

Which of these best describes my current situation?

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



Course Choice Workshop



outreach@lucy.cam.ac.uk

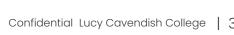
Outreach Officer, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge





In today's session

- Post-18 options and university
- What subjects are available?
- Narrowing down your interests
- Deciding what course to study
- Exploring your subject
- Comparing courses at different universities
- Q&A





Options after College

Leaving school



Apprenticeship or vocational training







Why University?

- For academically talented students, best way into an excellent career with higher earning potential (28% average increase for men and 53% for women)¹
- Access to excellent teaching and fantastic resources - explore your subject like never before
- Meet people from different backgrounds, make connections for your future and long-lasting friendships based on shared experience

¹Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, Research Paper No. 112



Different types of university – what do you want to study?

- Specialist universities and colleges for the arts, drama and music
- Modern universities offer courses directly linked to a particular career, e.g. media, marketing, graphic design
- Some universities specialise in sports/sports science related degrees
- Traditional universities focus on the academic subjects

Whatever you want, aim for the best for that subject!



Oxbridge and the Russell Group

- Top academic universities in the UK
- Includes Oxbridge
- 'Big name' universities you have heard of
- Characteristics
 - Top of their field in many academic subjects, traditional course structure and research-based teaching
 - Outstanding facilities and resources
 - Highly competitive: typical offers range from BBB to A*A*A









Why study at Oxford or Cambridge?

- World-class education
- Teaching by expert academics
- Extensive small-group teaching
- Superb facilities and resources
- Academic, pastoral and financial support
- Excellent graduate opportunities, irrespective of degree discipline
- Fantastic student experience
- Close-knit peer communities through the college system







Colleges at Oxbridge





A College is like a mini campus, providing a base for students.

Role of Colleges:

- admit students
- academic and pastoral care
- accommodation, dining and recreation
- organise small-group teaching
- facilities for academic study

Role of the University:

- determines course content
- organises lectures, seminars, practicals, and projects
- sets and marks examinations
- awards degrees



Introducing Lucy Cavendish College

- Previously a College for mature-age (21+) women, now open to all
- We welcome all students for all subjects offered by the university
- We are uniquely committed to widening participation at Cambridge
- We pride ourselves in having one of the most socioeconomically diverse student communities in Cambridge
- Our students are driven by a desire to make a difference and who are committed to having a positive and lasting impact on society





What are we looking for?

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

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



What subjects are available?





Which of these is NOT a degree offered by a UK university?

- Horology
- Contemporary Circus
- Equine Psychology
- Cybercrime
- Arboriculture
- Nautical Science



How many possible courses are there to study in the UK?

37 000



What can I study?

There are **thousands** of courses to choose from!

- Something you've done at school
 - History, French, Maths, Physics...
- Something 'vocational'
 - Medicine, Architecture, Veterinary Sciences, Engineering...
- Something completely new!
 - Criminology, History of Art, Catalan, Egyptology...



Starting to think about what you want to study

- Oxbridge are looking for students with a proper, well-founded interest in the subject
- Do your best to identify a subject that really interests you and apply for that
- A good place to start is to work out your broad interests...

What do I enjoy at school?

What method of learning best suits me? (e.g., essays, problems, creative writing...)

What career do I want?

What am I good at?



What are your academic interests?

- Answer the following questions
- Make a note of your answers



What kind of questions do you prefer to think about?

A: Questions that have **one single correct answer**, which you have to find

B: Questions that might have **many different answers**, depending on how you approach them

C: Questions that require me to **sort individual things into groups**



What kind of information do you prefer to focus on?

A: Facts, numbers, statistics, and 'laws' about what actually happens in the world (e.g. the law of gravity)

B: People's **opinions**, **feelings**, **motivations**, and analysing the kind of **words** or **language** people use

C: I am interested in what people think and feel, but I like to use numbers, statistics and facts to measure them



What kind of task would you prefer to complete?

A: Solving a list of mathematical problems

B: Writing an essay or a piece of creative writing

C: Conducting a **survey** and interviewing people on their opinions, and then writing a **report** about the results



How would you know if the answer to a question was 'true'?

A: I would conduct an **experiment** to test the answer and **repeat it in a controlled environment**. If I got the same answer every time, I would know that answer was true.

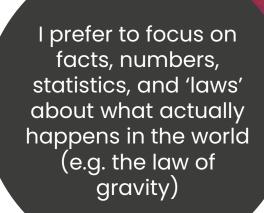
B: It isn't important whether an answer is 'true' or not. The most important thing is **asking questions**, **exploring different perspectives**, and **deciding which argument has the best evidence** to back it up.

C: I would need a **theory** or a **model** to figure out what we mean by 'true'. Then I would **collect real-life information** and use the theory or model to test whether it is true or not.



Mostly As: Maths and Sciences

- Maths
- Natural Sciences
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Biology
- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Psychology



I enjoy thinking about questions that have one single correct answer, which you have to find



Mostly Bs: Arts and Humanities

- English Literature
- History of Art
- History
- Classics
- Theology
- Music
- Modern and Medieval Languages
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Classics
- Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic

I like thinking about questions that might have many different answers, depending on how you approach them



I enjoy learning about people's opinions, feelings, motivations, and analysing the kinds of words and language people use

I prefer writing essays and creative writing



Mostly Cs: Social Sciences

- Political Science
- International Relations
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Law
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- Land Economy
- Geography
- Linguistics



I'm interested in what people think and feel, but I like to use numbers, statistics and facts to measure them

I like to
conduct
surveys and
interview
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opinions, then
writing a report
about the
results



A mix: Interdisciplinary Courses

- Architecture
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Archaeology
- Languages
- Linguistics

I enjoy applying lots of different sources, skills and points of view to solve one problem

I like doing lots of different tasks and activities - I get bored studying just one thing!



How do I choose a degree course?





What are the most important factors?

Which do you think are important?

Which would your parents/guardians say are important?

Which do you think I'm going to say are important? What you enjoy

Linked to a specific career

What you're good at

Suits your learning style

Something interesting

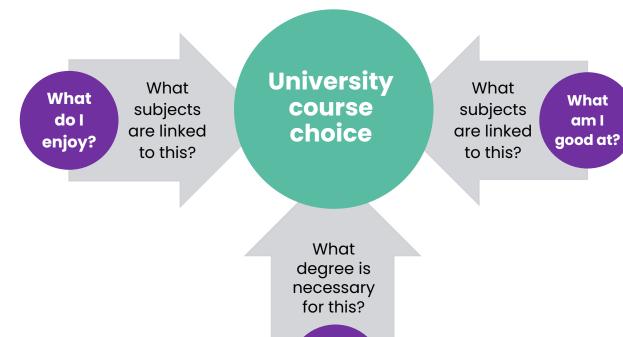
You know someone doing the course

Something exciting and new

Intellectually stimulating



How do I decide what to study?



What job do I want?



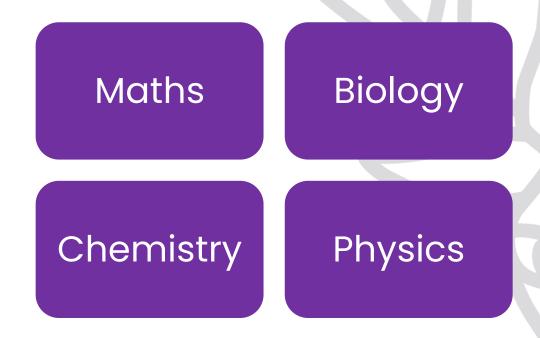
Checking your profile

- Some courses (particularly sciences) may require specific A-Levels
- Some universities have a list of subjects they don't accept
- Generally, we recommend that students choose one or two 'keystone' subjects, and one or two additional subjects that are relevant to their interests and add something to their profile



Interested in... Sciences and Mathematics

- We advise any student interested in Sciences/Mathematics degrees at competitive universities to take at least 3 Science/Mathematics keystone subjects
- For students interested in the physical sciences –
 Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, etc. and Mathematics itself (or related disciplines), we would also strongly recommend Further Mathematics
- It is definitely possible to secure an offer with just two of these, but it is less likely, certainly at Oxbridge
- Useful depending on the course you are applying for
 - Psychology
 - Computing
 - Statistics
 - Design & Technology
 - Electronics
 - Geology





Interested in... Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

English Literature

Languages

History

Maths

- Students interested in a degree in this area would be well advised to pick from a range of academic, essaybased subjects in the first instance
- They may also wish to add in one or more Science/Maths subjects, if they are skilled at these subjects
- Any academic subjects which build relevant skills and knowledge will be useful



Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: General advice

English Literature

Languages

History

Maths

Other good choices, likely to be useful:

- An additional Language
- Economics
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Religious Studies
- Sciences (Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
- Ancient History
- Classical Civilisation
- Philosophy

Useful depending on the course you are applying for:

- English Language/Literature & Language
- Music
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Archaeology
- Environmental Science
- Government & Politics
- History of Art



Subjects to avoid as one of 'only' three subjects

There are some subjects which are generally less competitive as one of 'only' three A Level choices for applications to Oxbridge and the most competitive Russel Group universities.

- Art & Design (unless applying for related courses, such as Architecture or Fine Art)
- Drama & Theatre (unless applying for related courses, such as the English, Drama and the Arts track in Education)
- Business
- Criminology
- Film Studies
- Law
- Media Studies
- Photography
- Physical Education
- General Studies
- Critical Thinking
- Vocational Level 3 courses



How do I decide what to study?

University What What What course subjects subjects do I choice are linked are linked enjoy? to this? to this? What degree is necessary for this?

> What job do I want?

What

am I

good at?



Which careers need a specific degree?

- Doctor
- Vet
- Engineer
- Architect
- Psychology
- Secondary School Teacher

Even though these careers require specific degrees, this can sometimes be achieved by e.g., a graduate course or other training

Most careers
DO NOT
require a
specific
degree



Course choice and career prospects







- Some careers **require** a specific degree
 - Architect
 - Engineer
 - Doctor
 - Vet
 - Psychologist
 - Secondary school teacher
- Some jobs in the commercial/business world (~5% of the total) also require particular degree subjects: typically, Mathematics or Languages

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Course choice and career prospects

The majority of top jobs don't specify a degree subject

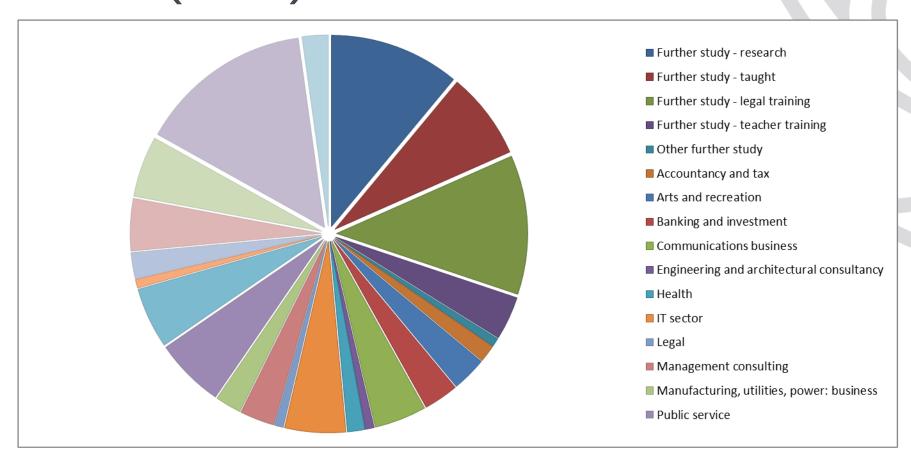
 they ask for a good degree (Class I or II.1) from a
 good university, in any subject (and if necessary,
 professional training following your degree)

• Typical 'open access' careers include:



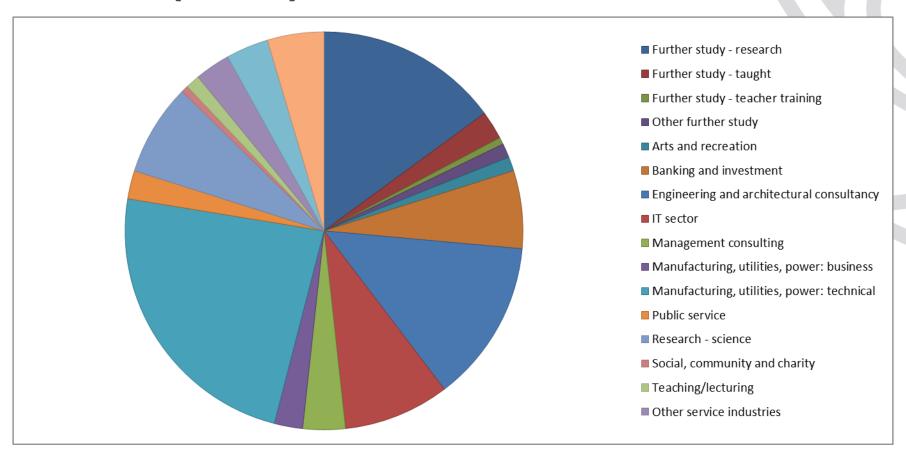


Graduate destinations of Cambridge historians (2018)





Graduate destinations of Cambridge engineers (2018)





How do I decide what to study?

What do I enjoy?

What subjects are linked to this?

University course choice

What subjects are linked to this?

What am I good at?

What degree is necessary for this?

What job do I want?



What do I enjoy?

- University are broad and often interdisciplinary
- It is worth looking around at related subjects as you may find subjects that are a better fit
- There might be subjects you haven't heard of!



Activity

Go to <u>undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses</u>

Find:

- A new course which isn't something you're taking at A-Level but which links to an A-Level you're studying
- 2. A subject which suggests English, History or Maths as a requirement or useful preparation
- 3. A module/paper in one subject which crosses over with another subject



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Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic



If you're fascinated by medieval history, literature and languages, and you relish the prospect of doing your own research using original source materials, this course – unique in the UK to Cambridge – will appeal.

Overview Course Outline

Entry Requirements

Resources

Discover Uni



What subjects are available at Cambridge?

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Asian and Middle **Eastern Studies**
- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering

- English
- Geography
- History
- History and Modern Languages
- History and Politics
- History of Art
- Human, Social, and Political Sciences
- Land Economy
- Law
- Linguistics

- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Modern and Medieval Languages
- Music
- Natural Sciences
- Philosophy
- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
- Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
- Veterinary Medicine



What do I need/want from a degree? Can I get this elsewhere?

Enjoy learning languages?

Modern and Medieval Languages

Classics

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

History and Modern Languages

Linguistics

Interested in history?

History

Classics

English

Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

Modern and Medieval Languages

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Human, Social and Political Sciences

Economics

Archaeology

History of Art

Love reading literature?

English

Modern and Medieval Languages

Asian and Middle Eastern
Studies

Classics

Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

Education

Want to study Medicine?

Biological Natural
Sciences

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

Veterinary Medicine

Biomedical Sciences (Oxford)



What do I need/want from a degree? Can I get this elsewhere?

Love learning about ideas and societal systems?

Classics

Economics

Education

Geography

History

Human, Social and Political Sciences

Land Economy

Law

Philosophy

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

Theology

Interested in culture and human behaviour?

Archaeology

Education

Geography

History

Modern and Medieval Languages

Philosophy

Linguistics

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

Enjoying studying a breadth of disciplines?

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Economics

Education

Geography

Modern and Medieval Languages

Philosophy

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

Theology

Linguistics

loint honours courses

Enjoy making and designing things?

Architecture

Chemical Engineering

Engineering

Computer Science

Design



MDes Design

- A brand-new Cambridge degree
- Brings together architecture, engineering and materials science in a single degree
- Blends technical content with design freedom
- Offers a new approach to tackling societal and environmental issues, including poverty and climate action
- Studio work and practical skills, including drawing, writing, coding, and fabricating, will complement taught courses in the humanities, social and natural sciences, and mathematics



I'm stuck between two subjects. What should I do?





Exploring your subject

Be proactive in your learning: undertake supracurricular activities

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

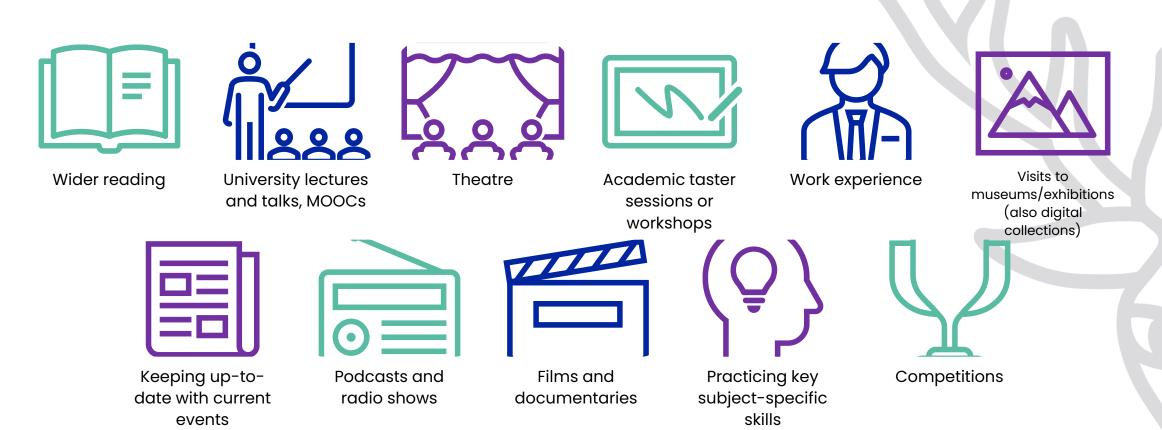
Helps you discover what subjects really interest you

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

Beneficial for your current studies, all aspects of the application process and beyond An interesting and rewarding process: supracurricular exploration should be fun!



Exploring your subject



www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/study-us/prospective-applicants



Comparing courses across different universities





How many universities are there in the UK?



How many universities are there in the UK?

165





How can I decide where I want to go?





Universities can differ regarding...

Courses on offer

Modules on offer

Style of teaching

Reputation and quality of teaching

Entry requirements

Facilities

Location

Type (campus, city, collegiate)



Type (campus, city, collegiate)







Campus

- Bath
- Warwick
- Exeter
- Birmingham
- Nottingham

City

- Manchester
- Bristol
- Newcastle
- Sheffield
- Edinburgh

Collegiate

- Cambridge
- Oxford
- Durham
- York



Reputation and quality of teaching

- Teaching Excellence Framework
- ' The Guardian



2022~												
	2021 ~	Institution	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with course	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback	Student to staff ratio	Spend per student/10	Average entry tariff	Value added score/10	Career after 15 months	Contin- uation
1	1	Oxford	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.1	10	198	6.3	93	99
2	3	<u>Cambridge</u>	97.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.4	9.9	206	6.7	93	99
3	2	St Andrews	96.8	93.1	92.3	79.6	11.1	7.3	207	5.6	84	97
4	5	London School of Economics	91.6	80.1	83.1	70.2	12.4	8.7	175	6.9	93	97
5	4	<u>Durham</u>	86.5	83.9	84.8	69.5	13.5	6.5	182	6.7	89	97
6	8	Warwick	85.3	84.6	85.1	70.7	12.8	7	170	5.3	88	97
7	9	Imperial College	84.9	83	85	62.2	11.1	9.2	197	5.1	96	96
8	6	<u>Bath</u>	84.7	87.1	86	63.2	15.1	6.1	167	6.4	91	97
9	14	UCL	82.0	78.1	81.2	63.2	10.1	7.8	176	6.7	89	96
10	7	<u>Loughborough</u>	81.5	86.8	84.8	70.1	13.5	5.1	150	5.6	85	97
11	12	Glasgow	80.7	85	86.1	65.3	13.1	5.8	202	5.9	85	94
12	13	<u>Edinburgh</u>	79.3	74.1	82	56	11.7	8.8	187	6.4	84	96
13	10	<u>Lancaster</u>	78.8	84.7	84.9	67.7	13	7.7	144	5.3	84	96
14	11	Bristol	76.6	78	83.6	62	13.4	7	164	6.2	86	97
15	16	Exeter	76.0	80.8	83.3	64.5	15.5	3.3	156	6.5	85	97
16	18	<u>Leeds</u>	75.2	78.8	83	64.7	13.7	6.9	159	6	85	96
17	23	Southampton	74.8	82.3	84.2	68.8	13.2	6	151	6.6	84	95
18	15	Strathclyde	74.6	85.5	86.3	65.4	18.9	6.6	199	5.2	86	93
18	16	<u>York</u>	74.6	81.6	84.6	69.2	13.6	5.1	149	4	84	97
20	20	<u>Aberdeen</u>	74.5	86.1	85.3	66.6	15.7	4.8	184	7	82	94



Method of assessment

- Exams?
- Coursework?
- Dissertation?
- Group work?
- Seminar contributions?
- Presentations?
- Lab reports?
- Over 3 years?
- Just in your final year?





Courses on offer

- Courses at different universities can vary significantly with regard to what they involve
- It is important to research which courses are the best fit for your interests
- Find out what you'll actually be studying/doing by looking at the course content/course structure tab on university websites



Economics



Year 1 (Part I)

Part I provides an introduction to the subject, a common core of knowledge which can subsequently be extended. There are five compulsory papers:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- · Quantitative Methods in Economics
- · Political and Social Aspects of Economics
- · British Economic History

Through these papers you cover topics such as supply and demand, the role of prices and markets, employment, inflation, the operation of financial institutions and monetary policy.

The Quantitative Methods paper provides an introduction to the use of mathematical and statistical techniques in economics, and is assessed by a written exam.



Year 1 (For students WITH A-level or equivalent in Maths) [ENTER as BSc Economics)

Core Modules

Module	Code	Credits	Term
Economic Principles (Macro)	155901494	15	Term 2
Economic Principles (Micro)	155901495	15	Term 1

Compulsory Modules

Module	Code	Credits	Term
Elementary Statistics	155901496	15	Term 1
Statistics	155901500	15	Term 2
Mathematics for Economists	153401008	15	Full Year
Applied Economic Issues in the Global Economy	153401010	15	Term 2
Essay Writing Workshop - Undergraduate Economics	153400146	0	Term 1

In addition to the above, students select ONE of the following:

- Year 1 guided option module(s) to the value of 30 credits
- Open option language module(s) to the value of 30 credits

Year 1 Guided Option Modules

Module	Code	Credits	Term
Introduction to Global Development	151010001	30	Full Year
Introduction to Political Economy	153400154	30	Full Year
201 World Social Theory: Imagining Society from 500BCE to 1900	155901489	15	Term 1
H103 Colonial Curricula: Empire and Education at SOAS and Beyond	155906741	15	Term 2
Introduction to Logic, Critical Reasoning and Argumentation	158000193	15	Term 2



Natural Sciences at Cambridge

Year 1

- Biology of Cells
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Evolution and Behaviour
- Materials Science
- Physics
- Physiology of Organisms
- Mathematics
- Mathematical Biology

Years 2, 3 and 4

- Animal Diversity
- Astrophysics
- Biochemistry
- Biology of Disease
- Biomedical Sciences
- Cell Biology
- Chemistry
- Conservation
- Developmental Biology
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology
- Evolution

- Experimental Psychology
- Genetics
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Mathematical and Computational Biology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology
- Neuroscience
- Pathology

- Pharmacology
- Physics
- Physiology
- Plant and Microbial Sciences
- Systems Biology
- Quantitative Environmental Science
- Zoology



What subjects are available at Oxford?

- Archaeology and Anthropology
- Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- Classics
- Classics and English
- Classics and Modern Languages
- Classics and Oriental Studies
- Computer Science
- Computer Science and Philosophy
- Earth Sciences (Geology)
- Economics and Management
- Engineering Science
- English Language and Literature

- English and Modern Languages
- European and Middle Eastern Languages
- Fine Art
- Geography
- History
- History (Ancient and Modern)
- History and Economics
- History and English
- History and Modern Languages
- History and Politics
- History of Art
- Human Sciences
- Law (Jurisprudence)
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Mathematics and Computer Science

- · Mathematics and Philosophy
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Medicine
- Modern Languages
- Modern Languages and Linguistics
- Music
- Oriental Studies
- Philosophy and Modern Languages
- · Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Philosophy and Theology
- Physics
- Physics and Philosophy
- Psychology (Experimental)
- Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
- Religion and Oriental Studies
- Theology and Religion



Modern and Medieval Languages

University of Cambridge

- French
- •German
- •Italian
- Portuguese
- •Russian
- Spanish
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Arabic
- •Hebrew
- Persian
- •Must study (at least) 2 languages

University of Oxford

- French
- •German
- •Italian
- Portuguese
- •Russian
- Spanish
- •Modern Greek
- Polish
- Czech (with Slovak)
- •European & Middle Eastern Languages
- Arabic
- •Hebrew
- •Persian
- Turkish
- •Can study 1 or 2 languages

University of Bristol

- •French
- •German
- •Italian
- Portuguese
- •Russian
- Spanish
- •You can add non-European languages from your second year
- •Can study 1, 2 or 3 languages



Want to study more than one subject?

Joint honours

- Study each subject equally
- 'and'
- e.g., Modern
 Languages and
 Linguistics (Oxford)

Major/minor

- Spend more time studying the major part of the degree
- · 'with'
- e.g., Modern
 Languages with
 Linguistics
 (Warwick)

Scottish degrees

- 4-year degree
- You usually study up to three different subjects in your first 2 years – related or not
- You then specialise in your final 2 years
- Can apply for Year2 entry

Interdisciplinary courses

- Liberal Arts
- e.g., HSPS, Education, PPE....



Year abroad

- Languages courses offer you the opportunity to study/work abroad
- Some universities offer the opportunity to study abroad if you are studying other subjects



Placement years

 Some courses offer a 'sandwich' year spent working in industry

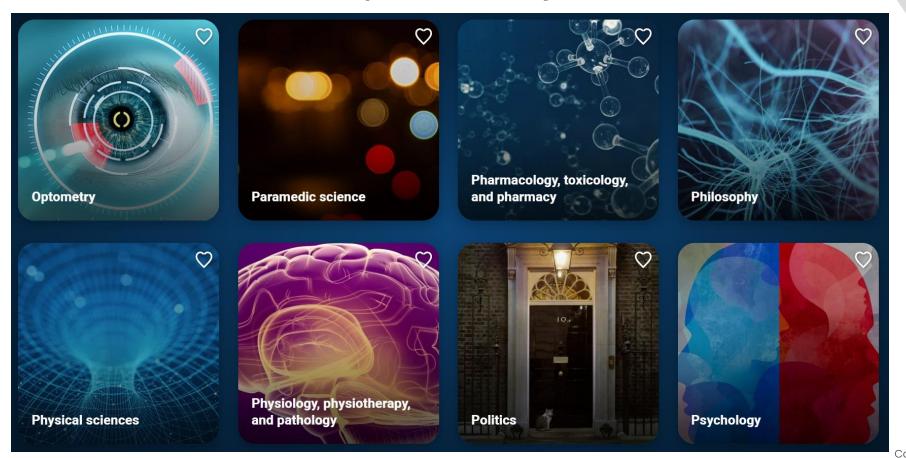
Some examples...

- UCL Economics with a Placement Year BSc
- Warwick Biological Sciences with Placement Year BSc
- Sheffield General Engineering with an Industrial Placement Year BEng
- Lancaster Criminology and Sociology (Placement Year)



Courses on offer

www.ucas.com/explore/subjects





Final points

- Course choice is the most important decision
- There are lots of subjects available, so be openminded!
- Explore your subject through supracurricular activities to find out
- Do your research on universities and course structure



Next steps

- Explore your subject!
- UCAS fairs: <u>www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/exhibition</u>
- Open Days: <u>www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days</u>
- Virtual Open Days: <u>www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours</u>
- Informed Choices: <u>www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees</u>
- University websites
- University taster days





Any questions?

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

Find out more about Lucy Cavendish, sign-up to our newsletter and get involved with events: www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/study-us/prospective-applicants

