

# **HOMERTON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE**

## **GUIDANCE FOR MATURE APPLICANTS**

### **Applications**

Homerton College welcomes applications from those over the age of 21, and has accepted a number of mature students onto postgraduate and undergraduate courses over recent years. The intensive and academically demanding nature of the courses means, however, that it is necessary for us to be reasonably certain that you have the ability to succeed if we offer you a place.

We consider each application carefully, taking into account individual circumstances. In general, though, we would expect you to have the following:

1. GCSE / GCE O-level / CSE: at least 5 grades A-C (GCSE) or 5 O-level passes or 5 grade 1 CSE passes (or a mixture of O-level and CSE passes). **For those who will ultimately wish to progress to the PGCE in Cambridge in order to teach at primary level it will be necessary to have both Maths AND a science subject at GCSE/ 'O' level.**
2. Evidence of recent study (within the last two years), for example:
  - a) A levels in 2 appropriate subjects (minimum grades AA, but we would usually ask for A\*A).
  - b) Equivalent results from Scottish or Irish higher level courses, or from International or European Baccalaureate.
  - c) Modules from an Open University degree course, usually beyond foundation level study (ie level 2). Offers are likely to ask for an average of 80% or above across 5 pieces of assessed coursework (since final results tend not to be known until October).
  - d) Access to HE Diploma - please note that we require 60 credits with a minimum of 45 credits at level 3 (or equivalent). Most relevant elements should be passed at distinction level. This qualification is not suitable for all Cambridge courses (see below).
3. Applicants may be required to meet additional subject-specific requirements for particular courses at Cambridge. Details of these additional requirements are listed below:
  - a) Architecture: a good portfolio is required, and an ability to draw. An interest in the history of art is helpful. Mathematics is needed at least to good GCSE standard.
  - b) Computer Science: A level Mathematics is required.
  - c) Economics: A level Mathematics is required
  - d) Engineering: A level Mathematics is required.
  - e) Law: applicants should ensure they have studied a logic-based subject (eg Mathematics, a science, a modern or classical language) as well as a discursive subject (such as History)
  - f) Mathematics: an Access to HE Diploma is *not* sufficient preparation
  - g) Music: at least grade 5 piano is required.

h) Natural Sciences: A level Mathematics is required for the Physical Sciences and recommended for the Biological Sciences. (Although there are courses designed for those without A level Mathematics, the better applicants' mathematical ability is before they come to Cambridge, the better they will get on.)

i) PPS: there is no requirement for GCSE Mathematics over and above an Access to HE Diploma.

j) Applicants for the following subjects will need to demonstrate an aptitude for languages: Classics, History of Art, and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Applicants for History should note that an aptitude for languages opens up greater choices within the History course at Cambridge. Applicants for Theology & Religious Studies should be aware of the compulsory first-year scriptural language element

In addition to the qualifications and experience outlined, we will be looking on your application for an articulate personal statement, clearly setting out the reasons for choosing your course. A good academic reference is also important.

If you do not have **all** of these qualifications, or have different ones, it doesn't mean you can't be admitted. We are very willing to look at what you **can** bring to the course you wish to study, and we will happily look at each enquiry or application individually. Please write to the Admissions Tutor about your specific circumstances.

### **Interviews**

Applicants invited for interview are usually asked to bring or send some work with them, and may sometimes be asked to write essays on topics set by staff here at Homerton. Our interviews usually take place in the first three weeks of December and there will be an opportunity to look round the College and to talk to some current students. There will generally be two interviews and in some cases a pre-interview test or an element of practical testing in the interview, depending on the subject.

### **Other information**

You should be aware that the University of Cambridge has residence restrictions, and you would normally be required to live within 10 miles of Cambridge during term times. If you have particular circumstances which would make this difficult, you are advised to write as early as possible in the year prior to entry to the Senior Tutor to clarify the situation. It is worth remembering that teaching may start as early as 9 am and may sometimes continue until 6 pm.

### **Finance and Childcare**

Finance can often be a particular problem for mature students and we therefore recommend contacting your Local Authority to ascertain whether you are eligible for support, and at what level. Alternatively, you can find helpful information online at: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance>.

Students in receipt of a maintenance grant from the UK government will be eligible to apply for a Cambridge Bursary. The maximum award available will be £5650 for those in receipt of the full maintenance grant, with smaller awards calculated on a sliding scale depending on the value of your grant. For more information, please see:  
<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/funds/mature/faq.html>.

The University also has a small number of Start-Up Grants available for mature students who may require financial assistance during their course (<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/funds/mature/>).

We would advise applicants to inform us of any expected financial difficulties as early as possible in order for us to ensure that you will be recommended for a bursary.

Students with children (especially lone parents) are a priority group for support via the Access to Learning Fund, which is allocated by the government to provide discretionary financial help to students who have to meet particular costs (e.g. childcare) which are not already being met from statutory or other sources of funding. Students can apply at any time in the academic year.

For more detailed advice about fees and funding, please see the University's web site at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/finance/support.html> or contact the Admissions Office at Homerton for more information.

There are no childcare facilities within Homerton itself but for information about University Nursery places and advice for student parents, please see [www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare](http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare) or contact the University's Childcare Information Advisor, Cassie Marks, on 01223 332249 or email to [childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk).

### **Open Days**

Open Days will be held on Friday 8th July (10.15 am - 1.30 pm) and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (12.40 pm – 3.30 pm). If you would like to attend, please contact us on 01223 747252 to make a booking.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office (Tel: 01223 747252, e-mail: [admissions@homerton.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@homerton.cam.ac.uk)).