



Guidelines on written work for undergraduate applicants

Which subjects require written work?

The following subjects require **two** samples of your written work:

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- Classics
- Education
- English
- Geography
- History
- History and Modern Languages
- History and Politics
- Human, Social and Political Sciences (HSPS)
- Land Economy
- Modern and Medieval Languages (MML)
- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
- Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion

The following subjects require **one** sample of your written work:

- Archaeology

Applicants to Architecture and Design are required to submit a six-page portfolio, more details on this can be found on the [Current Applicants webpage](#) in the November deadlines section.

Why do you ask for written work as part of my application?

Above all, we will be looking to assess your **discursive writing skills**. In other words, we will be looking for your ability to produce a well structured, suitably evidenced and consistently analytical piece of academic writing. The emphasis is therefore less on the particular knowledge you deploy to justify the points that you make, although we will of course expect you to be accurate and thorough in your use of substantive knowledge.

The work that you submit will be considered alongside all other information contained in your application as part of our holistic academic assessment. Should you be invited to interview, you should be prepared to talk about your written work in detail as our interviewers may use it to form the basis of part of their discussion with you.



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What kind of work can I submit?

Please do not write something especially for Cambridge. You should submit work marked by a teacher/professor that has been produced as recently as possible during the normal course of your studies in school/college. In other words, it should have been as part of the qualifications you are currently working towards, and that you have entered as yet to be completed on your UCAS form. If you are applying during a gap year, then you can submit work from your last year in education.

We strongly prefer that applicants do not submit work produced in timed conditions in preparation for an exam (for example, a mock exam essay), as this does not tend to go into as much detail as work written throughout the usual course of your studies. Submission of an exam script is also unsuitable, and we advise against this.

Where possible, the work should be from subjects within or relating to your chosen degree course. If that is not possible and you are applying for a course that you do not study in school, then try to pick something that is as closely related as possible, and that demonstrates some of your best work.

How long can the work be?

Your written work will be reviewed by our Admissions Panel during an incredibly busy period, so we do please ask that you please keep your written work to a reasonable length. Normally, written work should not exceed more than **2500 words**. If you are submitting work as part of an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or International Baccalaureate, then we would ask you to please pick an extract that does not exceed the above limit. We do reserve the right to stop reading beyond 2,500 of any submitted written work.

If you do choose to submit work written as part of coursework, then please ensure you explain in your coversheet the context of the work. It would be useful to know, for instance, what coursework the work is from, how long you were given to write the work and so forth.

What if I am an international applicant and have no written work in English to submit?

International applicants with no written work in English are asked to complete the following steps:

- Submit two essays written in the original language
- Produce a translation of the two essays
- Include a 500 word statement for **each** translation on what you gained academically from writing the two pieces of work, and what you found challenging.



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Can I submit two pieces of work from the same subject?

Yes, you may select two different, standalone pieces of work from the same subject if you do not believe you have anything suitable from two different subjects.

What do I do if I have nothing suitable I can provide?

If you believe you have nothing suitable you could provide (for instance if you are taking no essay-based subjects) please contact us on admissions@lucy.cam.ac.uk urgently so we can guide you on next steps.

If you are a mature student, we would recommend contacting your old school and checking your personal files in the first instance. If, following this, you believe you have nothing suitable to provide, please contact us on admissions@lucy.cam.ac.uk urgently so we can guide you on next steps.

Subject-specific information

Modern and Medieval Languages (MML)

Applicants planning to continue one language they already study plus an ab initio (from scratch) language are asked to submit one essay in the language they are continuing, plus a piece of work in English. Ideally, this would come from a related subject like English or History, although if this is not possible then please do not worry. The essay will be used primarily to assess your ability in discursive writing, so the subject matter is less crucial.

If you are applying to continue two languages that you already study, then please submit an essay from both languages. You therefore do not need to submit a piece of written work in English.

History and Modern Languages (HML)

Please submit one essay from History and one essay written in the language that you are planning to study at University. If you planning to study ab initio (from scratch) language, then please submit the second piece of work in English.

Classics (3 years and 4 years)

Please submit two pieces of written work in **English**.

How should I send my written work to you?

We have no preference as to whether your work is typed or handwritten. The main thing is that it is clearly legible.



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Please use a separate cover sheet for each piece of work, ensuring that the cover sheet is included before each piece of written work. Please compile all cover sheets and documents into one single PDF document and send it to admissionsdocuments@lucy.cam.ac.uk

Please also use the following naming convention for the document:
LastName_FirstName_UCASpersonalID_DocumentName

(for example: Smith_John_1234567890_WrittenWork.pdf).

If you are an international student submitting a translation of your work then please compile your documents in the following order:

- Cover sheet for work
- 500 word statement of work
- Translation of work
- Original piece of work

This work should be submitted by no later than Thursday 2nd November 2023. If you have any questions or concerns then please contact us on admissions@lucy.cam.ac.uk. Please include your name and