Join us in Cambridge

The International Pre-Master’s (IPM) Programme aims to develop students’ abilities in research methods and practices, their English language and academic literacy skills, and understanding of current and emerging themes in business management. The course prepares students to undertake Master’s level study in higher education institutions in the UK, or elsewhere.

The University of Cambridge has attracted many of the very best minds for over 800 years. Famous alumni of the University include the natural historian David Attenborough; the anthropologist, Jane Goodall; the novelist Zadie Smith; the engineers Ray Dolby, Charles Rolls and Charles Babbage; the scientists Hawking, Darwin and Newton; and the poets Tennyson, Wordsworth and Milton.

Today the University has grown to over 20,000 students, 11,000 of whom are graduate students.

“Talented graduates from around the globe seek to study at Master’s level in English speaking universities. The Advanced Diploma course offered by the University of Cambridge, one of the world’s best universities, supports students to develop intellectually and improve their academic English language level. This ambitious course is a platform for future study at postgraduate level and prepares students to engage with research that is relevant to worldwide knowledge economies.

Cambridge is a brilliant and welcoming multicultural city of learning and discovery. It has a rich history of innovation and is a city that offers a wide range of cultural experiences. It is one of the world’s best places in which to be a student, create new professional networks and form lifelong friendships.”
The IPM programme

The course will introduce research methodologies combined with current subject-specific topics, whilst improving English language skills to meet Master’s level requirements.

This nine-month full-time Advanced Diploma programme is for students wishing to study a Master’s degree at a leading university.

The Cambridge International Pre-Master’s Programme is designed to:

• provide students with the necessary English language and academic literacy skills to conduct an independent research project;
• develop students’ skills as independent and critical researchers in preparation for Master’s level study in the UK or other English speaking countries; and
• enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of key and emerging business management themes.

“...The course allowed me to develop a variety of research methods and techniques, and the quality of my academic writing has significantly improved too. I particularly enjoyed the extracurricular activities including punting, visiting the Colleges and participating in various afternoon teas and formal dinners.”

Ziling

English language studies

English language development is a key component of the IPM programme

The English language and academic literacy components adopt the same developmental logic as the content and research skills aspects of the programme. The components are designed to develop the students’ academic literacy skills in English, whilst at the same time supporting the respective tasks and skills taught in each term. The components will cover key receptive strategies required at postgraduate level such as reading and listening, but will also focus on the active skills of written and oral communication.

This will include all of the key elements involved such as:

• understanding the writing process;
• achieving clarity in writing; and
• argumentation in English.

Students will also be taught key differences between English and their first language. There will be a total of 40 hours language and literacy seminars per term, consisting of 2 x 2 hour sessions per week. Teaching will include full class seminars as well as individual supervisions.

A wide range of resources and activities are in place to support the development of language and academic literacy skills throughout the programme. Formative assessment will support the development of language and academic literacy skills, as well as the main written requirement of the content units in each term.
Course content

Students will learn about research fundamentals, research processes and how to conduct an independent research project based on a variety of case studies linked to current and emerging themes in business management.

Core themes

- Managing Technology and Innovation
- Environmental, Social and Governance Issues (ESG)
- The Ageing Workforce and Productivity
- Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality

Course units

Unit 1: Research Fundamentals – Thinking like a Researcher
This unit focuses on research fundamentals in business management.

Unit 2: Research Design – Professional Research Processes and Procedure
This unit consolidates learning from unit 1 to enable students to use their insights for designing research.

Unit 3: Independent Research Project in Business Management
This unit will focus on developing students’ skills so that they become independent and critical researchers ready to continue their study at Master’s level.

Teaching

There will be 12 hours of formal teaching per week alongside workshops, seminars and independent learning.

Support

Students will be assigned a subject-specialist supervisor and a pastoral tutor through their College to support their learning journey.

Research seminars

Workshops will be supported by 2-hour research seminars. These are intended to deepen understanding of research fundamentals in relation to the chosen research topic.

Resources

Students will have access to College and University-wide libraries to support their studies.

Workshops

The weekly 3-hour workshops will be split into small sessions covering fundamental research disciplines, guided by the four current themes.

Independent learning

Students will be expected to deepen their knowledge and understanding outside the classroom through independent learning and reflection.

Cultural programme

Students will have a formal dinner every term and will additionally benefit from a cultural programme alongside their studies, which will include visits to local places of interest such as Ely Cathedral, the theatre or a festival.

Visit our website to find out more: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/ipm
Why study the IPM programme at Cambridge?

Graduate study at Cambridge can be a life-changing experience.

- Develop your skills as independent and critical researchers in preparation for Master's level study.
- Enhance your knowledge and understanding of key and emerging business management themes.
- Develop your English language and academic literacy skills.
- Become a lifelong member of a Cambridge College and of the University of Cambridge.
- Access a range of College and University-wide libraries and resources.
- Benefit from a cultural programme alongside your studies.
- Receive academic and pastoral support throughout your entire learning journey.

Colleges

The University of Cambridge is a collegiate university and its students are members of a College.

IPM students become a part of the unique tradition attached to College membership at Cambridge. In the 2022-23 academic year, students will become members of one of the following Colleges:

- Girton College
  www.girton.cam.ac.uk
- Wolfson College
  www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk

Some of the advantages of College membership include:

- becoming part of a community of students and academics;
- individual academic and pastoral support from the Tutor and Graduate Office;
- opportunities for research, teaching, and professional development, through interdisciplinary seminars or intergenerational networks of College members;
- access to financial advice and assistance;
- access to social, cultural and sporting facilities;
- the opportunity to become part of a global community;
- lifelong membership as an alumnus; and
- the opportunity to develop friendships and improve your English skills.

Accommodation

Accommodation for students is provided by Girton College at Swirles Court.*

Swirles Court contains 325 ensuite study bedrooms, together with social and study spaces, all set around landscaped courtyards with card controlled access to create a secure environment.

*Accommodation costs are not included in the tuition fees

Life in Cambridge

Cambridge is a great place to be a student.

If students have an image of Cambridge, it’s probably one of ancient buildings, immaculate green lawns and people punting down a willow-fringed river. A city of bustling streets and pavement cafés, it also features green spaces and parks, and cows can be found grazing close to the city centre. It is a historic town, built by the Romans and familiar to Danes, Saxons and Normans.

Cambridge offers all the benefits of city life: pubs and clubs; an incredible variety of concert venues offering music for all tastes; theatres, cinemas, cafés and restaurants; a thriving central market; and a good range of shops.

Cambridge is home to Silicon Fen (The Cambridge Cluster) with a combination of over 500 startup, tech and biotech companies. It is also a UK hub for other global companies such as Ernst and Young, AstraZeneca and Microsoft.

Cambridge has excellent road and rail links to the rest of the UK – London is only 50 minutes away by train. It is also within easy reach of all London’s international airports, and there is a direct 30-minute rail link to Stansted International Airport.

Whether students want to take part in a sport, pursue a hobby or join a politically focused group, there will almost certainly be a society that suits their interests. Sporting activities are very common in Cambridge, and there are excellent facilities, provided by the Colleges. There are hundreds of student societies in Cambridge, catering for almost every taste and interest, which IPM students are encouraged to join.
How to apply

Entry requirements

Students must be aged 21 or over at the point of commencement of the course. A language certificate waiver is not available for this course. All applicants are required to submit a certificate at application.

Relevant higher education

Applicants for this course will normally have achieved a UK 2:1 honours degree or overseas equivalent from a recognised higher education institution, in a related field (Business Management).

English language level

IELTS: 6.5, with no element lower than 6.0
TOEFL: iBT 90, with no element lower than 22, other than speaking which can be no lower than 20
Cambridge C1 Advanced: overall 176, with no less than 169 in any paper
Cambridge C2 Proficiency: overall 176, with no less than 169 in any paper

Fees

Application fee

All applicants will be required to make a £75 payment at application stage. This fee is non-refundable.

Tuition fees

Overseas including EU: £19,000
Please note: The College fee is included in the tuition fees. Applicants do not need to pay an additional College fee.
Accommodation costs are not included in the tuition fees.

Maintenance costs

Students must consider the minimum cost of living likely to be incurred whilst studying on the programme.
Details of current costs can be found at www.ice.cam.ac.uk/ipm

Application information

Candidates should visit the University of Cambridge Graduate Admissions website for more information before starting an application.

Applicants must submit the following in order to fulfill the admissions requirements of this course:

• Bachelor’s degree transcripts.
• Bachelor’s degree certificate.
• English language assessment certificate (IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge C1 Advanced, Cambridge C2 Proficiency).
• Research proposal.
• CV (resume).
• Two references.
• Personal statement.
• Financial evidence.

To apply visit: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/ipm

“ I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk with my peers about each research interest and proposal, and preparing for class assignments together. Studying alongside people from different backgrounds and interests has exposed diverse perspectives which are essential to conducting research projects. ”

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“ The International Pre-Master’s is an innovative course that has been carefully created to help students extend their subject knowledge by engaging with contemporary research. It will also prepare students for Master’s level study at leading universities, by helping to improve language skills, academic confidence and the ability to conduct a research project guided by a Cambridge supervisor. The course will be taught in a highly interactive manner and students will work with colleagues in seminars, workshops and online to enhance their understanding of contemporary themes in business management. IPM will help students take the next step on their career journey. ”

Dr Nigel Kettley
Academic Director, University Associate Professor in Education and Social Science.

Key dates

Applications open: 6 September 2021
Virtual Open Days: 11 January 2022 3 February 2022
1-2-1 Web Chats with Dr Nigel Kettley or a member of the IPM programme team: October 2021 – March 2022
Final Application Deadline: March 2022
Programme Starts: October 2022
Award Ceremony: August 2023
Admissions enquiries
ipms.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk

General enquiries
ipm@ice.cam.ac.uk

www.ice.cam.ac.uk/ipm