



ICCE
International Certificate
of Christian Education



University Handbook

for ICCE

NOTE TO THE SUPERVISOR:

This handbook has been prepared for students, to give them the basic knowledge they will need to apply for University.

It should be read for the first time when the student signs up for ICCE at the beginning of A.C.E. Level 8, PACE 1085.

It should be consulted as they choose electives for each ICCE Certificate, including the ICCE General Certificate.

Students need to start preparing for university in earnest from the time they start the Intermediate Certificate.

This booklet has been designed to help everyone to plan. Planning well ahead is a key to a successful outcome.

NOTE TO THE STUDENT:

This book has been written to help you as an ICCE student to know whether you should or could go to university and if so, how to go about it.

It also contains information important for your parent/supervisor to know.

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Disclaimer:

The information contained in this booklet is for guidance only. While every effort has been made to be completely accurate, constant changes in Higher Education mean that it is essential for you to check all the details with the University prospectuses and websites. It is also a good idea to contact the admissions officers at the institutions you want to enter to explain the ICCE to them. An explanation of the ICCE is available from the ICCE Office.



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INTRODUCTION

To qualify for university, a student normally needs to have the ICCE Advanced Certificate, or the General Certificate and A Levels.

There are 130 universities in the UK, not counting other types of further and higher education.

Further Education provides education up to and including A Levels. Higher Education provides university education, preparing students for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

In the UK, each admissions tutor in each department in every university has their own ideas about what kind of student they want for their courses and what qualifications they should have.

It is important to check their specific requirements, including at ICCE General, before

applying. This Guide will help you know where to look to find this out.

You will need to check that you will have the right subjects for their GCSE requirement. Most courses require maths, English and possibly science at GCSE or equivalent, so ensure that you have the right subjects at General level.

You don't have to go to university. The right university course at the right university will open doors for you, but there are other things you could do. There are some very good apprenticeships available. This booklet is just about university, but we have put a little box of alternatives just here on the right.>>>

UNIVERSITY OR NOT?

Some reasons to consider university:

- You can't get into your chosen profession unless you have the relevant degree: this includes medicine, nursing, law, many of the caring professions, teaching.
- 33% of 18-year-olds (before COVID anyway according to UCAS) were on university courses. It may therefore be difficult to progress in your chosen field without a degree.
- You want to learn.
- People in higher positions often gain an opportunity to be heard.
- Many students find university a positive experience, where they make life-long friends and find great opportunities in sport, music and society.
- People with a degree earn more on average than those without, over a lifetime.

Some reasons not to go to university:

- Sometimes Christian students find university a negative experience. Other students might make it hard for them; occasionally a lecturer will react negatively.
- Some students find it hard to fit into a church and keep the faith.

We cannot tell you what you should do, as it varies from person to person. Please ask God what He would like you to do.

- If you go, keep in touch with your home if possible.
- Consider going to a local university and living at home.
- Remember that universities are secular and do not usually teach from a Christian point of view.
- It might be difficult to keep to a Christian way of life and thinking.

WHAT OPTIONS DO I HAVE IF I DON'T GO TO UNIVERSITY IN THE UK?

Options include (but are not limited to):

- Open University
- University in Europe
- Apprenticeships—some apprenticeships provide a route to degrees, or degree-type qualifications.
- Civil Service non-degree route (which can lead to jobs of degree standard)
- Armed forces
- Banking
- Teaching assistant
- Conservatoire
- Going directly into employment

The information ICCE has collected from ICCE graduates recently tells us that they perform extremely well at university.

ICCE Students should find themselves well-prepared academically for university courses, but do check for specific things you might need for your chosen course.

If you are going on to do Science A Levels

Add the following electives to the ICCE General Certificate:

- For Biology: Biology Bridging Course (0.5 credit)
- For Physics and Chemistry: either Physical Science Level 10 (1 credit) or Level 8 and 9 Natural Science (0.5 credit each)

Preparation for science at university

- For Biology: this year take A Level Biology; a new course is coming.
- Note that all science A Levels now have a practical skills component which must be sat at an approved centre.

Other Additional Requirements

Some courses require the student to take a Foundation Year first.

Some universities require students with a High School Diploma to take an SAT, and some offer the option of AP or SAT II testing in lieu of a Foundation year. Taking AP courses is likely to make you more competitive for these universities.



ABOUT ICCE



WHAT IS ICCE?

ICCE stands for *The International Certificate of Christian Education*. It validates the work of students who study using the A.C.E. curriculum.

WHAT IS A.C.E.?

A.C.E. stands for *Accelerated Christian Education*. It produces the curriculum and invented the methodology you are using.

A.C.E. is very sophisticated. It combines a number of highly-effective educational methods:

1. Programmed Learning: *The subject content is broken down into bite-size pieces which are each taught and then tested.*

In A.C.E., the curriculum is broken down into 12 PACEs per subject per year, each ending with a test.

Within each PACE, the material is further broken down into 3 sections, each ending with a checkup.

2. Mastery Learning: *You have to master each section as you go and are not allowed to progress until you have demonstrated mastery.*

In A.C.E., you may not progress beyond a score strip until the work leading up to it is all correct or corrected; you can't go beyond a checkup until you have passed it; and you have to pass each PACE with at least 80% before you are given the next one.

3. Individualisation: *Students are assessed at entry and placed on the level of curriculum at which they can succeed.*

It is therefore not age-related but achievement-related.

4. Character Training:

This is woven throughout. The focus of much of the Bible teaching is designed to develop character.

5. Biblically based:

The PACEs help students move towards a biblically-based Christian faith.

6. Time management:

The methodology teaches students to keep up to date and manage their time.

7. Self-study skills:

The methodology encourages students to develop the ability to take control of their own learning.

The curriculum also encourages and enables students to develop a serving, outward looking and compassionate personality.

The A.C.E. curriculum covers core subjects thoroughly but allows space for student choice.

Continued on the next page...

Annual Student Conventions (European and International) provide optional external assessment of certain elements of work in the following categories:

- Speech & Drama
- Extended writing
- Art & Design
- Photography
- IT
- Biblical Studies
- Music: instrumental and voice, solo to choirs
- Sport: individual, team and athletics

ICCE CERTIFICATES

Which ICCE Certificates will I need and how long will it take me?

ICCE General Certificate: about 2.5 to 3 years

ICCE Intermediate Certificate: about a year

ICCE Advanced Certificate: about a year

Optional

The ICCE Advanced Higher Certificate would take a further year.

Also available

The ICCE Advanced Certificates can be combined with a Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) Diploma to give Dual Certification:

- ICCE Advanced Certificate with LCA College Preparatory Diploma
- ICCE Advanced Higher Certificate with LCA Honours Diploma (dependent on a minimum overall average being achieved)

HOW DOES ICCE WORK?

There are 13 levels of A.C.E. curriculum from YN to Y13. ICCE starts at Level 8.

Students going to university need the ICCE Advanced Certificate, Level 11/12. As ICCE is a baccalaureate-style qualification, the General

and Intermediate Certificates are pre-requisites for the Advanced Certificate.

Students take a minimum of 7 or 8 courses at each level, as specified.

Most courses are part of the A.C.E. curriculum, but ICCE also requires Apologetics and coursework in a range of subjects. Electives are chosen from an agreed list, some of which are outside of A.C.E .

Credits

Every completed full course gains a credit. The courses you need will be specified on your Academic Projection.

Students need a minimum of:

- 16 credits at Levels 8&9 for the ICCE General Certificate
- 8 credits at Level 10 to gain the ICCE Intermediate Certificate
- 7 credits at Level 11/12 to gain the ICCE Advanced Certificate
- 7 credits at Level 12 to gain the ICCE Advanced Higher Certificate

Some language courses take two years to complete and are worth two credits—begin GCSEs at A.C.E. Level 8; begin first year of A Levels at A.C.E. Level 10.

A few courses are worth half a credit (0.5), such as Speech.

Two pieces of coursework at General are given half (0.5) credit. Three pieces of coursework at Intermediate are given half (0.5) credit. Three pieces of coursework at Advanced make up half (0.5) credit. Essay Guidelines and information on Maths Papers are in the Essay Writing PACE. Information on science projects is available on the ICCE website secure downloads page.

MATRICULATION (ENTRY TO UNIVERSITY)

The Advanced Certificate is the usual matriculation certificate. To achieve it, the student must first complete the General and Intermediate Certificates.

ICCE Certificates needed for University

The ICCE General Certificate replaces GCSE.

- For entry to employment, sixth form and apprenticeships

The ICCE Intermediate Certificate

- For entry to certain professional courses and apprenticeships

The ICCE Advanced Certificate replaces A Level

- Standard or Bias Courses available
- For entry to higher education (university)

The ICCE Advanced Higher Certificate

- For entry to more demanding courses of study or for more competitive universities

Options

1. Students may use either a standard course or a bias course at ICCE Advanced.

2. Students have the option to work for the Dual Certificate with ICCE and Lighthouse Christian Academy (see page 6). LCA are accredited by Middle States. Contact the ICCE Office for details.

For details of the requirements for each Certificate, please refer to the Procedures Manual and applicable Handbooks.

VALIDATION

UKNARIC benchmarked the ICCE against Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and in 2012 reported that:

- ICCE General Certificate was comparable to CIE O Level
- ICCE Advanced Certificate was comparable to CIE A Level

ICCE are currently working with UKNARIC (now called UK ENIC) to prepare for a further benchmarking against Ofqual aims and learning objectives. ICCE is also working towards accreditation.

Please refer to the ICCE website for updates.





PLAN AHEAD

Set short, medium and long-term goals as you work through each Certificate.

To help you plan:

ICCE General + ICCE Intermediate + ICCE Advanced Certificates together take about 4.5 years to complete, if you complete about 72 PACEs a year.

This means that to be able to go to university at 18 with an Advanced Certificate, you need to start A.C.E. Level 8 by the middle of Y9, at the latest. It is more comfortable if you start earlier.

If you also want to achieve the ICCE Advanced Higher by 18, then you should begin Level 8 at the beginning of Y8.

Some top universities may specify that you complete the ICCE Intermediate and Advanced

Certificates in 2 years.

However, many people who started late just went to university later. Students may take longer to achieve the certificates and go to university when they are ready.

ICCE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Students may choose either the Standard Course or a Bias Course for the ICCE Advanced Certificate.

The Standard Advanced Course and all Bias Courses require at least 7 full credits.

If you want a Dual ICCE/LCA Certificate, you must take the standard course. The Dual Certificate cannot be achieved with a Bias Course.

Bias Courses are available in maths, science, social studies, languages, the arts and in music. They have been tailored to meet the requirements of specific university courses or departments, such as music, maths or social studies.

Bias Courses are designed to take as long to complete as a standard course. *Language Bias Courses begin at ICCE Intermediate and are spread over 2 years*

For further details on Bias Courses, consult the ICCE Procedures Manual and applicable Handbook.

Which ICCE Advanced course should I take?

Choose the Standard Course or a Bias Course which fits the requirements of the course you plan to take at university, using the guidance in the box below and other information you have discovered.

Always check the requirements issued by the university for your preferred university and course. Requirements differ from university to university/faculty, so be thorough.

Details of Bias Courses

Science Bias is for:

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science and many science courses

Maths Bias is for:

Maths, Engineering and Computing

Social Studies Bias is for:

Social Sciences, Politics, Philosophy, History, Geography and Psychology

Check the subject requirements for your chosen university course carefully, noting grades and subjects required at ICCE General and Intermediate as well as at Advanced.

If you want to choose an ICCE Bias Course, fill in the applicable Enrolment Form and send to the ICCE Office; make sure you have received confirmation before starting the course. Request permission in advance for any variations.

Be careful to choose options and coursework appropriate to your proposed university course. Choose coursework which will assist your application.

HOW TO CHECK THE REQUIREMENTS

- Universities publish their full prospectuses online.
- Look at the details about the university and the course.
- You can also obtain a hard copy.
- UCAS publishes very helpful information: www.ucas.com
- Consult the most up-to-date copy of Brian Heap's University Courses that you can find —you should be able to borrow this from the library. This gives detailed information on the courses you should take at school and the grades that will be required to access each course at each university.



REALISTIC CHOICES

Try to move in faith and peace over this as you would with anything else.

ICCE has, with the NCSC, almost a 30-year history of enabling students to access university courses in many different countries, but ICCE is very different from A Levels, or even the national standard exam of another country. Universities have the right to choose who they want on their courses.

When the ICCE was benchmarked, in both 2008 and 2012, it was compared with the Cambridge International O and A Level.

UKNARIC (now called UK ENIC) have changed two of their policies since 2012. They now have a policy that they will only make comparisons against the national examination in any country. For the UK, this is against A Levels. The new benchmarking will therefore be against UK A Levels.

In 2018 UKNARIC introduced a new policy to remove qualifications from their database that were reported on more than 5 years before. This is why ICCE was removed from the database. ICCE was informed of this in December 2018.

In addition:

UK A Levels were rewritten for examinations taking place from 2018. All A Level specifications from every UK exam board now have to match the Ofqual Learning Objectives and Aims.

For this reason, UK ENIC will compare ICCE against the Ofqual Objectives at A Level for each subject in the next benchmarking.

Some A Level subject requirements are now very different. For example, a very demanding compulsory science skills element has been introduced, and maths now covers a much wider range of required modules or elements.



ICCE has been in positive communication with UK ENIC since January 2019. UK ENIC has given constructive advice. However, to match the new Ofqual requirements requires a lot of work, simply because they are so different.

Matching ICCE against CIE O and A Levels in the previous benchmarking was comparatively easy as we had a similar approach to learning, focused on a body of knowledge. Matching ICCE to Ofqual Learning Objectives is a much more demanding task. We have been working hard on all aspects of this.

On UK ENIC's advice, we have also been seeking additional accreditation. *Note: Accreditation is not required in England, but it helps.*

Until either accreditation or benchmarking has been achieved, and the ICCE is re-validated, it is therefore important to understand that for some courses or universities, students might be asked to sit an aptitude test or enter via a Foundation year. Some A Level students are facing the same sort of requirements at the moment.

Because GCSEs and A Levels were cancelled or reduced in 2020 and 2021, Oxford and Cambridge are giving aptitude tests to all applicants in certain subjects. They have been wanting to do this for a while, as so many achieve A or A* in GCSE and at A Level that the higher grades no longer differentiate sufficiently. It is likely they will retain this in the future.

Medicine and some law courses already require an aptitude test.

Students should, therefore, factor this possible expectation in.

In addition to completing their Advanced Certificate and writing the personal statement,

they should prepare themselves to give additional evidence. Additional evidence might be an SAT, an AP credit, a Foundation Course, or a specific requirement by the university for some courses, such as medicine.

Oxford and Cambridge always interview likely prospects. Some courses at Oxford already require a couple of marked essays; other courses also want the student to sit an IQ test. At interview, some Oxford or Cambridge colleges will give an entrance test. This does not require additional study.

Medical courses will interview.

Many universities are likely to want to interview this year because of the situation under COVID.

Maths and Science

ICCE has been working on further maths PACEs, and will shortly add further science practical skills for those going on to do science courses at university.

Maths:

UK Higher Maths should be taken after A.C.E. Level 11 Trigonometry. Additional PACEs are being developed.

Science:

The Science Skills requirement is currently for people doing A Levels in England only, but we are building up our own science skills requirement in order to gain comparability at benchmarking.

Students who need Biology should consider doing a Biology A Level. Because of the new science skills requirements, all science A Levels have to be taken at an exam centre.



FOR PARENTS

ICCE requires all students to achieve in all areas. This can look as if all ICCE students have the same ability. Obviously, this is not so. A good education can, and often does, increase apparent ability, but it does not create a genius out of someone with average ability.

How can you determine your child's level of ability, if they are wondering whether they should go to university? How can you know?

An average of 96% or above, Grade A, achieved easily and quickly, is one indicator of high ability. Another is working with ease. Students of the highest ability are likely also to do more than the minimum.

Some very able students, however, work slowly, because they are taking time to read round their subjects. Some students struggle only because they have little confidence.

You could use a CAT test to discover current IQ scores. An overall grade average of A or B at Advanced, gained by the age of 18, or within 5 years of starting 1085, indicates that a student has the ability to achieve at university.

Pray for wisdom.

How can the student know which course to choose?

What do they enjoy doing?

What job or profession are they aiming at?

Is that their free choice?

They need to find out about what life is like inside their chosen work.

If they want to be a doctor, they need to ask themselves:

- *Do I like being with sick people? Or even people?*
- *Do I know how long and how hard doctors work their whole lives from Junior doctor to Senior consultant? Do I want that?*

For other careers:

- *Do I know how many hundreds of thousands of words a successful barrister has to read and master every day?*
- *And so on.*

Parents can be over-ambitious for their children.

- It is best to help each child discover what God has designed them to do.
- Help them to make a sober judgment about their gifting and range of interests.
- Encourage them to ask God for guidance.
- If God calls your child to be a missionary, pray for the grace to let them go.

Some parents are under-ambitious for their child.

Perhaps they themselves have had a successful life without a university education, or perhaps they went to university and thought it was pointless. Almost 30% of 18-year-olds are now at university. If the student is able, they may need a university education. If God has called them to be a Christian lawyer in the UK, there may be no alternative.

Ask God for guidance.

What has your child always said they wanted to do?
What abilities and talents do they have?

Consider their limitations. Are they fearfully shy? Then chat show host might not be the best choice.

Children often don't know what they want to do. Do not worry! They should choose something they would like, that would open doors, or be useful. Students can change courses and even do a second course after the first is completed.

Even after praying, they may not be clear about what their work should be; people often find that out after university.

Find out about the wide range of jobs and careers there are and what the career and pay structures are. You can use the excellent government National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>) or the reference section of your local library.

Find out from friends and relatives about the jobs they do. What are the hours, how many exams post university does it require, what's the money like? Think about the type of jobs in the family. Are any of them suitable for this child?

Remember the child is nearly grown up. Advice and help should be offered, but they should be starting to make these decisions themselves, as part of becoming an adult.

Arrange relevant **work experience** for them. Be creative. A would-be doctor has to show long-term commitment but isn't allowed to shadow a doctor in a hospital until they are 18, by which time it is often too late. Could they sit in on a GP surgery instead? Work in a summer camp for diabetic children? Work as a ward aid or a care assistant one afternoon a week?

To study to be a vet, you have to demonstrate

commitment to working with animals and so would-be vets who aren't working with animals yet should start now!

If progression to university seems possible and sensible, then borrow *Brian Heap's Degree Course Offers* from the library. This will tell you which universities provide which courses and what subjects and grades they require. You can also find this information on the UCAS website, www.ucas.com.

Have them **research** each university and each course they are interested in. The prospectuses will be online. Find people who went to that university who can give inside information. This is the sort of information a prospectus might not clearly say:

- *Durham university is divided into colleges. The most prestigious of these are inside the bailey. The newer ones are on the hill outside.*
- *It is harder to get into the older Oxford colleges than the new ones.*
- *London university has no campus; its colleges are scattered all over London.*

It is best to start this research early, **before** choosing electives or Advanced Level courses that limit options. Ideally, they should begin while working on the ICCE General Certificate. Find out if there are any specific subjects or grades they need in the General or Intermediate Certificate. Compile a list of university courses with them that seem to be a good match with what they offer. Note the application-to-offer ratio, and help them choose wisely.

Students are able to access many courses and universities with ICCE. ICCE students have gone into law, medicine, maths, engineering, music, computer science, physiotherapy, nursing, art, physics, child development, English, and more.



STUDENT PREPARATION

Students, start doing this as soon as you start on the Intermediate Certificate:

1. First find out all the **information** you can, including the unofficial information put out by students.

Trawl university websites or use *The Times* or *The Telegraph Good University Guides* obtainable at libraries or bookshops or online.

2. Obtain the **prospectuses** of the six or so universities you are quite interested in. They can be accessed online or by writing for them.
3. When the prospectuses have arrived, discover when the **Open Days** are of the universities you are most interested in.

Some departments in the more prestigious universities only recruit people who have attended their Open Day.

Some of these Open Days need to be booked as early as March or April of the academic year before you apply—while you are doing the Intermediate Certificate. Usually you cannot just turn up; you need to book, sometimes as much as six weeks in advance. Parents are usually welcome too.

Some universities offer the student lunch, or even to stay overnight. Take these offers up. It is important to get the feel of the place, and it's fun.

4. Check the **requirements** of the course and university carefully. Ask yourself the following, as a checklist:
 - Am I doing the right courses for my ICCE Certificates?
 - Do I need to add anything?
 - Am I doing enough relevant work experience?
 - Have I obtained the prospectuses of the universities I am interested in?
 - Have I booked an Open Day or two and received confirmation?
5. If you want to apply to the most competitive courses and universities, are you working on a portfolio of suitable **extra-curricular activities**? Sport, music, paid employment and helping at the church youth club all tend to rank as useful.

Are you reading magazines specific to the course? If you want to be a doctor, you should be reading the *Lancet* or the *BMJ* or the *Junior BMJ*. If you plan to be a scientist, start reading the relevant science magazines, such as *Scientific American* and the peer-reviewed *Creation Journal*. These will develop your interest as well as your knowledge and provide relevant material for interviews.

6. For Medicine and Veterinary Science, you need to submit the results of a clinical aptitude test (**UKCAT, BMAT, etc.**). UKCAT is taken at online centres in the summer term when you are finishing your Intermediate Certificate or beginning your Advanced, so that the results can be included in your UCAS

application. Practice papers are published which you should do before taking the test. Further information is available on their websites.

7. Prepare a **Personal Statement**.

After visits to Open Days, which usually take place in the summer and autumn terms, it is time to work on your personal statement. Because of the large numbers of people applying for university, most places do not usually interview. Therefore, much hangs on the Personal Statement, which must be carefully prepared. Even if the university needs to interview, they will use the Personal Statement to decide who to call for interview. It is best to have a first draft ready at the end of the summer term before you apply. There are books on how to prepare a good personal statement in libraries and bookshops. The statement should be filled with information and written in your best English.

You usually need to demonstrate commitment to the course you have chosen by stating relevant reading and work experience and explaining why you chose this subject and what academic strengths and interests you have.

You should try to make yourself sound

interesting. Distinction in anything (including Dance) is helpful.

Do not discount yourself. 'I've only sung in the choir, played a bit of football, helped the pastor organise a youth group mission in Albania.' That's exactly the sort of thing they are looking for. Choir and football read to them as 'teamwork'; that organising shows leadership as well as organisational ability. Say it all boldly; never be apologetic.

Oddly they take less kindly to people who only say they read a lot. They read this as 'unadventurous and boring'. Grossly unfair, but it is tricky in interviews too. They might ask you detailed questions on a book you mentioned which you read three years ago and have largely forgotten. The interviewer can be the person who wrote the definitive book on the subject, or that was what his PhD is on. Reading is fraught with peril! Do say you read, but only mention something you are prepared to talk on, and it should be just one of your interests, not the only thing you say you do. They scour personal statements for clues on what to ask you and assume that, if you mention it, you are prepared to talk on it. If you say you are a big fan of e.g. Dostoevsky, make sure you know at least one book well enough to speak about.





APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE APPLICATIONS

You can only apply to one at a time.

There are companies, such as Oxbridge Applications, which sell good courses on interview techniques and will vet personal statements and offer advice for a fee. Sometimes paying this would be a good investment as people with degrees from Oxford or Cambridge tend to be taken more seriously and achieve more in life. Bear in mind that some courses will give the student an IQ Test as part of the interview process. If you have never done an IQ Test, now is the time to do a few, even 11+ ones will help. Your scores improve dramatically after the first one or two; therefore, do not take your first IQ Test in the interview.

Applications for these two universities are made at the end of September, and so the basic personal statement should be prepared in July and polished up just before the UCAS application is made.

Several courses require specific pre-interview admissions tests at Oxford: MAT, HAT, BMAT, PAT, LNAT, TSA, MLAT, OLAT, ELAT, CAT.

Cambridge has some pre-interview admissions tests and some given at interview. All Cambridge colleges require a pre-interview assessment test for Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, English, Land Economy, Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine.

In both cases, students must take the test at an approved test centre. See their website and prospectuses for all these details.

OTHER UNIVERSITIES

Most other university courses have to be applied for by mid-January, but earlier applications (October/November) usually have an advantage. The exceptions to this are Art and Design courses, many of which are applied for after January, in the middle of your final year. You will need to check exactly what you have to do.

MUSIC & MEDICINE

Applications for these courses are also made at the end of September, at the beginning of your final year.

FINANCE

Find out how much accommodation, tuition fees and living costs will amount to, and work out how these will be paid.

Find out what help the government or even the university is able to give you. It is perfectly possible for people from families on low incomes to go to university because there is some assistance available for this.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If the course requires the ICCE Advanced Certificate, then the Intermediate Certificate needs to be completed and the results known *before* you make the UCAS application. If the course only requires the Intermediate Certificate (which is unlikely), then the General Certificate should be completed before applying.

Keep all papers in a box file—although almost everything can be done online, in which case, open an online file labelled *Application to University!*

REFEREE

A referee, who will write a reference about you, is needed. This may not be a family member. You need to speak to the referee about your achievements so that they know what to include in the reference. There will be books in the library to assist them, and helpful guidance notes are included with the form.

COURSE CODES & PAYMENT

Double check the course codes. Send everything off in good time. You will also need to submit payment when making your UCAS application, so be prepared with card details.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Over the next few months, you will start receiving offers, rejections or perhaps questions from the various universities or courses.

IMPORTANT! If you receive queries about ICCE or your qualifications from a university, please contact the ICCE office for advice on how to respond. DO NOT attempt to respond or provide an explanation on your own.

At this point, it may also be advisable to send an additional Portfolio to explain all the amazing things you have done that are not covered by the application, especially those which fit you to be considered for this course. (This is optional.)

Interviews

If you are likely to be interviewed (and some universities will interview all students who do not fit the standard 3 A Levels mould), then you must prepare carefully, re-reading everything you have claimed to have read, including the latest magazines. It will definitely help to have a mock interview. Prepare to talk about anything you have mentioned in your Personal Statement. They often like to ask you about what particularly interested you about this subject. Suppose

you were applying for Engineering and had mentioned that you were particularly interested in aviation in your personal statement, prepare to talk on some aspect of this in some detail. They may try to drill down to discover your actual level of interest, and so it helps to choose the thing that actually interests you, not the thing that you think sounds more prestigious. Most interviewers are happy to talk about the things that interest you and do not try to make you talk about something different, although Oxbridge interviews may also set you a puzzle to solve on something you might not have met before.

Offers & Rejections

In the next few months, offers of places or rejection slips start to come through. The process may be completed early, or it may take until the middle of April, as universities give out their first offers and then wait until some are turned down, before offering the second and third round.

Universities are not told to which other universities you are applying to until you have decided which offers to accept, or if you have no live choices, for example, if your application is unsuccessful, or you decline the offers you have. However, an application made before October 15th which is not for medicine or music, lets them know that the student has also applied to Oxford or Cambridge.

If you receive no offers at all, there is a system for re-applying the same year. Follow the instructions from UCAS.

If you still receive no offers, there are additional Clearing opportunities, both before and once the A Level results are known. You can also polish up your Personal Statement and try again, perhaps after a gap year working in something impressive or relevant.

CLEARING

Clearing is how universities and colleges fill empty places.

From 5th July to 19th October 2021, you can apply for a course through Clearing if you are not already holding an offer and the course still has places.

The UCAS website carries the list and will match you against 50 most similar choices.

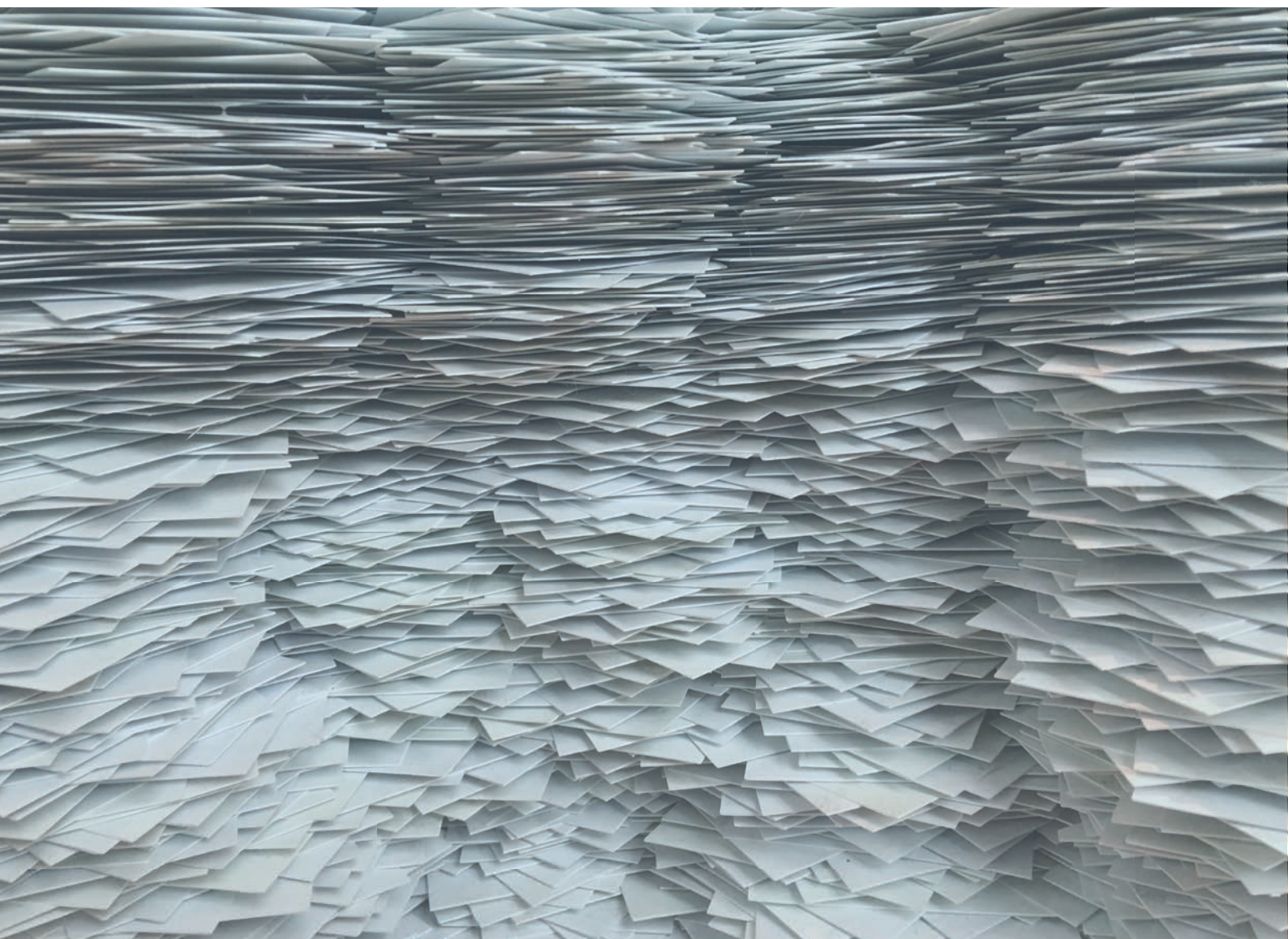
You can still choose something different.

In 2020, over 70,000 students obtained their

places through clearing, including for difficult things like English or law.

If you need a place, take care not to be away on holiday at this time. You need access to the internet, but you also need to be on hand for interviews, telephone conversations and being able to send required information, as well as sorting out finances and accommodation in a very short time.

There is an approximate 28th August deadline for universities to receive ICCE transcripts. Some universities allow you to take the Certificate with you when you go up.



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS



Below are the ICCE subjects and the minimum grades required for a range of different university courses. This was correct at the time of writing but is intended as a place to start only. Please check these against the latest published information from the university (usually the prospectus relating to your year of application).

These are minimum grades, but remember, if everyone else has A*, a B grade will not help.

Additional Notes on Grades

GCSE Grades

Note that the GCSE grades are now Grades 1-9.

Grade 4 is a low C, Grade 5 is a high C, Grade 6 is a B, Grade 7 is a low A, Grade 8 is a high A, and Grade 9 is A*.

How do GCSE/A Level Grades relate to ICCE Grades?

General:

ICCE passes at General are at least GCSE Grade 5/High C

ICCE 98% is GCSE 9/A*

Intermediate and Advanced:

ICCE passes at Intermediate and Advanced are given as Grades A-E and relate directly to A Level Grades A-E.

For medicine, veterinary science and dentistry, the Medical Schools Council says:

Aberdeen:

AAA including: Chemistry + one of Biology/Human Bio/Maths/Physics

GCSEs: Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grades 6-9 for the rest, especially science subjects.

Birmingham:

AAA including: Biology and Chemistry

GCSEs: B in Science, History, Maths

Bristol:

AAA including: Chemistry + Biology/Physics/Maths

GCSEs: A in Maths, C in English Language

Cambridge:

A*A*A in Chemistry and at least one of Biology/Physics/Maths (some colleges require 2 of). Success rate is higher in those offering 3 Science/Maths. GCSEs: NA

For medicine, veterinary science and dentistry, the Medical Schools Council says (continued):

Imperial:

AAA in: Chemistry + Biology + 3rd

Standard offer: A*AA, with the A* in either Chemistry or Biology.

Keele:

AAA completed within 2 years in Chemistry/Biology + one of:

Biology/Chemistry/Economics/Further Maths/Maths/Physics/Psychology/Statistics + 3rd academic subject. Only one from Maths/Further Maths/Stats counts.

Science A Levels by English exam boards must include the practical endorsement.

GCSEs: 5 at Grade 7 (A) English Language (including speaking and listening), Maths and 3 separate sciences/dual at minimum of Grade B/6.

King's College, London:

A*AA including Chemistry and Biology, including the practical endorsement in all sciences, but only if taking A Levels in England.

GCSEs: Grade 6/B in Eng Lang and Maths.

Liverpool:

AAA in Chemistry + Biology/Physics/Maths + 3rd academic subject

GCSEs in 9 subjects; need 15 points where B = 1, A = 2, A* = 3; so min offer = 3Bs (3) + 6As (12) = 15 pts.

Manchester:

AAA in Chemistry/Biology/Human Biology + Chemistry/Biology/Human Bio/Physics/Psychology/Maths/Further Maths. Maths/Further Maths counts as only 1 subject; Bio/Human Bio counts as only one subject.

GCSEs: 7 at Grade 7/A. Eng Lang, Maths and 2 sciences can be at Grade 6/B.

Newcastle:

AAA, science subjects not specified.

GCSE: No specific requirements

Nottingham:

AAA in Biology/Human Biology + Chemistry.

GCSEs: 6 at Grade 7/A within 2 years.

For science GCSEs:

Grade 7/A in: Biology, Chemistry + either Physics/Maths; if Physics, then + Maths and Eng Lang at 6/B.

Oxford:

A*AA in one sitting, in Chemistry + two of Biology/Physics/Maths.

GCSE: Number and proportion of 8/9 (High A/A*) taken into account for shortlisting.

Average score in school taken into consideration.

Further Comments

1. Some specify that GCSE or A Level is taken within 2 years/at one sitting.
2. All except 2 in this sample require Chemistry; the other 2 would like Chemistry.
3. 4 of this sample (out of 12) required Biology
4. Most specify which GCSEs they want; the highest was Liverpool which required 9, their minimum offer was 6 As/3 Bs.
5. Most require English and Maths at 6/7 plus Science at 7/+.
6. What this means you should do is shown in the table below.

ICCE

General	Intermediate	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths- A/B • English- A/B • Earth Science (SS)- A • Biology- A • Foreign language recommended - A • Most subjects A/A*, 1 or 2 B's. • Either Physical Science or Natural Science 8 & 9 as further credit option. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths- A • Physical Science- A • Mostly A's • If Biology is required at AS/A, this must be taken as a further credit option, not instead of a required subject- A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry- A • Physics- A • Algebra, Trig & Calculus- A • If Biology is not taken at Intermediate, it may need to be taken at Advanced. • The further credit option should be rigorous, e.g. an advanced language course or English 4- A

Note: Medicine and veterinary science need extensive, relevant work experience.

There are currently only 8 places offering vet science in the UK which makes it extremely competitive.

For medicine you need to demonstrate caring, compassion, teamwork and leadership skills.

For mathematics:

General	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English & Literature- A/B • Foreign Language- A/B • Maths- A • Biology- A • Earth Science (SS)- A • SA Natural Science at Level 8/9 helpful • Mostly A's • Some courses require an aptitude test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra, Trigonometry, UK Higher Maths/+ • Physics • Chemistry • Further credit options: consider Economics or Computer Science • Most common: AAB

For philosophy, politics and economics:

General

- Maths- A/B
- English- B
- World History & World Geography- A/B
- Foreign Language- B

Advanced

- An Arts/Science mix is useful (standard course)- A
- Trig., Calculus, UK Higher Maths essential for Economics- A
- History useful for some- A

Oxford: AAA

LSE: A*AA, with A* in Maths (GCSE: 8-9 at A/A*, B in Eng Language, Maths)

Manchester: AAA (GCSE: B/+ in Eng Lang, Maths)

Warwick: AAA (GCSE: C in Eng Lang, A in Maths)

York: AAA, B in Maths if Economics (GCSE: Maths 7)

General Notes: Used to be offered at only 2 universities; now widely offered, but for top students only.

For languages:

These are now easier to get into than they were a few years ago and do not typically require 2 language GCSEs or 2 language A Levels.

Most will not require a Language Bias Course.

Most university courses are languages combined with another subject.

Languages may be added as electives to ICCE Certificates.

Note: MFL = modern foreign language

Examples:

Aberdeen:	French, 4 years:	BBB; placement test given
Bristol:	Most courses French + non lang	ABB incl. B in A Level French
Durham:	MFL, French or German:	AAA; A in Fr/Germ, B/+ in other lang
Oxford:	(single, + lang/+ other subject)	AAA one/+ MFL depending on course + MLAT
York:	French and German:	AAB at least one French /German

See the list on the following page for details on languages available as further credit options with ICCE.

General	Intermediate	Advanced
<p>French</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosetta Stone (1) + Duolingo + A.C.E. French (1) or Monarch Level 9 (1) + Duolingo or Monarch Level 9 (1) + Duolingo GCSE French (2) or Equivalent Alliance Francaise exam (1)* <p>Spanish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.C.E. Spanish (2) <p>German</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosetta Stone (1) + Duolingo or GCSE German (2) or Equivalent Goethe Insitut exam* <p>Latin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Latin (2) <p>Greek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.C.E NT Greek I (1) 	<p>Any language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE/equivalent (2) or AS (1) or <p>French</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monarch Level 10 (1) or Alliance Francaise further level (1)* <p>German</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goethe Insitut further level* <p>Greek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.C.E NT Greek I (1) or A.C.E NT Greek II (1) or Greek GCSE/AS/A <p><i>Use A.C.E. NT Greek for Biblical courses; use Greek GCSE/AS/A Level for MFL</i></p>	<p>Any language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS (1) or A Level (2) <p>Greek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.C.E NT Greek I (1) or A.C.E NT Greek II (1)

Important: *If intending to leave with the Intermediate Certificate, choose only those language options which can be completed in the time. ICCE cannot accredit incomplete courses. Normally this would mean the student should complete AS courses because half an A Level cannot be given credit.*

Note:

1. If a combined course is wanted at university, e.g. French and History, consider using the Standard ICCE Advanced Course, replacing two modules (not Biblical studies) with Language Modules and their associated coursework, instead of pursuing a full Language Bias Course. Your proposed course of study for the Advanced Level must be approved by ICCE.
2. *Alliance Francaise or Goethe Institut may not fulfil entry requirements for MFL courses. Please check.
3. MFL courses at university are now mostly combined courses; few are single subject, and course requirements vary according to what they are combined with.
 - Some courses require an A Level in the language to be studied.
 - AAA to BBB
 - GCSEs: if asked for, one language, A/B
 - Latin: AAB to ABB, B in Latin; + possibly B in MFL
4. Oxford requires MLAT.

For Teacher Training:

These are now several routes:

1. Postgraduate university-led training (BA/BSc +PGCE + QTS)
2. Undergraduate university-led training:
 - BEd Hons + QTS (Primary/Middle School mostly)
 - BA/BSc + QTS Opt in
 - Integrated Masters + QTS (M.Ed)
3. School-led training
4. Graduate with 2:1 or above, may do Teach First.
5. Maths/Physics degree? Future Teaching Scholars gives support
6. There is training for people in the armed forces without a degree.
7. Teaching in Further Education
8. Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses

B Ed (Honours) requirements:

General	Intermediate	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths- A-C English- A-C Science- A-C (Primary only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service useful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level in main subject and secondary- BBC

Plus: Experience of children in the appropriate age range; some teaching experience; high standard of English crucial; art and music qualifications useful for EYFS. You will need a DBS.

Interviews are common: some ask for an essay; others give Maths and English diagnostic tests.

The Professional Skills Test was scrapped in April 2020; the training provider will now test the student during the course.

Important: The DfE counts ICCE Maths and English as equivalent to GCSE for the purposes of prior attainment and funding. You can find this information at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-maths-and-english-condition-of-funding#exempt>

About qualified teacher status:

- 'Education Studies' courses do not give Qualified Teacher Status, although they could lead on to a PGCE, which does.
- School-led and university-led undergraduate and postgraduate Teacher training courses do give Qualified Teacher Status
- Note that the B.Ed usually qualifies to teach up to age 14, and training is for a specific age group. It is mostly for primary schools, although some subjects do offer options to prepare students for teaching right through a secondary school.
- Teaching a specialist subject right through the senior school to sixth form usually requires a degree in the specialist subject followed by a PGCE.

For history degrees:**General**

- 5 subjects incl. English and Maths

Intermediate

- Standard course with Social Studies coursework

Advanced

- Standard course or Arts Bias with possible further credit options of:
 - » British Literature
 - » Intro to Economics
- Social Studies coursework

General Notes:

1. Requirements vary. Check the prospectuses.
2. Most ask for History.
3. Also useful: Economics, English Literature; Biblical Studies
4. Can be useful: English language, maths

For geography degrees:**General**

- Maths
- Geography

Intermediate

- Geography A Level Year 1
- Maths
- Chemistry

Advanced

- Geography A Level Year 2
- Maths
- Physics

General Notes:

1. Geography degrees come in different types and universities vary.
 - Some are science degrees and might require maths and science at Advanced.
 - Others are more arts focused.
 - Both are likely to require A Level Geography: we suggest CIE A Level, 2 credits, one of which can be used at Intermediate.
 - GCSE maths is required/useful for both.
2. CC to A*AA.



For nursing and midwifery:

General	Intermediate	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 subjects • Maths • English • Science (esp Biology) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • Chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Maths) • (Physics)

General Notes:

1. Some require a science at Advanced, some specify Biology.
 - If you require Biology at A Level, we recommend you use Edexcel or CIE Biology. 2 credits, one of which can be at Intermediate. You will need to pass the practical skills assessment and this can only be taken as part of a Biology Course at an A Level centre.
2. Average requirement is BBC, 2-3 A Levels including one science.
3. Midwifery requirements are similar to nursing.
4. Requirements for both vary from course to course and between universities.
5. Both nursing and midwifery tend to interview.
6. You might need to demonstrate: an ability to care, resilience, attention to detail, timekeeping, communication, empathy, and compassion.

For computer science:

General	Intermediate	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 or more subjects • Strong subjects • Maths • English Language • Science (esp Biology) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths Bias Course with science and/or computer science

1. Generally requires DDE to A*A*A; average BCC
2. Top unis for this are Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Durham, Leeds, UCL
Require:
A's and A*'s in maths or computing. Some require A* in pure maths.
GCSEs: 5/+ at A/7 or B/6 incl. maths + 2 from: computer science, physics, chemistry, biology + Eng Lang C/4
3. If an A Level Science subject is taken, a pass is also required in the practical element.
4. Plenty of other courses will take lower grades.

Always have your academic projection approved by ICCE before pursuing any course.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How does the ICCE General Certificate compare with GCSEs?

- They both prepare a student for work or A Level.
- The ICCE General Certificate is required for the ICCE Intermediate and Advanced.
- GCSEs have low pass marks in maths, 23% at the Higher Tier. ICCE requires at least 80% in all subjects and at all levels.
- The Department for Education holds ICCE maths and English as equivalent to GCSE for funding purposes.
- UKNARIC found ICCE comparable to Cambridge International Examinations O Level and A Level in 2012.
- GCSEs teach students to handle and apply data; they test understanding and application of a small body of knowledge. ICCE expects the student to acquire, understand and synthesise a larger body of knowledge. In this way, ICCE General is more like O Level.
- GCSEs have end of course examinations and coursework. Students are allowed to retake for a higher grade. Each ICCE full course is tested in 12 sections and there is coursework. Students are not allowed to retake a test unless the test is failed; repeated tests have marks deducted.

How does the ICCE General Certificate compare with O Levels?

- O Levels were designed for above average children, the top 20%. The ICCE General Certificate is accessible to most students.
- O Levels were typically examined by essay. ICCE uses objective tests which require a specific answer. Coursework includes essays.
- O Level students were tested on knowledge acquired over a year or two. ICCE students are tested on a much wider range of knowledge, acquired in three-week sections. Some tests review a whole level.
- O Level students are able to swot up until the examination hall. ICCE students have their PACEs removed the day before the test.
- The ICCE is different from both GCSEs and O Levels, but not inferior.

Should I remove my child from ICCE after the General Certificate and send him to do A Levels?

Reasons why people consider A Levels

- Universities have heard of A Levels.
- 6th form colleges are free.
- A student at a 6th form college has a 'hardening off' period before going out into the world.
- Students can study two or three subjects in depth.
- Home-educating parents sometimes lack the confidence in their academic ability to carry on.

Reasons against A Levels

- The content is non-Christian. It is strongly evolutionary in Science, Geography, Geology and Social Sciences.
- State education is secular humanist and relativist and with little thought for consequences of immoral actions. This particularly affects History and Literature.
- Sixteen is usually too young to be well-equipped with a full understanding of the proofs of the existence of God and His role as Creator.

Reasons for ICCE

- Age 16 to 18 is decision time for most students. Their faith so far has often been a reflection of their parents' faith.
- ICCE provides thought-provoking materials, encouraging students to become original, godly thinkers.
- The breadth of subjects and the continued requirement of the 80% pass mark develop the ability of the students to think and excel. It is a demanding course that will continue to stimulate the lazy, encourage diligence from the hasty, challenge the able and provide good study and work skills.
- The defence of Christianity is built into the course, enabling students to begin to have answers for the questions they will face from their own thinking and the world's thinking.
- It is suitable for those who want a distinctively Christian education and yet want to apply for university.
- ICCE has been widely accepted by colleges and universities.
- An ICCE student can also be effectively 'hardened off' by being involved in part-time work or community projects, or by using a Gap Year wisely.

Further Points to Consider

- A wide range of Universities and educational institutions across the world have taken students with ICCE for a very wide range of courses, and the evidence is that they have done very well. (*See Graduate Survey.*)
- There are ICCE graduates with PhDs, distinctions in MAs, MScs and 1sts in degree course; some have won university or national prizes.

What is the main difference between A Levels and ICCE?

- A Levels allow the student to concentrate on two to four subjects pursued in depth. ICCE requires six main subjects. It is broader in scope and more like the Scottish Highers or the International Baccalaureate.

ICCE Grade Comparison Chart

GRADING COMPARISON			
ICCE	GCSE		A Level
A*	9	Higher A*	A*
A	8	Lower A*	A
B	7	A	B
C	6	B	C
D	5	Higher C	D
E	4	Lower C	E
-	3	D	-
-	2	E	-
-	1	F/G	-

ICCE GRADING	
ICCE Grade	ICCE Average
A*	98.00 – 100
A	96.00 – 97.99
B	92.00 – 95.99
C	88.00 – 91.99
D	84.00 – 87.99
E	80.00 – 83.99
An average under 80% requires a resit	



Appendix I: Medicine

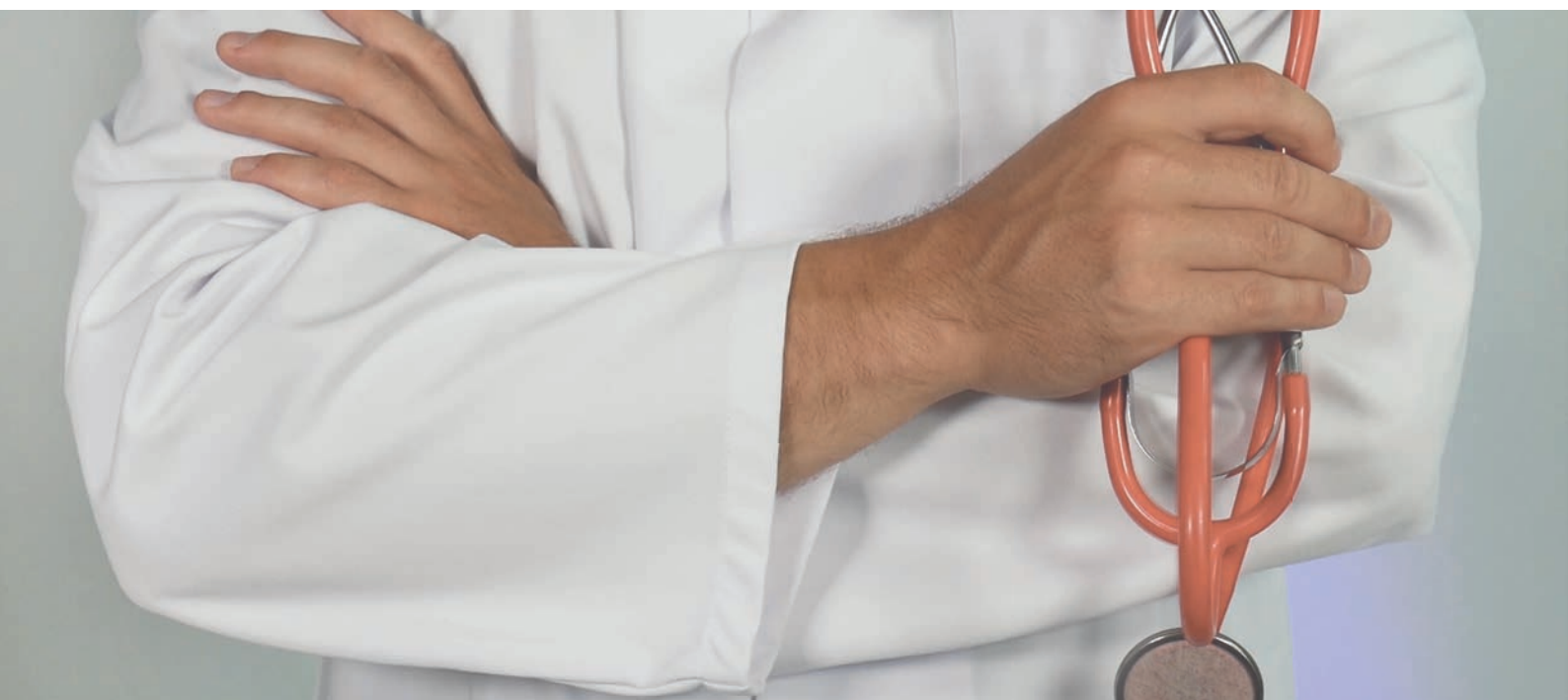
Universities may ask for a full Chemistry or Biology A Level in addition to ICCE, or perhaps an AS. Seek advice from the admissions tutors. Students can also apply for Foundation courses or 1st MB, but the applicants to places ratio is much higher for these. They can also apply as postgraduates. Irish medical schools are postgraduate.

Medical courses are looking for people who are not only able students but also have certain personality traits: a caring personality, interested in working with people, patient, thorough and able to work in a team. They are looking for evidence of excellence and wide interests as well. A typical student would have almost all As, an overall A average, and also offer a range of other skills, such as, Grade 8 music, captain of a sports team, a Crusader leader, Gold or Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. A distinction at anything helps. You would need to demonstrate commitment and so may have worked in Medical records or

as a ward aid, a hospital porter or in a care home. Together these demonstrate high academic ability, an ability to undertake a wide range of activities beyond academic work, (showing an ability to arrange life around a heavy workload), teamwork, leadership, organisational skills and vigorous health. They would also demonstrate commitment.

Applicants have to take a UK Clinical Aptitude Test, most commonly the UKCAT. Applicants to Oxford and Cambridge have to take the Biomedical Aptitude Test (BMAT), usually in the Summer Term before applying. The UKCAT can be taken on-line at specific centres around the country and its website provides some practice. For Graduate entry, half the universities require a GAMSAT for entry onto a Postgraduate Course.

Students should make every effort to read and study beyond their science subjects and should take scientific or medical magazines.





Appendix II: Oxford or Cambridge

Information for parents and supervisors:

It is important to be sure that this is an exceptional student, who not only obtains almost entirely A Grades, but is also engaged in a wide range of activities in and out of school.

Visit the university with the student. They need to be sure that the tutorial system and two essays a week will furnish the type of education they desire and can cope with. Both Universities have particularly short terms (8 weeks), and that can be stressful. Oxford has a visitor help centre which has information on the exams that must be taken at the interview, and provides sample papers, a reading list and much information.

It is important not to be naïve. The people who get into Oxford or Cambridge have usually been well prepared for it, either at school or privately. Although both universities interview almost everyone who applies and give a place to 1 in 3 or 4 in many subjects, they are hard to get into for the following reasons:

- It is in the university's best interests to take overseas students as they pay more.
- Some Colleges are historically linked to Public Schools. Although in theory this may not now confer preferential treatment, these schools have a proven track record and where two students seem identical, a recognisable school background may tip the balance.
- There is government pressure to take students from state schools preferentially.

It is extremely important that the would-be student attends an Open Day – it is usually mandatory and well worth taking up.

The Personal Statement needs to be prepared before the summer holiday and vetted by someone who understands what is required. This could be a recent Oxbridge graduate or current student, or a teacher who prepares other students for the process. Application information is obtained through both the Prospectus and the Open Day. Admission Offices of the various colleges will also help. Oxbridge has to be applied for by 15th October, preferably by 30th September. As soon as the student receives acknowledgement of their applications, they should send the college, not the university, an explanation of ICCE provided by the ICCE Office.

The student needs interview practice and should read up on what the interview entails. Prepare thoroughly, taking care to reread every book or magazine that they have claimed to read as they are likely to be questioned on these and should have something intelligent to say. Students should continue reading around the subject most related to the course applied for.

If an IQ test will be required, ensure they have had practice of these.

Where coursework essays are asked for in advance, then the essays completed for the Intermediate Certificate would be appropriate. Sometimes there is time to submit an essay prepared for the Advanced Certificate.

Both places interview at the beginning of December. The interviews at Oxford take three days with one or two examination papers, a

college interview and a tutor interview. The interviews are like oral exams, with tutors selecting those students they would personally like to teach. They tend to ask questions related to but outside of the A Level curriculum to which the students may not know the answers. They want to see how creative or inventive the student is at finding routes to answers they could not know. As the questions are not closely tied to the A Level curriculum, ICCE students are at no particular disadvantage.

If the first college does not accept the student, but thinks them a likely candidate, they may

send them on to other colleges for interviews with them. The Colleges let the students know the outcome two or three weeks later. College tutors usually give feedback on the interviews, especially if asked.

Cambridge goes through a similar assessment process but in a single day. If that college cannot offer a place but thinks someone else may, the applicant can be put in the pool, where, after the interviews are over and the student has returned home, their application is considered by other colleges. In this case, the process may not be over until the middle of January.





Appendix III: Preparation

This section aims to provide parents with guidance for preparing students for university.

PRACTICALITIES

- Once the student has made a firm decision over their offers, apply for a student loan or grant from the LEA. This is usually in April of the year the course starts.
- Sort out accommodation. Most universities provide accommodation for First Years. Sometimes this is full board, or there is an option to fully board.
- The student should be taught to manage their financial affairs and how to live on very little. Discuss in detail how much money they will have and whether they can expect anything from the government or their family.
- Make sure they are used to travelling on buses and trains.
- Teach them to cook.

CHRISTIAN ISSUES

- Make sure they become involved in a suitable church and join the Christian Union if appropriate. However, be aware: many CU members do not live godly lives; most will be committed evolutionists. Make sure your student understands this and has access to up-to-date information on Creation and other matters. Answers in Genesis, Creation Ministries International, John Lennox's *God's Undertaker*, Amy Orr-Ewing's *Why Trust the Bible?* and similar.
- Many others around them will be indulging in drink, drugs, sex, porn and perversions. Discuss strategies in advance for dealing

with this and how to handle possible loneliness and rejection.

- Make them aware that in some courses the 'correct' answer will never be the Christian one. Help them think through how they are going to respond to that?
- They need to be equipped to talk about the Gospel. An apologetics course would be helpful.
- While your child is at University, keep in touch. If possible, visit them. Encourage them to come home once or twice a term. Phone them regularly. Email them. Pray for them every day.

Remember:

- Half of all Christian children of Christian parents abandon the faith within five years of starting university.
- University life can be hostile to Christian belief.
- Only 20% of students who become members of the Christian Medical Fellowship are still members five years after graduating.

However, many ICCE graduates, with their firm foundation, have successfully made it through university with not only good qualifications but a sincere faith.

