

Guide to completing the Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire

2026/27 Entry

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Introduction

To make a valid application to the University of Cambridge Foundation Year, applicants are asked to complete an online Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire (FYSAQ) shortly after submitting their UCAS application. The FYSAQ enables us to collect information that is not part of the UCAS application, but which is important for our admissions process, such as details on which eligibility criteria candidates meet. It also allows us to collect other useful context, such as information about your motivations for studying the Foundation Year, which might not be mentioned elsewhere in your application.

Soon after your UCAS application has been received by the University, which is usually within 2 working days of submission, a message will be sent to the email address you supplied in your application. In this email, you will be provided with a personalised link to the online Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire (FYSAQ), and a date by which you must complete it. In the majority of cases, this deadline will be within two weeks of receiving the form. For applicants applying on or around the UCAS January deadline, the form must be complete by midday on 23 January 2026.

This guide gives more information about the FYSAQ to help applicants know what to expect before starting the questionnaire and provide support while completing it.

If you are unable to complete the FYSAQ online (i.e. as a result of a disability) please contact us as soon as possible (email: fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk) and we will send you a paper version to complete.

We strongly recommend that you do not leave any part of your application to the last minute/deadline day.

For the eligibility section, in particular, you will need to gather documentation to evidence your eligibility which may not be possible if you have not planned in advance. You could also encounter technical difficulties that may take some time to resolve and which may cause you to miss a deadline as a result.

Overview

At a glance

- The FYSAQ is divided into sections:
 - Section 1: Personal Information
 - Section 2: College and Degree Preference
 - Section 3: Eligibility Information 0
 - Section 4: Extenuating Circumstances
 - Section 5: Education
 - Section 6: Adjustments and Allowances
 - Section 7 Additional Questions
 - Section 8: Submission

Each section is made up of one or more pages. More information about each section, and the questions that you will be asked, is given in this guide.

- You don't have to complete the FYSAQ in one go. You can access the form as many times as you wish and make changes until you submit it. You will receive a unique personalised link that you can use to access your saved information.
- In addition to the information in this guide, you will find guidance in the 'Help Text' panel on each page of the FYSAQ itself.
- Some questions may not apply to you and therefore won't be shown. In most cases, the questions you see are determined by the answers you have given to previous questions. All questions are detailed in this document for your information.
- Some questions are compulsory, and you will not be able to proceed with the form until you have answered these. Compulsory questions are indicated with an asterisk (*).
- You can move between pages and sections of the FYSAQ using the arrows which run along the bottom of every page. You won't be able to proceed if there are compulsory questions, but you may put temporary answers in these if you wish to move forward.
- Every time you go to a different page in the questionnaire or leave it, all of your work will be saved automatically. You can return to it by using your unique personalised link.
- You will be able to view all of your answers before submitting them. We recommend you check this carefully before submitting your form.
- The form will work with a range of popular browsers, but we recommend ensuring your browser is up to date and that you complete the form on a computer (not a phone or tablet) if possible.

Information required

There are several pieces of information you will need to complete the FYSAQ. These include:

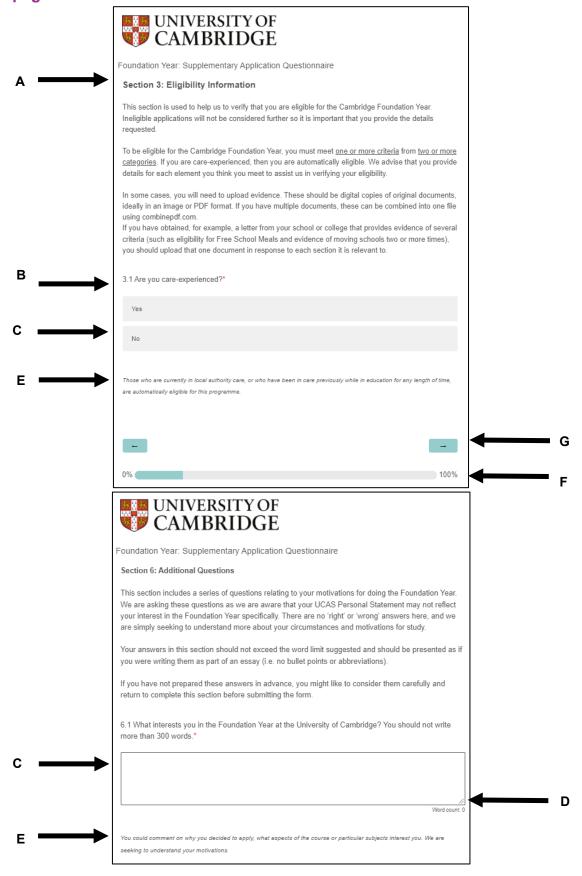
- your UCAS Personal ID;
- the personalised link to the form we send you by email;
- details of your educational history, including subjects you have taken/are taking;
- details of what eligibility criteria you meet in each section;
- evidence to demonstrate your eligibility, where required.

You may also find it helpful to consider in advance how you will answer the questions with free text boxes, such as those in section 7. You can familiarise yourself with these questions by reviewing page 21 of this guide. Details of the evidence required to demonstrate your eligibility is available in this document.

You can find further information about what evidence is required for each criterion on our website (See 'Full Eligibility Guidelines').

If you have all of the above information to hand and have thought about or prepared your answers to those questions requiring a comment or statement, we estimate that you could complete the FYSAQ in around an hour.

Example pages



	Feature	Notes
Α	Current	This highlights which of the sections you are viewing. You may also be on a new page within a
	section	section, but the section is indicated by the question number.
В	Question	Each section comprises several questions which are numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 etc. Compulsory questions are identified by an asterisk.
С	Answer box	Depending on the question, you will either be given buttons to choose from, a drop-down list to select from, a text box to type your answer into or a space to upload a document to. If the question does not apply to you can skip it.
D	Count	There are limits to the length of some answers (defined in terms of the number of characters).
	indicator	Where appropriate, a 'Count' button can be found next to the answer box. You can use this to
		calculate how many words you have used so far in your answer.
Е	Help text panel	Help text for each question will appear in italics underneath the question. If you need extra help,
		consult this guide.
F	Navigation bar	A progress bar provides a visual aid of your progress. However, some sections may take you
		longer to complete than others.
G	Next Page/	These buttons allow you to move to the next/previous page within the form. If there are
	Previous Page	compulsory questions on that page, you won't be able to proceed until you have filled them in.
		You can go back to edit your answers to these later though.

Moving Between Pages and Sections

You can use the 'Next Page' and 'Previous Page' buttons – denoted as forward or backward arrows to navigate between the different sections. However, you will need to answer compulsory questions before being able to progress through. You can go back and change your answers to these if you want to put in placeholder answers and return to complete them fully.

The exact questions you see in some sections will depend on the choices you make. So, for example, if you indicate that you are eligible because you received Free School Meals, you will see follow-up questions related to Free School Meals. If you select an alternative option, you will see an alternative follow-up.

Accessing the Form

Initial access

Soon after your UCAS application has been received by the University, which is usually within 2 working days of submission, a message will be sent to the email address you supplied in that application. In this email, you will be provided with a link which is personal to you, and a date by which you must complete it. In the majority of cases, this deadline will be within two weeks of receiving the form. For applicants applying on or around the UCAS January deadline, the form must be complete by midday on 23 January 2026.

The email will be sent from camfoundationyear@gemailserver.com and will have the subject line 'Application to the University of Cambridge'. We recommend that you add this email address to your 'safe senders' list and regularly check your email account (including your 'junk'/'spam' folder) after submitting your application to UCAS. If you do not receive your form and do not tell us in good time, your application may not be able to proceed.

We suggest that you access the form as soon as possible once you have received this email so you can familiarise yourself with it. If you haven't received an email within 4 working days, you should contact us (email: fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk), giving your name and UCAS Personal ID to help us locate your application.

Your email will contain a personalised link that is specific to you and your application. You should not share this link with anyone else as if you do so they may have access to your personal and sensitive details.

See also Frequently Asked Questions (page 23)

- I've applied to the University of Cambridge through UCAS but I've not received an email; what should I do?
- What should I do if I lose my FYSAQ login details?
- What is my UCAS Personal ID?

Section 1 Personal Information

Section Summary

This section asks you some general questions about yourself which will help us to link this form to your UCAS application.

1.1* First/given name

Please enter your first name and middle name(s) exactly as they are stated on official documents, such as your passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

1.2* Surname/family name

Please enter your last name(s) in the box exactly as they are stated on official documents, such as your passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

1.3* UCAS ID

Your UCAS Personal ID is the unique number that UCAS allocates to your application. It has ten digits and is displayed in 123-456-7890 format on every email UCAS send you and you use it to log in on UCAS. Input it here without the dashes (i.e. 1234567890). You will be unable to enter more than 10 characters in this field.

If you have forgotten your UCAS Personal ID, please contact UCAS Customer Services (telephone: 0371 468 0 468) or refer to UCAS Track (https://track.ucas.com/TroubleLoggingIn).

1.4* Email address

This should be the same email address you have given in your UCAS application.

1.5* Have you been lawfully resident in the UK since September 2023?

Select Yes or No.

We require that applicants are 'ordinarily resident' in the UK unless they are an asylum seeker or refugee. This means residing in the UK for the three years prior to the relevant start date of the course for which they are applying, and that residence should not have been wholly or mainly for the purposes of receiving education. Requirements may differ for refugees/asylum skeers. To be considered 'ordinarily resident', applicants must have been habitually, normally and lawfully resident in the UK.

1.5.1* Check all the boxes that apply in relation to your residency in the UK.

If you answered yes to 1.5, a follow up question will ask you to indicate the nature of your residency in the UK, for example being a UK or Irish citizen living in the UK or Ireland, being an EU citizen with settled or pre-settled status, having Indefinite Leave to remain, or being a refugee/asylum seeker/in the UK under Homes for Ukraine.

1.5.2* Please explain how you believe you are ordinarily resident in the UK.

If you answered Other to 1.5.1, you need to explain how you meet the residency requirement.

1.6* Interviews will be held online between 23 - 27 March 2026. You are expected to be available for an interview during this time. If there are any dates during the interview period on which you will not be available for an interview, please indicate this, and you will be asked for further information. Select from the options presented.

Applicants are advised to avoid making any unbreakable commitments during the interview period. Acceptable reasons for being unable to be interviewed on a given date include religious observances or long-standing hospital appointments. Holidays, school concert rehearsals or sports matches are not acceptable reasons.

1.6.1* Please explain why you will not be available for an interview

This question will only appear if you select 'I have limited interview availability'.

Section 2 College and Degree Preference

Section Summary

This section asks for your preference for a College that offers the Foundation Year at Cambridge. You can also let us know what your ambitions are towards studying certain subjects after the Foundation Year.

2.1* What is your preference College?

If you wish, you can express a preference for a College that offers the programme at Cambridge. This is not a guarantee that your preference College will be the one that makes you an offer if your application is successful. You can see a list of all the participating Colleges at cam.ac.uk/foundationyear

Regardless of your College, all students will be studying the same course. However, your College would provide your accommodation and pastoral care and students will remain at their College for their degree course if they remain at Cambridge following the Foundation Year.

If you do not have a preference, choose 'Open – No Preference'.

Please note that some Colleges are only open to mature students or female students.

2.1.1* You have expressed a preference for a mature College. This College can only admit you if you will be aged 21 or over by 1 October in the year in which you hope to come to Cambridge. Please confirm that you will be aged 21 or over by 1 October 2025. If this is not the case, please go back to select another option. This question will only appear if you selected 'Hughes Hall', 'St Edmund's or 'Wolfson' in question 2.1. If you will not be aged 21 or over by 1 October in 2026, you should use the back button. If you will be aged 21 or over, you should click to acknowledge this and continue.

2.1.2* You have expressed a preference for a female-only College. This College can only admit you if you are formally recognised as/identify as female. Please confirm that you are formally recognised as or identify as female. If this is not the case, please go back and select another option.

This question will only appear if you selected either 'Murray Edwards' or 'Newnham' in question 2.1. If you are not formally recognised as/identify as female, you should use the back button to revise your choice. If you are formally recognised as/identify as female, you should click to acknowledge this and continue.

2.2* What is your first degree subject preference?

A key element of the Cambridge Foundation Year is exploring subjects you may not be familiar with. However, it is useful to know if you have ambitions towards certain subjects and it is not always easy to tell this from your UCAS Personal Statement. Please use this section to tell us about what degree subjects interest you. If you don't know, you can select 'Undecided'. You can also let us know if none of these subjects interests you by selecting 'The subject I am interested in is not listed here'.

The choice you make here is not binding in any way.

2.3* What is your second degree subject preference?

You can indicate a second degree subject preference. If you don't know, you can select 'Undecided'. You can also let us know if none of these subjects interests you by selecting 'The subject I am interested in is not listed here'.

Section 3 Eligibility Information

Section Summary

This section asks for information to help us verify that you are eligible for the Foundation Year. Ineligible applicants will not be considered further so you must provide the details requested.

Guidance for this section

- To be eligible for the Cambridge Foundation Year, you must meet one or more criteria from two or more categories. If you are care-experienced or from a forced migrant background, then you are automatically eligible.
- We advise that you provide details for each element you think you meet to assist us in verifying your eligibility.
- The questions you see in each part of this section are determined by your selections from the checkboxes.
- If you are seeing a question you don't expect, go back to check you have selected only the boxes that apply to you.
- The question numbers you see in this section may not be sequential as you will only see the questions relevant to you.

Guidance on evidence to be uploaded

- In many cases, you will need to upload evidence. These should be digital copies of original documents, ideally in an image or PDF format.
- If you have multiple documents for one criterion (for example P60s from your parent(s)/carer(s)), these can be combined into one file using software such as Adobe Acrobat or free online tools like www.combinepdf.com.
- If you have obtained evidence that applies to several criteria (for example, a letter from your school/college that provides evidence of your eligibility for Free School Meals and evidence of moving schools two or more times), you should upload that document in response to each section it is relevant to (i.e. more than once).

3.1* Are you care-experienced?

Indicate 'Yes' or 'No' where requested.

Those who are currently in local authority care, or who have been in care previously while in education for any length of time, are automatically eligible for this programme. This means that you do not have to meet the criteria in any of the other categories.

3.1.1* Please provide some information about your experience of care

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in response to question 3.1.

This could include the name of the Local Authority who was responsible for your care, the length of time you spent in care, and the nature of the care (for example living with foster carers, living in a residential children's home, being looked after at home under a supervision order or living with friends or relatives in kinship care).

3.1.2* Please upload evidence

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in response to question 3.1. Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.

This could be a letter from someone in the Local Authority responsible for your care. Alternatively, a letter from your school/college would suffice.

If you are care-experienced, you are automatically eligible so there is no requirement for you to submit further information relating to your circumstances. You can select 'I do not meet any criteria' in each of the three categories in the subsequent questions which will take you to the next section. However, you are welcome to provide further information if you wish.

3.2* Do you have Refugee status or Humanitarian Projection in the UK or are you currently an asylum seeker in the UK?

Indicate 'Yes' or 'No' where requested.

Those from a forced migration background who are resident in the UK are automatically eligible for this programme. This includes refugees, those with Humanitarian Protection status and asylum seekers. This means that you do not have to meet the criteria in any of the other categories.

3.2.1* Please upload evidence

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in response to question 3.2. Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.

This could be official documentation reflecting your (or your parent(s)/carer(s)) limited or indefinite leave to remain such as a copy of a Biometric Residence Permit (previously Immigration Status Document). We can also accept a screen shot of digital immigration status documentation such as eVisa from www.gov.uk/evisa.

If you are from a forced migration background, you are automatically eligible, so there is no requirement for you to submit further information relating to your circumstances. You can select 'I do not meet any criteria' in each of the three categories in the subsequent questions, which will take you to the next section. However, you are welcome to provide further information if you wish.

3.2.2 If you have a UK e-Visa share code, provide it here.

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in response to question 3.2. You can provide the share code to enable us to swiftly verify your immigration status. This is optional but welcomed.

3.3* Which criteria do you meet in Category 1: Household Characteristics?

Select all that apply using the checkboxes that reflect the eligibility criteria in this category. You will be asked to provide further information for each box that you check, so the questions you see next will depend on which boxes you check. If you select 'I do not meet any criteria in Category 1', you will skip this section entirely and continue the form at question 3.4.

Criteria	Follow up questions	Guidance
l am	3.3.1* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
currently		
eligible for		This could be a letter from your school/college. If that can't be
Free School		provided, evidence of the benefits you or your family received
Meals		that would make your eligible would suffice.
	3.3.2 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I have been	3.3.3* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
eligible for		
Free School		This could be a letter from your school/college. If that can't be
Meals at any		provided, evidence of the benefits you or your family received
point in the		that would make your eligible would suffice.
previous 6	3.3.4 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
years.	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
My combined	3.3.5* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
UK		
household		

income is		Your household income is the total amount of money earned
£25,000 or		by members of a single household. This only applies to
less.		households in the UK. If you are under 25 and financially
		depend on at least one parent this includes their income if you
		live with them. If you live in the same household and depend
		on the partner of one of your parents, their income is also
		included. If you are under 25 and do not financially depend on
		your parent(s) and live independently we would consider your
		own income and the income of any spouse. If you are over 25
		we would consider your own income. If you have a partner or
		spouse, their income is included in your household income.
		A P60 from the last tax year would be ideal, but other
		documentation could suffice such as self-assessment income
		tax returns or an SA302 form. In all cases, the most recent
		form of evidence you can provide is expected.
	3.3.6 Please briefly describe the evidence you have uploaded. For	Fill in the free text box.
	example, tell us what it is, who it	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	relates to and their relationship to	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	you, what it shows, where it came	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
	from or what dates it covers. If	
	you do not provide enough	
	information, your application may	
	not proceed.	
	3.3.7* I confirm that the evidence	Check the box to confirm this statement.
	uploaded shows my full	
	household income. It is a full and	This is you confirming that you have not omitted any
	accurate reflection, and includes	information, for example, income from a second job or another
	all pertinent information.	parent.
I or my	3.3.8* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
parent(s)/		
carer(s)		This will be your own status if you live independently or are
receive		over 25, and will relate to your parent(s)/carer(s) if you are
Universal		under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially. A
Credit.		proof of benefits letter, statement or similar documentation
		would be ideal.
		We can accept evidence of Universal Credit or another means-
		tested benefit. You will need to attach a copy of documentation
		for yourself and any other relevant people in your household.
	3.3.9 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.

3.4* Which criteria do you meet in Category 2: School/College Characteristics?

Select all that apply using the checkboxes that reflect the eligibility criteria in this category. You will be asked to provide further information for each box that you check, so the questions you see next will depend on which boxes you check. If you select 'I do not meet any criteria in Category 2', you will skip this section entirely and continue the form at question 3.5.

Criteria	Follow up questions	Guidance
A state school	3.4.1* Please provide the	Fill in the form fields as requested.
or college I	name and postcode of the	
attend or have	schools you attended and the	You should provide:
attended has	date that you attended. If you	
received few	attended more than one	School/college name
offers from the	school that meets this	School/college postcode
University of	criteria, give the most recent	Dates you attended this school/college
Cambridge	one.	
		Take care to provide the full name and correct postcode as there
		may be other schools with similar names elsewhere in the UK.
A state school	3.4.2* Please provide the	Fill in the form fields as requested.
or college I	names and postcodes of the	
attend or have	schools/colleges you	You should provide:
attended has	attended and the dates that	
below-average	you attended them. If you	School/college name
attainment.	attended more than two that	School/college postcode
	meet this criterion, give the	Dates you attended this school/college
	most recent two.	
		You can provide details of up to two schools here.
		Take care to provide the full name and correct postcode as there
		may be other schools with similar names elsewhere in the UK.
A state school	3.4.3* Please provide the	Fill in the form fields as requested.
or college I	names and postcodes of the	V I I I
attend or have attended has	schools/colleges you attended and the years that	You should provide:
below-average	you attended them. If you	0.1
numbers of	attended more than one	School/college name
students	school that meets this	School/college postcode
staying in	criterion, give the most	Dates you attended this school/college
education	recent two.	Vau aan mayida dataila af un ta tura aabaala bara
		You can provide details of up to two schools here.
		Take care to provide the full name and correct posteride as there
		Take care to provide the full name and correct postcode as there may be other schools with similar names elsewhere in the UK.
My state	3.4.4* What	Fill in the free text box.
school or	qualification/subject were you	This is the toxt box.
college does	unable to study that you	
not offer the	require for entry to	
subject in A	Cambridge?	
Level or	3.4.5* Please upload	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
equivalent that	evidence.	
I require for		This could be a letter from your school/college that mentions either
entry to		the subject you wanted to study but which they did not offer, or a
Cambridge		full list of all the qualifications they did offer in the years you were
		studying.

3.5* Which criteria do you meet in Category 3: Individual Characteristics?

Select all that apply using the checkboxes that reflect the eligibility criteria in this category. You will be asked to provide further information for each box that you check, so the questions you see next will depend on which boxes you check. If you select 'I do not meet any criteria in Category 1', you will skip this section entirely and continue the form at question 3.1.

Criteria	Follow up questions	Guidance
I have	3.5.1* Please provide some	Fill in the free text box.
experienced	information on the extended	
medical/health	periods of absence (over 8 weeks)	This should include information about the amount of time you
issues that	from school/college which you	missed, the stage of your education you were at (like the
have resulted	experienced whilst in secondary	year you were in) and the nature of your absences.
in long or	education.	
extended	3.5.2* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
periods of		
absence (over		This could be a letter from your GP or another medical
8 weeks) from		professional that details the long term sickness certification
school/		they have provided to your school/college. Alternatively, you
college whilst		could ask your school/ college to provide a letter based on
in secondary		their knowledge of your attendance and reasons for absence
education.		which includes detail about the length of your absences.
	3.5.3 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I have	3.5.4* What was the nature of your	Fill in the free text box.
experienced	relationship with the person who	
bereavement	died?	Close family members mean your immediate family such as
due to the		siblings, children, parent(s) or carer(s). It also includes
death of a		anyone who shared the same household as you at the time
close family		of their death.
member whilst in secondary	3.5.5* What stage of your	Fill in the free text box.
education (for	education were you in when this	For late the control of the control
example your	happened? For example, your school year.	Explain the school year you were in when you were bereaved.
parent/carer).	3.5.6* Did you live in the same	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
parony carery.	household as the person at the	Select res of No.
	time of their death?	
	3.5.7* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
	5.5.7 Tiease upload evidence.	brop a file in the grey box of click on the box to upload.
		This could be a letter from your school/college based on their
		awareness of your family situation. Alternatively, if this is not
		possible or you would prefer, we would also accept other
		documentation such as a copy of the death certificate.
	3.5.8 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I have been a	3.5.9* Who do you/did you care	Fill in the free text box.
young carer	for?	
while in		Tell us what your relationship was to the person you cared
education		for (for example, your mother). We don't require their names
		or any other details.
	3.5.10* What year(s) of your	Fill in the free text box.
	education did you have these	
	caring responsibilities?	Tell us what parts of your education this impacted.
	3.5.11 What kind of tasks did	Fill in the free text box.
	you/do you undertake for them?	
	you/do you undertake for them?	

	How many hours each week would	You can tell us more about your responsibilities as a carer if
	this take you?	you wish. For example, what kind of things did you do and
		how many hours a week did it take you? You could also
		mention if you needed to take time out of school.
	3.5.12 Did you receive support	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
	from your local authority or any	
	charities?	This is for context, we appreciate many young carers do not
		receive any support.
	3.5.13* Do you wish to upload	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
	evidence?	
		There is no requirement for you to provide evidence, but if
		you have been assessed by your Local Authority or your
		school or another organisation are aware of your
		responsibilities you are welcome to upload this.
	3.5.13.1 Please upload evidence.	This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in
		response to question 3.2.13.
		Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
	3.5.13.2 Please briefly describe	Fill in the free text box.
	the evidence you have uploaded.	
	For example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I have	3.5.14* At what stage of your	Fill in the free text box.
become a	education did you become a	
parent while in	parent?	You could tell us what year you were in school/college when
education.		you became a parent. You could also refer to what
		qualifications you were taking at that time. If you have more
		than one child, provide information about your first child
	3.5.15* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
		You will need to provide evidence of your relationship with
		your child. A birth certificate showing your name as one of
		the child's parents will suffice. If you have more than one
		child, provide information about your first child.
I became	3.5.16* How long were you	Fill in the free text box.
homeless	homeless for?	
while in		This could include any time you had nowhere to stay whether
education.		you were living on the streets or stayed in hostels, night
		shelters, with friends or other alternative accommodation.
		We do not require personal details here about how you
		became homeless or your experience of homelessness.
	3.5.17 What year(s) of your	Fill in the free text box.
	education did this cover?*	
		Tell us what parts of your education this impacted.
	3.5.18 Please provide some more	Fill in the free text box.
	information about your experience	
	inionination about your expension	
	of being homeless.	We do not require personal data, but some information can

	3.5.19 Did you receive any support	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
	from your local authority or charities?	This is for context, we appreciate many people do not
	Granties:	receive any support.
		, ,,
	3.5.20 Do you wish to upload evidence?*	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
		There is no requirement for you to provide evidence, but if
		you have evidence of being 'legally' homeless such as
		correspondence relating to emergency short-term housing then you are welcome to upload this.
	3.5.20.1 Please upload evidence.	This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in
	C.O.ZO.T T TOUGO UPTOUR OTTUOTION	response to question 3.2.20.
		Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
	3.5.20.2 Please briefly describe	Fill in the free text box.
	the evidence you have uploaded. For example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I became	3.5.21* Are you currently in	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
estranged	contact with any legal parent?	
from close		Please note that estrangement means having had no contact
family		at all with your parent(s)/carer(s) for at least 12 months and that this is unlikely to change. You would likely be assessed
members (e.g. parents/		as an independent student by student finance bodies
carers) whilst		because of this.
in secondary	3.5.22* When did you last have	Fill in the free text box.
education	verbal or written contact with any of your legal parents?	
	3.5.23* What year(s) of your	Fill in the free text box.
	secondary education were you in	
	when you became estranged?	Tell us what parts of your education this impacted.
	3.5.24 Can you briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	circumstances surrounding your	We do not require personal details such as the reasons that
	estrangement?	your relationship broke down.
	3.5.25* Do you wish to upload	Select 'Yes' or 'No'.
	evidence?	
		There is no requirement for you to provide evidence, but if
		your school or a social worker is aware of your situation, you may wish to upload a letter from them reflecting their
		understanding of your situation.
	3.5.25.1 Please upload evidence.	This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' in
	·	response to question 3.2.25.
		Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload
	3.5.25.2 Please briefly describe	Fill in the free text box.
	the evidence you have uploaded.	
	For example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
I may sad state	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I moved state schools two or	3.5.26* Please provide the names and postcodes of the schools you	Fill in the fields with the details of three of the schools you have attended.
more times	attended and the dates that you	navo attenueu.
whilst in	attended them.	
	1	

secondary		This includes:
education.		
		School name
		School postcode
		School postcode School start date (dd/mm/yyyy)
		School start date (dd/mm/yyyy) School end date (dd/mm/yyyy)
		School end date (dd/mm/yyyy)
		We do not need information on why you moved. If you
		attended more than 3, we do not require details of the other
		schools.
	3.5.27* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
	0.0.27 Trouse aprodu evidence.	brop a file in the grey box of short of the box to aplead.
		If you are still in education, this could be a letter from your
		current school/college detailing when you started with them
		and their understanding of where you were previously
		educated. Alternatively, you could provide copies of school
		reports from different schools.
		If you have left education already and are applying as a
		mature student, you will not need to provide evidence for this
		criterion although we would welcome it if you can supply it.
	3.5.28 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.
I have been	3.5.29* Please detail the	Fill in the free text box.
delayed in	qualifications you have been	
completing	studying part-time and the job you	
qualifications	held while doing this.	
because I was	3.5.30* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
working while		
studying part-		This will be a copy of the P60 for your job(s) in the year that
time.		you completed your qualification. If you are still studying,
		your most recent P60 or a recent payslip will suffice.
	3.5.31 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers.
I experienced	3.5.32 Please detail the years in	Fill in the free text box
a gap in	which you achieved your	
education of	qualifications and the length of the	
more than one	gap between them. *	Drop o file in the grow have an alialy and the least to such and
year (for	3.5.33 Please upload evidence.*	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
example		This will be a convert the efficient transcript which exerts the
leaving school at 16 but		This will be a copy of the official transcript which states the
returning to		year completed for the different qualifications you completed
complete		(for example your GCSEs and A Levels or equivalent). This
Level 3		is available from the exam board responsible for the
qualifications	3.5.34 Please briefly describe the	qualification(s) you took. Fill in the free text box.
after several	3.5.34 Please briefly describe the evidence you have uploaded. For	Fill III the nee text box.
years in work)	example, tell us what it shows,	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	example, tell us what it shows,	

	where it came from or what dates	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	it covers.	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
		covers and in some cases who it refers to.
My parent or	3.5.35* Please upload evidence.	Drop a file in the grey box or click on the box to upload.
carer has		
been		This could be a letter from your school/college/social worker
imprisoned		or a charity, or official evidence such as court documents.
during my	3.5.36 Please briefly describe the	Fill in the free text box.
education	evidence you have uploaded. For	
	example, tell us what it shows,	It is helpful to have some context on the evidence. For
	where it came from or what dates	example, where it came from, what it shows, what dates it
	it covers.	covers and in some cases who it refers to.

Section 4 Extenuating Circumstances

Section Summary

Most extenuating circumstances can be described to us via the UCAS Reference or form part of the eligibility criteria for the Foundation Year. If there are other circumstances that are not shared with us via these methods, we can be informed via the Extenuating Circumstances Form (ECF). This is designed to help us take them into account when we assess your application.

Examples of situations that we would appreciate having more information about include:

- being a victim of serious crime, such as a physical assault
- the impact of late diagnosed learning difficulties
- someone stealing your work
- experiencing a terrorist incident or war
- experiencing a natural disaster, such as an earthquake
- experiencing a major fire in your home
- if your family experienced a breakdown, for example your parents got a divorce
- being evicted from your home
- experiencing racial trauma, or race-based traumatic stress
- jury service or attending court or tribunal as a witness, defendant or plaintiff

The ECF is a Word document template that should be submitted by a relevant professional (for example a teacher, doctor or care worker) via email. The deadline is 21 January 2026. We cannot accept ECFs that are self-written or come from parents.

Further information is available on the University of Cambridge website.

4.1* Please indicate if you intend to use the Extenuating Circumstances Form (ECF)

Select the box that reflects your intentions.

4.2 I confirm that I am aware I cannot submit an ECF myself.

This question will appear if you have selected 'I intend to use the ECF' in respect to 4.1.

You will need to confirm your understanding by clicking the box.

Section 5 Education

Section Summary

This section explores your education and asks questions about schools/college you are currently attending or have attended in the past.

5.1 If you have taken GCSEs at a UK school please enter its name and postcode

If you have not taken GCSEs at a UK school please leave this blank.

5.2* Please give the month and year when you left or will leave school/college

Please specify the month and year when you left or expect to leave school/college.

5.3 If you are currently at school/college, or left last year, please provide information on the AS/A Level (or equivalent) qualifications you studied last year and/or those that you are currently undertaking. Please provide us with details of the qualification type and subject, the class sizes and the main topics covered for each subject.

Please provide us with details of the class sizes and the main topics covered for each qualification taken in your last two years of school/college:

- if you are still at school/college, please provide details for the previous school year and topics studied up until March of this year.
- if you have finished school/college last year, please provide details for the previous two years.
- if you left school/college some time ago, there is no need to complete this table.

Please complete one row per subject. You can fill in up to five subjects, but you don't need to fill in every row if you're doing fewer than five subjects. If you are studying more than five subjects, fill in the five most relevant to the Foundation Year course (i.e. those in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences).

Information on topics is requested to help us understand your prior studies/ Abbreviations are acceptable. Please see our examples in the FAQs for the level of detail required. If you are unsure which topics you will be covering, please ask your teachers for guidance

See also Frequently Asked Questions (page 23) How much detail do I need to give about topics I have studied??

5.4 Have there been any difficulties with the teaching in any of your subjects at AS/A Level or equivalent? If there have been any difficulties with the teaching in any of your AS/A Level or equivalent subjects, please let us know. You will be asked for more details if you select 'Yes'.

5.4.1 Please give brief details of the difficulties with the teaching in any of your subjects at AS/A Level or

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' to question 5.4. Your answer can be a maximum of 300 characters including spaces.

5.5 Have you ever been enrolled in any Higher Education course?

You should answer yes if you have started any Higher Education course in the past, even if you did not finish it or dropped out.

5.5.1 Please tell us where you were enrolled, for how long, what qualification you obtained (if any), or why you withdrew from prior studies.

This question will only appear if you selected 'Yes' to question 5.5. Your answer can be a maximum of 300 characters including spaces.

Section 6: Adjustments and Allowances

Section Summary

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to complete a written assessment and attend an online interview.

The written assessment will be conducted online, and you will be required to type your responses. The assessment platform is accessible, and applicants are welcome to use assistive technologies such as screen readers or screen magnifiers, if needed. Any video or audio content will include closed captions.

The interview is also conducted online. The interview platform (Zoom) is accessible, but you will need to read material on a screen, listen to questions being asked by interviewers, and respond to these.

If you have a disability, long-term illness, or neurodivergent condition (such as ADHD, Dyslexia, or Autism) that typically requires additional arrangements for timed, written exams, please provide details below. This will help us determine any adjustments that may be necessary. Where possible, we will aim to replicate the adjustments you've previously received.

6.1* Do you usually receive additional time for written assessments?

Select 'Yes' or No'

You should click 'Yes' if you have been approved to receive extra time in examinations in the past, or have a diagnosis that would typically result in extra time (for example, dyslexia).

6.1.1* What percentage of additional time do you usually receive for written assessment?

This question will only appear if you answered 'Yes' to question 6.1.

In the text box, provide the percentage of extra time you usually receive, for example, 25%.

6.2* Do you have any other exam access arrangements in place for written assessment?

Select 'Yes' or No'

You should click 'Yes' if you receive exam access arrangements such as rest breaks, use of a computer, or use of assistive technology.

6.2.1* Provide further information on any other exam access arrangements for written assessment.

This question will only appear if you answered 'Yes' to question 6.2.

In the text box, provide further information, for example information about your usual ways of working in an exam.

6.3* Do you require additional time for oral discussion?

Select 'Yes' or No'

You should click 'Yes' if you have a diagnosis that would typically result in extra time (for example, a processing disorder or dyslexia).

6.3.1* What percentage of additional time do you usually receive for oral discussion?*

This question will only appear if you answered 'Yes' to question 6.3.

In the text box, provide the percentage of extra time you usually receive, for example, 25%.

6.4* For an online interview, is there anything else you would like those interviewing you to be aware of?

Select 'Yes' or No'

You should click 'Yes' if you would like to make us aware of any issues with speech or communication, for example, problems with hearing, eye contact, tics, or any other aspects of verbal communication. This could include a wide range of conditions.

6.4.1* Provide further information on anything else those interviewing you should be aware of.*

This question will only appear if you answered 'Yes' to question 6.4.

In the text box, provide further information that you would like interviewers to be aware of.

6.5* Upload evidence to support your request for adjustments.

This question will only appear if you have answered 'Yes' to questions 6.1 or 6.3.

Requests for extra time require appropriate evidence. This should be either a supporting statement from your school, on headed paper, outlining your current exam arrangements, or a brief statement from your GP or specialist, that confirms your disability, long-term illness, or neurodivergent condition.

Upload a file by dropping it in the grey box or clicking to upload.

Section 7 Additional Questions

Section Summary

This section includes a series of questions relating to your motivations for doing the Foundation Year. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers here, and we are simply seeking to understand more about your circumstances and motivations for study.

Your answers in this section should not exceed the word limit suggested and should be presented as if you were writing them as part of an essay (i.e. no bullet points or abbreviations). We suggest preparing these answers in advance and copying and pasting them into the form.

7.1* What interests you in the Foundation Year at the University of Cambridge?

In the space provided, you could comment on why you decided to apply and what aspects of the course interest you. We are seeking to understand your motivations. We will have already received a copy of your UCAS Personal Statement, but you could add additional information here. You should not write more than 300 words.

7.2* What do you hope to achieve by participating in the Foundation Year?

You could comment on what you hope to learn or how the Foundation Year might help you to achieve your aspirations. We are seeking to understand your motivations. You should not write more than 200 words.

7.3* What do you think the impact of the circumstances you have faced so far (and that have made you eligible for this programme) has been on your education?

You could comment on how you think your experiences have affected your education, your approach to studying at home, or your eventual examination results. You could also comment on things you have done to try to overcome the challenges, how it has made you feel about your study and the future, or what you would have done differently if you had the chance. We are seeking to understand your conscientiousness and motivation. You should not write more than 100 words.

7.4 Can you describe any additional responsibilities you have?

If you have additional responsibilities, please provide details in the space provided. These could include part-time work, caring roles for family or voluntary or community work. You could tell us how much time they take. We are seeking to understand your self-efficacy. You should not write more than 100 words.

7.5 Is there anything else you would like us to know?

If there is anything else not already mentioned in your application that you would like us to know, please give details in the space provided. Your answer can be a maximum of 600 characters including spaces.

7.6* I confirm that the information I have provided is complete and accurate and that no requested information has been omitted.

Select 'Yes' to this declaration. You will be unable to submit the form until you complete this declaration.

7.7* The University of Cambridge and the Cambridge Colleges will use the personal information you have provided for the purpose of determining your eligibility for the Foundation Year, processing your application and deciding whether to offer you a place for the course you have applied for. Where you provide information about people (e.g. parents or carers) we will assume that you have their permission to do so where appropriate; we will handle that information solely to assess your eligibility for the Foundation Year, and to compile any relevant internal statistics, and it will not be retained for longer than necessary for these purposes. This form uses the Qualtrics platform and appropriate measures are in place to ensure the security of the data and any documentation you submit. For further information on the use of your personal information during the application process, please see the University's Information Compliance website.

Select 'I accept these terms and conditions. You will be unable to submit the form until you complete this declaration

At the bottom of this page, you will see that the forward arrow has been replaced with 'Review your final responses'. Click this to continue.



Section 8 Submit

Section Summary

This section asks you to confirm that the information you have provided throughout the FYSAQ is complete and accurate.

Submitting your FYSAQ

When you think you have completed all sections of the FYSAQ, you may wish to check your answers by reviewing the summary of responses provided. You can also download a PDF file of your full responses to keep on file should you wish to refer to it later.

You MUST scroll down to the bottom of this page and select the 'submit' button on the right-hand side for your responses to be recorded.



Please note that after submitting the FYSAQ it is not possible to alter your answers. After you submit, you will see an acknowledgement on screen. You will not receive an email, but if you re-open your personal link you will see a message that says 'You have either already completed the survey or your session has expired'.

Please remember that your application to the University of Cambridge will not be valid until you have successfully submitted it.

Receiving emails from the University of Cambridge

During the early stages of your application, the University will send important information and reminders to the email address that you have provided. Your email account must be configured correctly so that emails sent from the University are not rejected or filtered into your 'junk'/'spam' folder by your email provider. Your application to the University of Cambridge may be disadvantaged if you do not take the steps described below.

The University may contact you using the following email addresses:

- foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk
- fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk
- camfoundationyear@gemailserver.com

Please ensure that all of the above email addresses are:

- added to your email account's Contact List
- added to your email account's Safe Sender List (if available)
- removed from your email account's Blocked Sender List

Help for some of the more commonly used email providers can be found at the links below.

Hotmail/Windows Mail/Outlook	http://windows.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/outlook-help
BT Internet/Yahoo	http://www.help.yahoo.com/kb/helpcentral
Apple Mail	https://www.apple.com/support/mac-apps/mail/w
Google Mail	https://support.google.com/mail/
AOL	https://help.aol.co.uk/contact
iOS devices	https://www.apple.com/support/mac-apps/mail/

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Cambridge have a Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire (FYSAQ)?

The FYSAQ enables us to collect information that is not part of the UCAS application, but which is important for our admissions process, such as details on which eligibility criteria candidates meet. It also allows us to collect other useful context, such as information about your motivations for studying the Foundation Year, which might not be mentioned elsewhere in your application.

I want to change my College preference. Can I do this?

You can amend your College preference by midday 23 January 2026.. If you wish to do so, please send your full details to fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk. Please note that this also applies if you have made an open application.

What is the deadline for submitting my SAQ?

The initial email you receive from the University about completing the FYSAQ will include a deadline by which you must submit your FYSAQ. For those submitting the form at or very near to the January UCAD deadline, this will be midday on 23 January 2026. Earlier applications will get 2 weeks to complete the form.

I've applied to the University of Cambridge through UCAS, but I've not received an email: what should I do?

Emails containing your unique link are usually sent within 48 hours of submission of a UCAS application. You will not receive an email from us immediately, but you should receive one within one working week. If you apply to the University of Cambridge through UCAS but do not receive an email about the FYSAQ by 19 January 2026, you should contact us ASAP (email: fysag@admin.cam.ac.uk). Please include your full name and UCAS Personal ID.

What should I do if I lose my FYSAQ login details?

If you lose the initial email from the University which contains the unique web address of the online Foundation Year Supplementary Application Questionnaire, please contact us (email: fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk) requesting that your unique link is resent.

What is my UCAS Personal ID?

Your UCAS Personal ID is the unique number that UCAS allocates to your application. If you have forgotten your UCAS Personal ID, please contact UCAS Customer Services (telephone: 0371 468 0 468) or refer to UCAS Track (https://track.ucas.com/ TroubleLoggingIn).

Your UCAS Personal ID remains the same regardless of how many times you apply through UCAS. If you are a reapplicant (in other words, if you have made applications via UCAS to any Higher Education institution in previous years), UCAS will give you a new temporary Personal ID for your new application until all of their necessary checks are completed. The Personal ID supplied to us with your new application will revert to your original (and permanent) one and should be used.

What if my email address changes?

We will use the contact details you provided as part of your initial UCAS application to communicate with you. If your email address (or any other contact details) change after you have submitted your UCAS application, you will need to advise UCAS Customer Services (telephone: 0371 468 0 468) or change the information on UCAS Track (https://track.ucas.com). It is helpful to make us aware at foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk as well.

How much detail do I need to give about topics that I've studied?

We are looking for a list of the main topics that you have covered in your studies to help the staff interviewing you compose appropriate questions to ask. As such, you only need to include topics covered until March of the year you are applying in. The two examples below (the first is for A Levels and a BTEC, and the second is for an Access to HE Diploma) give an indication of the level of detail that we are looking for in this question.

List as many topics as you can, but do not worry if you can't list them all. Abbreviations are acceptable. If you are unsure which topics you will be covering, you should ask your teachers for guidance. If any of your qualifications are self-taught or you are home-schooled, please note this.

Example 1:

Subject 1 English Literature A Level. Class size 10. Studying Keats, Shakespeare's Hamlet, A Streetcar Named Desire Subject 2 Law BTEC Certificate. Class size 20. Studying Civil Law and Criminal Law Subject 3 History A Level. Class size 12. Studying Nazism, Industrialisation, Reformation in Europe Subject 4 (if applicable)

Example 2:

Subject 1

English Literature Approaching Texts, Literary Criticism, Literary Non-Fiction, Academic Skills in English Language. Class size 13

Subject 2

English Language Original Writing and Commentary, Textual Analysis, Writing for Academic Purposes. Class size 10

Subject 3

Sociology Culture and Identity, Families, Households and Personal Relations, Crime, Sociological Theories in Contemporary Society, Planning and Carrying Out Research in Sociology. Class size 11

Subject 4 (if applicable)

Politics Introduction to UK politics. Class size 12

Subject 5 (if applicable)

My FYSAQ isn't displaying correctly on my computer screen; how can I correct it?

The form should be functional and consistent across the most popular modern web browsers. We recommend using one of the following browsers:

- Apple Safari
- Google Chrome
- Microsoft Edge (Chromium version)
- Mozilla Firefox

Versions of these browsers no longer supported by their maker may not function as intended and may expose the user to inherent security vulnerabilities. We recommend that users always use the most up-to-date version of their browser.

If you are having difficulty displaying pages of the FYSAQ correctly (when they have previously been displayed without any problems), please try refreshing. This should correct any problems you are experiencing. You might also try clearing cookies or using an alternative machine.

I'm unable to submit my FYSAQ, what should I do?

You will be unable to submit your FYSAQ if you have not answered any compulsory questions or you have provided an invalid answer. You will not be able to navigate from a page that has not been completed, so check it for errors.

Once you have corrected any errors, try to submit your form again.

What if I need to change information but have already submitted my FYSAQ?

Once you have submitted your FYSAQ, it is not possible to amend the answers online. If you now notice an error in the information you provided or have any other queries please contact fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk . We may not be able to accommodate changes.

Can schools/colleges submit an additional Cambridge-specific reference?

As we receive a copy of your UCAS reference, there is no need for your teachers/referees to provide an additional reference for Cambridge.

How will data be held and used?

The University of Cambridge and the Cambridge Colleges will use the personal information you have provided to determine your eligibility for the Foundation Year, processing your application and deciding whether to offer you a place for the course you have applied for.

Where you provide information about people (e.g. parents or carers) we will assume that you have their permission to do so where appropriate; we will handle that information solely to assess your eligibility for the Foundation Year, and to compile any relevant internal statistics, and it will not be retained for longer than necessary for these purposes. This form uses the Qualtrics platform and appropriate measures are in place to ensure the security of the data and any documentation you submit. For further information on the use of your personal information during the application process, please see the University's Information Compliance website: https://www.informationcompliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/applicant-data

Further Help

If you have any further enquiries relating to how to complete a particular question in the FYSAQ or you have a technical question about completing your FYSAQ please consult the Foundation Year team (email: fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk).

This guide is accompanied by video resources, which you can access at https://www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk

Student Admissions and Access Student Services Centre New Museums Site Cambridge CB2 3PT

Web: https://www.foundationyear.cam.ac.uk/fysaq

Email: fysaq@admin.cam.ac.uk

Details are correct at the time of publication (August 2025) but should be checked against the Undergraduate Study website for the most up-to-date information. © University of Cambridge, 2025.