host provider, we always seek families and providers who are friendly, interested in different cultures and able to provide a warm welcome in a clean environment, conducive to learning.

Homestay offers half-board provision and is suited to students and parents who may be a little more apprehensive about independent living in a foreign country. Homestay hosts are available for all ages from 16+.

This policy was reviewed February 2025
Next review no later than February 2026