

The Association of Cambridge Schools in New Zealand (ACSNZ) is the coordinating body for CIE schools in New Zealand. The Association was set up in 2002 as a professional forum and support network for schools and has gone from strength to strength. All CIE schools become members of the Association. The Association shares the organization of the annual Brilliance in New Zealand Awards Ceremony.

ACSNZ also runs a biennial Conference for member schools, attended by teachers, administrators and principals, which includes international speakers, as well as workshops on topics of interest.

ACSNZ was responsible for establishing examinations in a number of subjects that were popular in New Zealand, but not offered by CIE. Three of these subjects (AS Level Classical Studies, AS Level Japanese and IGCSE Japanese) have been taken over by CIE due to their popularity. Subjects currently offered through ACSNZ are AS Level History of Art, AS Level NZ History, AS Level Latin and AS Level Drama.

ACSNZ and CIE have a strong relationship and work closely together to ensure schools and students are well supported.

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University of Cambridge International Examinations in New Zealand



Students gaining Top in the World Awards at the 2008 Brilliance in New Zealand Awards Ceremony along with CIE Director, International Curriculum Development, Kevin Stannard and CIE Rep Simon Higgins (left)

Introduction

A variety of schools in New Zealand have registered to offer the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). State, independent, boys', girls' and co-educational schools are all registering for CIE. Some offer a full range of subjects while others may offer only 1-2 subjects. Some offer CIE exclusively while others offer CIE alongside other qualifications (eg NCEA, IB).

Each year, the Brilliance in New Zealand Awards Ceremony is held to recognise students who have achieved outstanding academic results during the previous year. In 2007, there were 40 prizes awarded to students who were Top In The World in their subject and a further 44 for students who were Top In New Zealand.

Credible qualifications

CIE is characterised by international currency, benchmarking of standards, transparency in reporting outcomes, and flexibility of what is on offer.

CIE is the world’s largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds and is part of the world-renowned University of Cambridge. Recently, CIE launched the Cambridge International Primary Programme for students in Yrs 1-6 and the Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme for students in Yrs 7-9, giving a coherent progression through Yrs 1-13.

International portability

Cambridge Assessment has developed and promoted qualifications around the world for 150 years and has seen the need for internationally recognised qualifications continue to grow. CIE was formally established in 1998 to provide high-quality, leading-edge qualifications that meet the ongoing demands of employers and educators the world over. CIE’s qualifications are accepted and recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe, including in New Zealand. University departments in New Zealand and the NZVCC have expressed their satisfaction with the academic standard of AS and A Levels.

High standards

As part of the University of Cambridge, CIE has a strong pedigree in development and research. CIE constantly reviews its academic provision and regularly introduces new subject areas and qualifications. It offers unrivalled support to the network of registered schools and always strives to make improvements, utilising technology for delivery, assessment and administration. CIE is not just about high stakes exams. While assessment affects what teachers do in the classroom, schools are attracted by the idea that CIE values underpinning assessment feed through to CIE’s curriculum and pedagogical approach.



“The professional development is outstanding. It is provided in most subject areas by CIE by trained staff from the UK.”
Sherida Penman Walters, Executive Principal, Pinehurst School

“Students are challenged by the courses. They see them as being rigorous and thus know hard work is required for success.”
Barry Thomas, CIE Coordinator, Christchurch Boys’ High School

“The support and training offered by CIE is exceptional: criteria are clear and comprehensive, samples of marked essays give a clear guide as to standards, and external marking is consistent and fair.”
Graham Smith, English teacher at Westlake Boys’ High School

“We are a decile four school. Many of our students have received university scholarships as a result of their excellent results.”
Grant Wright, Mathematics teacher at Western Heights High School

Rigorous subject-based curriculum providing flexibility

CIE offers a complete curriculum package, with examinations linked to support for teachers and learners. CIE works closely with national governments, education bodies and schools to ensure syllabus needs are aligned to national needs. The syllabuses suit international teaching contexts through their use of international examples, with New Zealand examples specifically incorporated into subjects by schools. Students are equipped not only with knowledge of specific subjects, but also with problem solving and critical thinking skills, and an ability to work independently and as part of a team. There is also flexibility to develop courses especially for New Zealand requirements eg the AS Level NZ History course. CIE recognises not all that is important in education is testable. CIE qualifications offer a wide diversity of options and pathways, reflecting the need for individualised learning strategies.

Standards based

CIE is a standards-based qualification, not norm-referenced. Standards are maintained through the use of experienced examining panels and carefully constructed assessment tasks while statistical processes are used to ensure consistency of grades, both between subjects and within each subject.

External Assessment model

As well as end-of-year examinations in most CIE subjects, assessment also includes practical examinations (eg in Science), oral tests (eg in languages) and portfolios (eg in Art and Design). All are externally assessed. There is coursework in some subjects, which is marked internally and moderated by CIE.

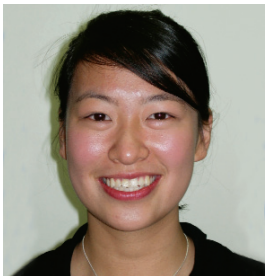
Student successes



Melissa Brinsden (previously at ACG Strathallan) achieved the highest marks of any student in the world for her Cambridge International A Level in Design and Technology. As part of the internal assessment for the course, Melissa produced a model and design brief for Weta Workshop, the Academy Award winning film effects company based in Wellington. Unknown to Melissa, her mother took photos of her project and sent them to Richard Taylor of Weta Workshop, who was so impressed he immediately phoned Melissa and offered her a job making miniatures for their next movie.



Tom Wang (previously at Macleans College) achieved the Top In The World award for A Level Mathematics, A Level Physics and AS Level Biology. He commented that it was the strong academic CIE syllabus that enabled him to win awards and scholarships totalling \$35,000 in his final year at school. Tom is currently studying for his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Auckland.



Charlotte Yan (previously at ACG Senior College) was accepted into the University of Oxford to study Law after excelling at various AS and A Level subjects. Charlotte received the fellowship prize in 2006. She stated that completing a globally recognised qualification played a decisive role in gaining acceptance to Oxford.



Julien van Mellaerts (previously at King’s College) is studying Music at the University of Otago. He says “CIE set me up well for both my academic workload and for the study of performance voice at University. I was fortunate to be nominated for the National Young Performer of the Year Awards run by the Performing Arts Competitions Association of New Zealand and ended up winning the award for Most Potential.”

David Gong (previously at Auckland Grammar School) gained excellent results in AS and A Levels in Yr 12 and was accepted into Dartmouth College in the US, one of the top Ivy League Universities, based solely on his CIE results.

IGCSE – usually sat in Year 11
AS Level – usually sat in Years 12 and 13
A Level is a two-year course of which the first half is AS and the second year is A2

