



Applying to Higher Education in France

How to showcase your Cambridge IGCSE™ and Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications on Parcoursup

Students who want to enrol in Higher Education in France need to complete an application on the Parcoursup platform. Whether you are in high school, doing an apprenticeship, or looking to change your field of study, you can use Parcoursup to choose your future studies and respond to offers from universities.

What is Parcoursup?

Parcoursup is the central application platform for Higher Education in France. It is open to French and international students who hold a wide variety of diplomas, including qualifications awarded by Cambridge International Education, whether as a school leaving qualification or alongside another curriculum. You can find information about who needs to apply through Parcoursup, based on nationality and diplomas, at www.parcoursup.gouv.fr

You can also find helpful information about Parcoursup on the Campus France website at www.campusfrance.org

To make an application on Parcoursup, you need to create your student profile, choose your preferred courses as “wishes” (“vœux”), and provide information about yourself and your educational background. Then you wait for offers from universities and decide which offer to accept.

The platform also gives helpful information about each course, such as open day dates, contact details and what is expected from students. There are over 19,500 courses available, ranging from specialised programmes to general degrees.



How to showcase your Cambridge qualifications

Cambridge qualifications, including Cambridge IGCSE and International AS & A Levels, are globally recognised and highly respected by universities worldwide, including those in France. Highlighting your Cambridge qualifications can strengthen your application and demonstrate your academic excellence and readiness for higher studies.

Follow our tips to make the most of your Cambridge qualifications on Parcoursup and help your application stand out to French universities.

Cambridge IGCSE qualifications

- List your Cambridge IGCSE subjects and grades clearly in the relevant section on Parcoursup. If your Cambridge IGCSE subjects are directly related to your chosen field of study, you should mention their relevance in your motivation letter (“Projet de Formation Motivé” section) making sure that the subject names are accurately translated into French.
- Highlight any outstanding achievements or awards earned during your Cambridge IGCSE studies, such as Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards.
- It is important to mention your Cambridge IGCSE subjects and grades on Parcoursup, even if only the grades from Première and Terminal (the last two years of high school) count toward your application.

Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications

- Mention your predicted grades on Parcoursup as they will show your academic level.
- Explain how your Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects align with your desired university major and demonstrate your academic preparedness for advanced study.

- Emphasise any unique projects, research or experiences you gained during your studies, as these can set you apart from other applicants.

Cambridge International Project Qualification (IPQ)

- If you completed a Cambridge International Project Qualification (IPQ), you should include it in your Parcoursup application. The Cambridge IPQ showcases your research abilities and dedication, which can impress admission committees and highlight your potential as a candidate.
- Describe the subject and scope of your project and how it relates to your academic and career aspirations. Emphasise any skills gained from your Cambridge IPQ.

Extra-curricular activities

The “Activités et Centres d'intérêt” section of the Parcoursup application is where you can highlight any extra-curricular projects, activities or accomplishments related to your Cambridge qualifications.

Mention any leadership roles you have held, or your participation in international competitions or Cambridge-related events as these demonstrate your versatility and passion for learning. You could describe your involvement in Cambridge Global Perspectives courses, civic engagement or international events to emphasise your global outlook and commitment to a diverse education.



Collaborate with your teachers

If you are a student in a French high school, you should collaborate with teachers and staff at your school to prepare a “Fiche Avenir” document. The Fiche Avenir is an essential part of your Parcoursup application and is filled in by your head teacher and school director. There is one “Fiche Avenir” per choice of course on Parcoursup.

You should work with your teachers to make sure that your Fiche Avenir accurately reflects your achievements, capabilities and future goals. Your teachers' input can make a significant difference in presenting your strengths and potential to universities, so communicate openly with them throughout the process. Provide them with relevant information about your Cambridge qualifications and their significance in your future studies.

Learn more!

Presenting your Cambridge qualifications effectively on Parcoursup can significantly enhance your application to French universities. Your hard work and dedication deserve to be showcased and your Cambridge qualifications can be a powerful asset in your educational journey.

For more information on how universities in France recognise Cambridge qualifications, search our database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-search

Our online database includes higher education institutions worldwide which have provided us with their formal acceptance policies for Cambridge qualifications. Some universities or colleges may not yet be listed here, but still may recognise Cambridge qualifications. The database is continually being updated.