

2011

GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDE

Cambridge International Matriculation (“CIM”) for Adult Students

British International Distance College (“BIDC”) provides world class self study courses, affording adult students the opportunity to achieve an *international matriculation* through a combination of completion of the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (“IGCSE”)**, the **Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education (“HIGCSE”)** and/ or the **General Certificate of Education – Advanced Subsidiary (“AS levels”)**.

These qualifications are issued by the University of Cambridge, and are recognised worldwide by employers and by tertiary institutions for further study.

How does the Cambridge International Matriculation compare to a regular South African matriculation, and how long does it take?

In broad terms, the Cambridge IGCSE qualification is equivalent to a South African Grade 11 and the Cambridge AS level or HIGCSE is equivalent to a South African Grade 12 (i.e. regular Matric).

A combination of subjects passed at both the IGCSE level and the AS and/ or HIGCSE level (see below for specific combinations required) are needed to obtain the CIM.

Students should generally expect to obtain their CIM as follows:

- Students who have only a **primary** school education: **3 to 4 years** (Foundation / bridging course 1 year + IGCSE 1 to 2 years + AS Levels 1 year)
- Students who have completed up to **Grade 10** (the old Standard 8): **2 to 3 years** (IGCSE 1 to 2 years and AS Levels 1 year)
- Students who have completed **Grade 11** (the old Standard 9 or above): **1 to 2 years** (IGCSE 1 year + AS Levels 1 year but could be concurrent with IGCSE)

The reason for the variance in terms of years required for completion is that the CIM programme is very flexible and should be customised for the individual student, based on their specific further study or employment requirements.

There is also no maximum time period for completion, as students may take as many or as few subjects per year as they like, and can take as long as needed to earn sufficient credits for their qualification as specified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Can the Cambridge International Matriculation be achieved in less time than indicated above?

Yes. The periods quoted above are merely a guide, and since for most subjects exams may be written either in May / June or October / November, a diligent student may be able to accelerate the qualification process dramatically.

What are the academic requirements for achievement of a Cambridge International Matriculation?

The CIM offers a great deal of flexibility. Each subject passed is a qualification in its own right, and when enough subjects have been passed to meet one of the two possible CIM qualification combinations below, a CIM has been achieved.

CIM Qualification Combination 1:

No. of different subjects required	Cambridge Level	Passing grade required	Subjects must include
3	IGCSE (or above)	Grade "C" or higher	1 st Language in English or Afrikaans
2	HIGCSE or AS Level	Grade "3" or higher for HIGCSE or Grade "D" or higher for AS Level	-

CIM Qualification Combination 2:

No. of different subjects required	Cambridge Level	Passing grade required	Subjects must include
5	IGCSE (or above)	Grade "E" or higher	1 st Language in English or Afrikaans
2	HIGCSE or AS Level	Grade "3" or higher for HIGCSE or Grade "D" or higher for AS Level	-

What are the entry requirements for a Cambridge International Matriculation?

While there are no formal minimum entry requirements for adult learners to enter the CIM programme, due to the high international standard of the qualifications it is recommended that a student have completed their primary schooling as well as at least the first two or three years of South African high schooling before attempting the CIM programme.

However, BIDC Academic Advisors are on hand to provide appropriate advice and a Foundation bridging programme is available to prepare those students who have not completed their schooling to a Grade 9 or 10 level (or who may simply have had gaps or inadequate facilitation in their early schooling careers).

How does the Cambridge International Matriculation programme work?

All courses are designed for self study and offer a structured weekly programme of work to be covered. Examinations are set and marked by the University of Cambridge International Examinations board in the UK and this prestigious body issues the qualification and certificates.

Student assignments are sent to B IDC during the course and are marked by the Cambridge trained and experienced Tutors so that students can monitor their progress. Assignment results (i.e. formative results) do not contribute to the final grade for the qualification awarded by Cambridge. **The qualification is based purely on the final exams (i.e. the summative result)**.

Tutors are available for assistance by telephone and by email and tutorials are offered at the end of the course for intensive exam preparation prior to the qualifying exams.

A Services and Procedure Manual is issued to each student upon registration, which will assist with questions about the finer details of what to do when. The adult student academic year is 1st June to 30th June the following year. Registrations for the new academic year open on 1st April. If a student does not take the final examination within the academic year however, they may re-register for a carry over course.

When are certificates / qualifications received?

Certificates and final qualifications are issued directly by the University of Cambridge, and are generally available within 2 to 3 months after the relevant examination date.

Does a Cambridge International Matriculation allow a student to study further?

Yes. The CIM is accepted for university entrance in more than 160 countries worldwide and in a particular is highly regarded and accepted by South African universities and technikons.

It is important to note however, that additional or specific subjects may be required for admission to further study in respect of certain degrees or diplomas.

Individual subjects passed may be used as credits for the fundamentals of many SAQA registered FET certificates.

About the British International Distance College (B IDC):

The British International Group has been providing superb full time and distance tuition in Cambridge qualifications for more than ten years. We are a fully approved Cambridge examination and tuition centre and our students have produced spectacular results year after year.

We have more than 40 permanent lecturing staff on hand for queries, who are arguably the most highly qualified and experienced in the country.

BIDC aims to make distance learning worthwhile and manageable by ensuring that our students receive continual support and feedback throughout their year of study. Add to this our exam preparation workshops, additional study material and aids, as well as unlimited telephonic support and it becomes clear that BIDC is the premier institute for secondary distance education in South Africa.

BIDC is a fully accredited education provider, registered both with the South African education authorities and with the University of Cambridge.

- i.) Cambridge International Examination Centre number: ZA 057
- ii.) Umalusi provisional accreditation: sch 000361
- iii.) Gauteng Department of Education: 400111
- iv) Founding member ACESA(Association of Cambridge Educators of Southern Africa)

BIDC has students and examination venues across South Africa, in the neighboring states and elsewhere, and has very successfully prepared more students for Cambridge exams over the years than any other education provider in South Africa.

What subjects are available?

(Course costs are available on the BIDC website – www.bidc.co.za)

Languages:

English* First and Second Language***
Afrikaans* First and Second Language***
French Foreign language***

Humanities

History
Geography
Literature (English)***
Art and Design
Music
Psychology**
Sociology***

Commerce

Business studies*
Economics **
Computer Studies***
Accounting*

Sciences:

Mathematics*
Biology
Physical Science

* may be recognized as credits for FET certificates.

** Only available at AS Level.

*** Only available at IGCSE Level.

How does a student go about registering for the Cambridge International Matriculation?

Step 1:

Discuss the appropriate level for you to begin and your subject choices with an Academic Advisor at BIDC (Tel: 011 706 7199)

Step 2:

Submit the completed Application for Registration form to the facilitator at your workplace study centre. If you are not studying via a workplace study centre, please submit the registration directly to B IDC with full payment (fax proof of payment to B IDC if paying by EFT).

Step 3:

The full pack of course material (including your textbooks, a weekly work programme, assignments, a Cambridge syllabus, set of past exam papers and any additional notes required) will be sent to the student or the workplace study centre by no later than two months after receipt of payment. A student will also receive a Service and Procedures manual, which will answer questions such as pass marks, deadlines and dates, when to expect exam timetables, certificates etc.

Schedule of Fees – Adult 2011 courses

Foundation Course

Registration Fee	R1 065 pa
Course Fee	R1 765 per subject
Physical Science	R3 835 per subject
Personal Development Programme	R 425
Exam Fees	*UK £13.70 per subject (Maths, Science and English only)
Carryover Fee	R 350 per subject

IGCSE

Registration Fee	R1 065 pa
Course Fee	R3 410 per subject
Practical Subjects (Art, Biology, Computers)	R3 845 per subject
Music	R4 255 **
Physical Science	R5 425
Personal Development Programme	R 575
Exam Fees	*UK £25.60 per subject
Carryover Fee	R 350 per subject

AS Level

Registration Fee	R1 065 pa
Course Fee	R3 640 per subject
Practical Subjects (Art, Music)	(Art, Music) R4 220 per subject
Physical Science, Biology	R5 645 per subject
Personal Development Programme	R 660
Exam Fees	*UK £22.80 per subject + £10.50 per candidate
Carry Over Fee	R350 per subject

***Cambridge Fees for Examinations in 2010 (2011 Fees not yet available).**

Note Payments:

Payment of fees (excluding of the examination fees) is in full upon registration.

Cheques are to be payable to the British International Distance College (Materials will only be sent after the standard 10 day clearance period)

Examination entry fees must accompany exam entry applications before they can be processed.