



**CAMBRIDGE**  
English

# Qualifications for higher education

Cambridge English Qualifications  
for admissions purposes



## About us

We are Cambridge University Press & Assessment. Part of the University of Cambridge, we help millions of people learn English and confidently prove their skills to the world. We provide the world's leading range of English language qualifications for higher education institutions.

Globally recognised by more than 25,000 leading universities, employers and governments, our in-depth exams and tests are a mark of excellence and give students the skills they need to succeed. Here's a selection of our recognising organisations:



UK



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

UK

Stanford  
University

US



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

US

Yale

US



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY

US



MONASH  
University

Australia



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

Australia



UNSW  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Australia



McGill

Canada

Our qualifications are also accepted by immigration departments, government bodies and leading global businesses, including:

- Australian Department of Home Affairs (DOHA)
- Immigration New Zealand (INZ)
- Procter & Gamble
- Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS)
- Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
- Accenture
- Dell
- Ernst & Young
- KPMG

**“Being comfortable with spoken and written English is essential for thriving at Yale, so we look for evidence of strong competency in our candidates for admission. Cambridge English certifications provide time-tested and globally-recognized options for both examinations and language skill-building”.**

**Keith Light**

Director  
Undergraduate International Admissions  
Yale University



See a full list of organisations  
using our qualifications at  
[cambridgeenglish.org/recognition](https://cambridgeenglish.org/recognition)

# Cambridge English Qualifications for **higher education**

Cambridge English Qualifications are based on research into effective teaching and learning. They motivate people of all ages and abilities to learn English and develop practical skills for the real world.

Each exam focuses on a level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)\*, helping learners to improve their speaking, writing, reading and listening skills step by step.

## Foundation/ pre-sessional

### B2 First

- Gives students the practical English skills they need for foundation programmes and technical and vocational courses.
- Targeted at Level B2 of the CEFR.

More about this exam on pages 6–7.

## Undergraduate & postgraduate

### C1 Advanced

- This is proof of high-level achievement in English and the ideal qualification to prepare students for university or professional life.
- Targeted at Level C1 of the CEFR.

More about this exam on pages 8–9.

## Postgraduate

### C2 Proficiency

- This is our highest level qualification and it shows that students have mastered English to an exceptional level.
- Targeted at Level C2 of the CEFR.

More about this exam on page 10–11.

**“C1 Advanced students are of a higher caliber and more prepared to face the challenges and opportunities that exist when studying on a US campus.”**

#### **Shawn Greenfield**

Interim Director  
International Marketing and Recruitment,  
University of Idaho

\* Further information about the CEFR can be found on our website at: [cambridgeenglish.org/cefr](https://cambridgeenglish.org/cefr).

# Why use **our exams?**

B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency are designed for use by further and higher education institutions for a variety of purposes.

## For admission requirements

### Be sure of a student's English language skills

Choose exams for your admissions requirements that are more than a snapshot of a student's level of English. Cambridge English Qualifications are in-depth exams, and preparing for them helps students to improve their English. They provide a reliable indicator of language ability, strengthening the students' ability to match expectations. Cambridge English Qualifications test all four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – as well as covering use of grammar and vocabulary.

### Rely on secure and trusted exams

Backed by over 100 years of research, our exams are trusted as secure English tests by governments worldwide. Our authorised exam centres follow a detailed code of practice. Where test day photos are available these can be viewed along with candidates results, on our free online Results Verification Service.

### Specify one score across our exams

The Cambridge English Scale is used to report results across Cambridge English Qualifications. This makes it easy for you to set your entrance requirements and gives you precise information about each skill.

### Diversify your international student population

Accept Cambridge English Qualifications as part of your admissions criteria and you will have access to hundreds of thousands of students from around the world.

## Accepted for student visa applications

Cambridge English Qualifications are accepted for student visa applications in many countries, including Australia and Ireland. Choosing our qualifications for your admissions requirements often means that students need only take one English language exam.

## For exit-level measurement

### Validate students' language learning

Offer students an independent assessment of their language skills and give them a qualification that is internationally accepted. Our exams can also open doors to additional study opportunities.

### Improve your students' employability

Make sure your students leave with a valuable qualification that is trusted by some of the world's top employers. Preparing for the exams helps them to develop the English language skills they need for the workplace.

### For placing your students in an appropriate English class

- find out what level of English your students already have
- decide which language class is the most appropriate for them
- Help you make informed decisions about course placement and language support requirements.

# Exam security and quality

We understand that exam quality, integrity and security are critical to educational institutions. Our robust and comprehensive approach covers all areas – from exam development, delivery and results processing, through to post-exam review and evaluation.

This means you can trust the results as a valid and accurate reflection of a candidate's ability.

## Security, integrity and fraud protection measures

- Exam papers are handled under secure conditions at all times – from preparation to printing to despatch.
- All our authorised exam centres follow a detailed code of practice which ensures the highest standards of security throughout the testing process, from registration to the recording of results.
- Photographs of all candidates are taken on the day of the exam. These can be viewed by institutions through our online Results Verification Service.
- No marking is done by the exam centre. Speaking is marked locally by fully trained and certificated Speaking examiners at the test venue, while Writing scripts are anonymised and allocated to examiners at random to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Sophisticated results analysis is carried out after each exam session prior to release of results to identify unusual patterns of scores or responses.

## Quality management

Our systems and processes for designing, developing and delivering examinations are independently certified as meeting ISO 9001:2008 for quality management.

For more on our rigorous approach to quality management, you can download the publication *Principles of Good Practice: Research and Innovation in Language Learning and Assessment* from [cambridgeenglish.org/principles](https://cambridgeenglish.org/principles).

## B2 First

B2 First is an upper-intermediate level qualification. It proves that candidates can use everyday written and spoken English for work or study purposes.

The exam gives students the practical language skills they need to study on **foundation, pathway, or pre-sessional programmes**, and on **courses taught in the medium of English**.

### What can students with B2 First do?

- **Understand the main ideas** of complex pieces of writing.
- **Keep up a conversation** on a fairly wide range of topics, expressing opinions and presenting arguments.
- **Produce clear, detailed writing**, expressing opinions and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of different points of view.
- **Make simple notes** for essay or revision purposes, capturing the most important points.
- **Scan** texts for relevant information.

### What level is B2 First?

B2 First is targeted at CEFR Level B2 (160–179). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale Scores	Grade / CEFR	CEFR Level
180 - 190	Grade A	C1
173 - 179	Grade B	B2
160 - 172	Grade C	B2
140 - 159	Grade B1	B1

If a candidate scores between 122 and 139, their Cambridge English Scale score will be shown on their Statement of Results, but they will not receive a certificate.

### Who accepts B2 First?

B2 First is accepted around the world and offers students opportunities for employment, further study and travel.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept B2 First:

- Seattle Central College, USA
- RMIT University, Australia
- Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Deloitte
- KPMG

**“We selected the Cambridge English exams for their strong record of predicting student proficiency levels accurately. The research and reliability studies gave us a great deal of confidence in using the exams.”**





**James Goonan**

Director, International and Graduate Admissions  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)



# What's in the exam?

B2 First is made up of four papers to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper		Content	Shows students can ...
	Reading and use of English (1 hour 15 minutes)	7 parts/ 52 questions	understand the main ideas in different types of text, such as fiction, newspapers and magazines. Candidates must also demonstrate how well they can control grammar and vocabulary.
	Writing (1 hour 20 minutes)	2 parts	produce two different pieces of writing, including a compulsory essay.
	Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/ 30 questions	follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as news programmes, presentations and everyday conversations.
	Speaking (14 minutes per pair of candidates)	4 parts	communicate effectively in face-to-face situations.

The overall score is calculated by averaging the scores achieved in Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Use of English. The weighting of each of the four skills and Use of English is equal.



## Format

Candidates can choose to take the paper-based or a digital version of the exam.

The Speaking test is face to face and taken with two examiners and at least one other candidate. The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



## Availability

With Cambridge English Qualifications Digital, exam sessions are available up to 365 days a year, offering flexibility and fast results for candidates.

# CI Advanced

CI Advanced is a **focused academic English** exam which gives students the English skills they need to succeed at college or university on **undergraduate** and **postgraduate** programmes.

It offers a rigorous assessment of a student's ability to communicate at an advanced level in English for academic and professional purposes.

## What can students with CI Advanced do?

- **Contribute effectively to meetings and seminars** within their own area of work or keep up a casual conversation with a good degree of fluency, coping with abstract expressions.
- **Read quickly enough to cope with an academic course**, and take reasonably accurate notes in meetings or write a piece of work which shows an ability to communicate.
- **Make critical remarks/express disagreement** without causing offence.
- **Scan texts for relevant information**, and grasp the main topic of a text.
- **Write a piece of work** whose message can be followed throughout.

## What level is CI Advanced?

CI Advanced is targeted at CEFR Level C1 (180–199). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale Scores	Grade / CEFR	CEFR Level
200 - 210	Grade A	C2
193 - 199	Grade B	C1
180 - 192	Grade C	C1
160 - 179	Grade B2	B2

If a candidate scores between 142 and 159, their Cambridge English Scale score will be shown on their Statement of Results, but they will not receive a certificate.

## Who accepts CI Advanced?

CI Advanced is accepted around the world by over 10,000 institutions, governments and employers.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept CI Advanced:

- University of Manchester, UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Northeastern University, USA
- University of Melbourne, Australia
- Dell
- Nestlé

The exam is also accepted in Ireland and Australia for visa applications.

CI Advanced and C2 Proficiency are also eligible for UCAS tariff points.

Cambridge English exam	Grade	UCAS Tariff points awarded
CI Advanced	A	32 points (equivalent to a C grade at A level)





**“Students invest a substantial amount of time and effort preparing for CI Advanced. This improves their language proficiency and leads to broad, detailed understanding of English, giving them a strong foundation to manage the tasks they face during their university studies.”**

**Alison Standring**  
Language Coordinator  
London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)



# What's in the exam?

CE Advanced is made up of four papers to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper	Content	Shows students can ...
 Reading and use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)	8 parts/ 56 questions	deal confidently with various texts and grasp the main topic of a text. This paper also requires candidates to demonstrate their control of grammar and vocabulary.
 Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)	2 parts	produce two different pieces of writing, including a compulsory essay.
 Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/ 30 questions	follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as news programmes, presentations and everyday conversations.
 Speaking (15 minutes per pair of candidates)	4 parts	communicate effectively in face-to-face situations such as seminars or everyday conversations.

The overall score is calculated by averaging the scores achieved in Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Use of English. The weighting of each of the four skills and Use of English is equal.



## Format

Candidates can choose to take the paper-based or a digital version of the exam.

The Speaking test is face to face and taken with two examiners and at least one other candidate. The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



## Availability

With Cambridge English Qualifications Digital, exam sessions are available up to 365 days a year, offering flexibility and fast results for candidates.

# C2 Proficiency

C2 Proficiency is our most advanced qualification. It proves that students have the English skills to study demanding subjects at the highest level, including **postgraduate** and **PhD programmes**.

It shows that students have mastered English to an exceptional level and can communicate with **fluency** and **sophistication** similar to the level of a native English speaker.

It offers a rigorous assessment of a student's ability to communicate at an advanced level in English for academic and professional purposes.

## What can students with C2 Proficiency do?

- **Talk about** complex or sensitive issues, and deal confidently with difficult questions.
- **Understand** colloquial asides and cultural allusions.
- **Write confidently** on any given topic.
- **Make accurate and complete notes** during a lecture, seminar or tutorial.
- **Negotiate and persuade** effectively at senior management level in international business settings.

## What level is C2 Proficiency?

C2 Proficiency is targeted at CEFR Level C2 (200+). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale Scores	Grade / CEFR	CEFR Level
220 - 230	Grade A	C2
213 - 219	Grade B	C2
200 - 212	Grade C	C2
180 - 199	Level C1	C1

If a candidate scores between 162 and 179, their Cambridge English Scale score will be shown on their Statement of Results, but they will not receive a certificate.

## Who accepts C2 Proficiency?

C2 Proficiency is recognised around the world and enhances a student's prospects for postgraduate study and employment at the highest levels.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept C2 Proficiency:

- University of Oxford, UK
- University of Queensland, Australia
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- Yale University, USA
- Coca-Cola
- Vodafone

The qualification is also accepted for student visa applications by INIS in Ireland.

CI Advanced and C2 Proficiency are also eligible for UCAS tariff points.





Cambridge English exam	Grade	UCAS Tariff points awarded
C2 Proficiency	A	42 points (equivalent to a B grade at A Level)
C2 Proficiency	B	33 points (equivalent to a C grade at A Level)
C2 Proficiency	C	24 points (equivalent to a D grade at A Level)

**"C2 Proficiency helped me get into my dream drama school and gave me the confidence to perform in English in front of thousands of people."**

**Alberto Prandini**  
Actor and director  
C2 Proficiency certificate holder

# What's in the exam?

C2 Proficiency is made up of four papers to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper	Content	Shows students can ...
 Reading and use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)	7 parts/ 53 questions	understand various documents, including the finer points of complex texts. Students are also expected to show their control of grammar and use of vocabulary.
 Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)	2 parts	write on any subject with good expression and accuracy. The paper includes a compulsory essay.
 Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/ 30 questions	understand a range of spoken materials, such as lectures, speeches and interviews.
 Speaking (16 minutes per pair of candidates)	3 parts	express themselves confidently and effectively in a range of situations.

The overall score is calculated by averaging the scores achieved in Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Use of English. The weighting of each of the four skills and Use of English is equal.



## Format

Candidates can choose to take the paper-based or a digital version of the exam.

The Speaking test is face to face and taken with two examiners and at least one other candidate. The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



## Availability

With Cambridge English Qualifications Digital, exam sessions are available up to 365 days a year, offering flexibility and fast results for candidates.

# How are the **exam results** reported?

## The Cambridge English Scale

The Cambridge English Scale is a range of scores used to report results for Cambridge English Qualifications.

Results for most Cambridge English Qualifications, including B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency, are reported on the Cambridge English Scale.

The Scale covers a wide range of language ability and is designed to complement the CEFR.

Candidates receive a score for each skill (reading, writing, listening and speaking) plus Use of English. They also get an overall score on the scale for the exam.

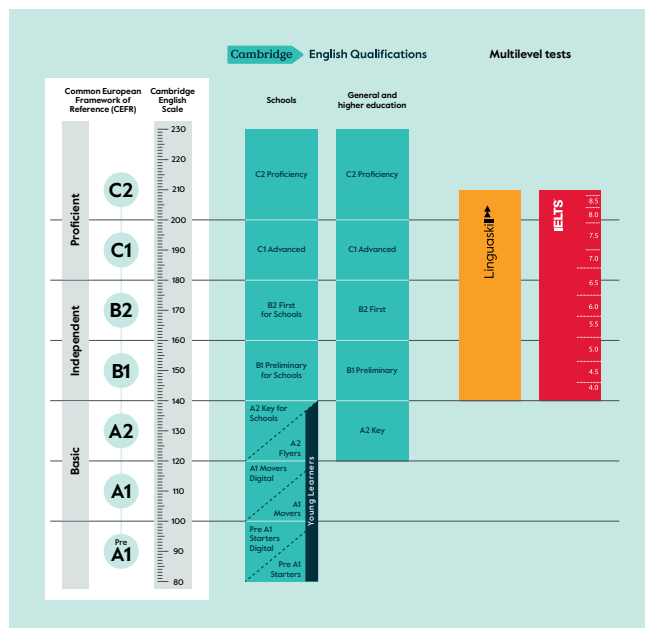
Because the results for all our exams are reported using the same scale, it makes it easy to:

- **understand** candidates' results
- **compare** our qualifications
- **describe** the level of language skills needed for **your admissions requirements**.

The Cambridge English Scale was introduced in 2015 and has been built on result-reporting methodologies which we have developed over many decades of research, using data from millions of test takers.

It is fully aligned with the CEFR, but where the CEFR is a broad reference scale of language proficiency, the Cambridge English Scale brings the comparability so often needed for practical results-reporting purposes such as stating requirements for admissions for higher education or employment.

Scores on the Cambridge English Scale replace the **standardised score** and **candidate profile** reported in pre-2015 results, but candidates continue to receive a CEFR level and grade.



Results for Cambridge English Qualifications are reported on the Cambridge English Scale. The scale complements the CEFR and gives greater insight into candidate achievement. Candidates receive an overall score from the scale as well as a score for each skill (reading, writing, listening and speaking).

Each exam is targeted at a level of the CEFR. Results are also reported at the level above and the level below. IELTS is mapped to, but does not report on the Cambridge English Scale.

# What do exam results look like?

## The Statement of Results

All candidates receive a **Statement of Results**. This is the document you should use when checking candidate results.

The Statement of Results shows the candidate's:

- overall score on the Cambridge English Scale
- scores on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and Use of English.

Candidates also receive a CEFR level and grade based on their overall score.

You can view a candidate's Statement of Results on our secure online Results Verification Service, which is freely accessible to all accepting institutions. For more details, see page I5.

### 1 Overall score

This is the overall Cambridge English Scale score for the whole exam. It is the average of the five individual scores a candidate receives for the four skills and Use of English.

The overall score is the most important piece of information for recognising institutions when setting requirements to ensure that you ask for the exact level of English you need.

### 2 Individual scores

Candidates receive a Cambridge English Scale score for each of the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and Use of English. With these individual scores it is easy for you to specify the level of English you need in a particular skill.

The image shows a sample 'Statement of Results' for the Cambridge English exam. At the top, it features the Cambridge English logo and the title 'Certificate in Advanced English Statement of Results'. Key information includes the Centre Reference (BG005 0014), Verification Number (A9754265), Session (10 OCTOBER 2022), Candidate name (Rebranding Fourteen), and Place of entry (SOFIA). The results section shows an Overall Score of 179, which corresponds to a CEFR Level of B2 and a Council of Europe Level of B2. Below this is a detailed table of scores for five components: Reading (177), Use of English (177), Writing (177), Listening (168), and Speaking (186). These scores are mapped against the Cambridge English Scale (150-210) and CEFR levels (B2, C1, C2). A 'Results' table on the right provides grade ranges: Pass at Grade A (200-210), Pass at Grade B (193-199), Pass at Grade C (180-192), and Level B2 (160-179). A legend explains symbols like X (absent), Z (absent from all parts), Pending (not yet issued), and Withheld (contact centre). The document is dated 2023 and includes a URL for the Results Verification Service.

CEFR Level	Cambridge English Scale	Certified Results	Reading	Use of English	Writing	Listening	Speaking
C2	210	Grade A					
	200	Grade B					
C1	190	Grade C		188			186
	180		177		177		
B2	170	Level B2				168	
	160						
	150						

Results	Score
Pass at Grade A	200 — 210
Pass at Grade B	193 — 199
Pass at Grade C	180 — 192
Level B2	160 — 179



## Certificate

Successful candidates also receive a certificate showing their overall score, five individual scores, grade and CEFR level.

# Setting your requirements

Setting your English language requirements is simple using the Cambridge English Scale.

## 1. What level of English do you need?

It is important to consider both the level of English needed for your courses and which exam is most suited to your needs. This will depend on the level of study and the subject(s) being studied.

Each of our exams is targeted at a different level of the CEFR, which means they assess a candidate on a wide range of skills and knowledge at that level. The context of questions is also appropriate to the level being assessed, with higher levels having a greater academic focus.

As a guide,  
we recommend  
the following  
qualifications for  
the different  
levels of study:

### Foundation/ pre-sessional

B2 First

Targeted at CEFR  
Level B2.

Reports on the  
Cambridge English  
Scale between  
122 and 190.

### Undergraduate & postgraduate

C1 Advanced

Targeted at CEFR  
Level C1.

Reports on the  
Cambridge English  
Scale between  
142 and 210.

### Postgraduate

C2 Proficiency

Targeted at CEFR  
Level C2.

Reports on the  
Cambridge English  
Scale between  
162 and 230.

## 2. What Cambridge English Scale score?

The Cambridge English Scale makes it easy to:

- specify the overall score you need
- specify minimum scores for the individual skills.

You can use the table on the right to ensure that the Cambridge English Scale score you ask for is at the same level as your CEFR requirements.

Alternatively, please visit [cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions](https://cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions) and use our interactive score converter. You can input your existing CEFR, IELTS or pre-2015 Cambridge English requirement and convert it to a Cambridge English Scale score.

CEFR	Cambridge English Scale Score
C2	200+
C1	180
B2	160
B1	140

### Example requirement for an undergraduate course:

#### C1 Advanced

Overall Cambridge English Scale score of 180.  
No less than 175 in each skill.

\* Minimum Cambridge English Scale score needed to achieve each CEFR level.

If you have any questions or need help setting your requirements, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [recognition@cambridgeenglish.org](mailto:recognition@cambridgeenglish.org)



# Comparing Cambridge English to IELTS

## Scale scores

If your institution already uses IELTS scores for admissions purposes, specifying scores on the Cambridge English Scale is easy.

You can use the table on the right to ensure that the Cambridge English Scale score you ask for is at the same level as your IELTS requirements.

As the producer of IELTS, we can provide a reliable comparison between IELTS results and B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency scores, reported on the Cambridge English Scale.

For more information about how we make these comparisons, please visit [cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions](https://cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions).

\* Minimum Cambridge English Scale score needed to achieve each IELTS band score.

IELTS band score	Cambridge English Scale Score
9.0	209+
8.5	205
8.0	200
7.5	191
7.0	185
6.5	176
6.0	169
5.5	162
5.0	154
4.5	147
4.0	142

## Verifying results

You can check a candidate's results quickly and securely online with our free **Results Verification Service**.

## Register in minutes

- 1 Go to [cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers](https://cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers)
- 2 Click 'Register now'
- 3 Provide and submit some basic details
- 4 We will acknowledge your email and then send you a message approving your account
- 5 Follow the link in the email to set up your password
- 6 You will now be able to log in at [cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers](https://cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers)

Where a candidate has shared their result with your organisation their details will appear on the 'shared results' page of your account. To access their full results, including their component scores, select 'view'. You will be able to see their test day photo for B2 First, C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency exams and can download their Statement of Results.

# Three steps to accepting our qualifications

Attract high-achieving students to your university or college by specifying our qualifications as an entrance requirement. You can start officially accepting our qualifications in three simple steps:

## STEP 1

Go to **cambridgeenglish.org/institutions-accept** and fill in the form.

## STEP 2

Amend your website, course literature and offer letter to state which Cambridge English Qualifications and which scores are accepted by your institution, so that applicants with one of the qualifications know they can apply with their results.

## STEP 3

Sign up for our free, secure online **Results Verification Service** to instantly verify applicants' exam results and view their test-day photo. To register, go to **cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers**

Once your institution has an existing Results Verification Service account, additional employees can be added as Admin Users to verify results. There is no limit to the number of Admin Users.

### Promote your institution

If you accept our qualifications, let us know and we will add you to our global online recognition database at **cambridgeenglish.org/recognition**. This will ensure that potential applicants know they can use their Cambridge English Qualifications to apply for your courses. You can complete our recognition form online: **cambridgeenglish.org/institutions-accept**

If you would like to share your institution's logo and a testimonial or an overview of your university, we can use this in student-facing promotions, including on our Facebook page, which has more than 6 million followers. This can help you to reach more applicants who have the English language skills for success. Contact us at **recognition@cambridgeenglish.org** to find out more.

### Contact us

To find out more about our qualifications, email our Global Recognition team at **recognition@cambridgeenglish.org** – we will be delighted to provide more information or organise a meeting. **cambridgeenglish.org/institutions**

Find out more at  
**cambridge.org/english**

We believe that English can unlock a lifetime of experiences and, together with teachers and our partners, we help people to learn and confidently prove their skills to the world.

**Where your world grows**