

Webinar: Agent webinar: Introducing the UTS Cambridge Accelerator
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Link to recording:

- YouTube:
- Youku:

Olivia Barnes ([00:24](#))

Welcome everyone. I'm Olivia Barnes, the Head of Business Development here at UTS College and it's a pleasure to have so many of you joining for the session today to learn more about our very exciting programme, the UTS Cambridge Accelerator. Today's session has been designed to give you a high-level overview of the programme and please feel free to add any questions you have throughout the session into the Q and A. We'll be happy to answer those during the session. And we also have a Q and A at the end, so we look forward to getting your feedback and answering your questions. I'd like to introduce Peter Harris, our Chief Officer Partnerships and Growth to welcome you to today's session.

Peter Harris ([01:12](#)):

Thanks Olivia and great to see so many of our agency attendance. UTS College has always been an innovator and leader in the pathway space and the UTS Cambridge Accelerator is a great example of that. We could see unmet demand in the market and a need for something different. We've met with a number of our agents and asked them what features this programme needed to have. We've met with a number of parents and again said, what would you want to see in a programme like this? We've looked at the international programmes in country and saw what was good about them and what they needed to be. Great. We've looked at the HSC programme in Sydney and the international student experience here and again thought, well, how could that be even better? We thought, well, wouldn't it be amazing if we could deliver the Cambridge A Levels right here in the heart of Sydney with the great access to the pool of teachers we have here?

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Wouldn't it be amazing if we could do it on the UTS campus with the incredible facilities of a top 100 university state-of-the-art campus, and wouldn't it be an amazing if we could do it with the UTS College Model of Learning where we are experts in ensuring international students get the academic, the English and the social skills to succeed at university and UTS Cambridge accelerated programme is amazing. We are very proud to partner with our agents to bring this opportunity to parents and students who have finished year attending country to come to Sydney and give them the best chance of success at UTS when they transition over. After completing the programme here, Olivia and Justin have got a lot more details, but again, thank you for attending and look forward to working with you all on bringing this programme to fruition.

Olivia Barnes ([02:54](#)):

Thanks, Peter. What is the programme? Programme new and innovative and global first programme that allows students to study Cambridge qualifications at a top 100 global university and it's a programme that accelerates students in their learning and their life experiences? The programme has been in development for a number of years and we've really put a lot of thought and attention into how we can give students the best experience when they're here with us at UTS College and what else can we offer and deliver to them that will really put them ahead of other students that are

studying, studying international qualifications. So there's five key areas that we've brought together in this programme. Of course it includes the Cambridge AS and A Level programme, which is globally recognised around the world by universities and employers in the programme. We've also embedded Academic English (AE), so AE 4 and AE 5 is in the programme.

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And the reason that we've included the English language in the programme is we've really wanted students to have the opportunity to not just develop English skills ready for university, but to really embed and become very confident public speakers, confident writers, and really have the opportunity to continue their English studies throughout the duration of their programme. We've also put a lot of thought into the personal development programme and how we can support students to gain confidence and develop as citizens of the world. And Justin will run through that with you a little later in the presentation. We've also thought it would be a great opportunity while students are studying their A Levels to give them the opportunity to participate in some university subjects. So to get a taste of what's it like to study a university subject, what's it like to work on the learning management system, what's the expectations on me when undertaking my higher ed and giving them a balanced and achievable opportunity to study those subjects. And of course all of this is delivered on the UTS campus, which we all know is a top a hundred university but within the UTS college precinct. So really safe and nurturing environment for students.

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Some quick facts about the programme, the nuts and bolts. The programme is a two year programme and it includes AS and A Level subjects. We have one intake per year and that's aligned to the New South Wales school calendar. So that's in January with our first intake in January 2025. The fees are \$39,000 a year and it's a two-year programme and the age, the age is 16 years for course commencement and the teaching hours so differentiated from our foundation and diploma programmes. The face-to-face teaching hours of the Cambridge programme are at least 30 hours a week. It's a very high touch, high engagement programme. Of course, we'll continue with our small class sizes and attention to detail, but there really is an up weighted face-to-face component for students who are delivering, who are undertaking this programme.

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So how does it work in terms of student visas and packaging And we talk about it being a UTS accelerator programme. So, what does that look like? So of course, programme, and I'll go into the entry requirements shortly, but students can choose whether they want to do a standalone two year programme or they can package with a UTS degree, which allows them to have a five year study plan and a five year experience at the university. If the student undertakes a two year study programme, which is the A Levels programme, they would be on a non-A ward visa. If they're packaging with UTS, they would be on a higher education visa for the five years. During the A Levels programme and then their corresponding studies at UTS.

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Thank you. I'd now like to introduce Justin Chu, who is the principal of the UTS Cambridge Accelerator programme and Justin is very experienced. He brings 18 years of experience in both the high schools and also universities. We are very lucky to have Justin leading this programme and he's very passionate about this programme. For the past six years, Justin has been the programme manager for both the diploma of science and UTS Foundation studies and Justin has a real focus and care for under 18 students and setting them up for success at university. Justin has a lot of experience with Cambridge, particularly, he was a exam marker and chief examiner for A Levels biology in Hong Kong. So, he brings a really deep understanding of Cambridge and the delivery of

the programme as well. So welcome Justin and thank you for running through the programme with us.

Justin Chu ([08:04](#)):

Thank you, Olivia. Hi everyone, I'm Justin. It's very nice to talk to you about the programme. So, as you can see on this slide, so here are the Cambridge subjects that the student will study in our programme. We carefully selected these subjects to ensure that these subjects are of interest to students and students will select a stream based on their interests, abilities, and future destination for the degree. In the AS level, just like all the typical schools, so each student is required to undertake four subjects. As you know, the public exam will be in October. You may also wonder what will happen to students in November and December. We have heard that from parents. The student wants to have university learning experience while they were still in high school. So that's why of the bottom part of this slide you can see that we have included some first-year university subjects in November and December for each stream.

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The Cambridge students will form their own cohort when they are learning these university subjects. They will not join our existing diploma of students. We are not mixing their under 18 students with the over 18 students. And also I can guarantee you these university subjects are only taken after the public exam. Student would not be under the stress to undertake both. So here is what students will do in their AS. I believe that you all of you actually are familiar. In the next slide it will show you the A Level. The A Level is the similar plan to the AS year except that the student will focus on three subjects. These three A Level subjects, they will choose according to the AS results and of course their own interests. We actually use this way to maximise their possible chance of success.

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So what I'm going to talk about is the personal development of a student. Students studying our Cambridge programme, not just only studying the academic subjects, not only for academic development and also a lot of the students of the international students will wonder what do my kids do outside the Cambridge programme? And we all know that all kids enjoy extracurricular activity. We have a plan of coordinate all the extracurricular activities within the framework called the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This award will include physical recreation, so the student can take part in all sorts of activities at the UTS gym sessions, sports, and we will have teacher led skills and voluntary service events for student to achieve the award. So can as a result, we can assure the parents that the children are participating in something valuable outside their study hours. They are not wasting their time and the time that they spend on these activities will help each kid achieve the Duke of Edinburgh award, which will definitely enhance their CVS in the end.

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UTS college we provide a comprehensive under 18 support services to our Cambridge students. As you can see from the diagram, we have academic support from teacher support programme support each semester, academic change including attendance and grade. And then our student will have access to the dedicated under 18 student success advisor and outside the school hours student have access to the studios and rep based service where student can ask academic questions 24 hours seven days a week. And student have all sorts of English language support and food help centre as well. You can see that academic support is actually very comprehensive and full range. What about the health and wellbeing? So not only the student has dedicated under 18 students success advisor where the advisor will constantly have a welfare check with the students. The student will also have access to the TalkCampus.

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It's an app programme where the student can talk to the buddies of similar age and also student have access to the medical and health services at UTS. And in terms of security, we have secure, we have a very secure campus and students have access to 24 7 emergency support. And our college have also designed a special programme for these under 18 students for the career advising development and education services for them. We also understand that the student really enjoyed the peer support so they can join the peer mentoring programme. They actually can get connected with the domestic students or the student from the same countries. And also they get laws or if they have questions, they can also ask our very helpful student helpers. By all this we make sure that the student have actually a very, very happy and also fulfilling student life at our campus.

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What about the accommodation? At UTS college we have collaboration with the home stays and also student residential, Scape, and also 'Special Hosts'. 'Special Hosts' mean that the student can stay with their relative and families' members. We have these options for the students. At the college we have rigorous vetting process for all the accommodation providers as well as comprehensive assessment approval process specific to the under 18 accommodation. What are we trying to achieve is to let parents and guardian can rest assure that the college prioritise the safety and wellbeing of under 18 students in terms of accommodation. Thank you Olivia. I pass it back to you to talk about their admission. Thank you.

Olivia Barnes (14:19):

So for admissions, we have academic requirements and English language requirements for the Cambridge programme as well. For students to enter the programme, they must have completed year 10 or equivalent and have good grades in academic subjects and English, as Justin has talked about, the programme is broken down into streams. We would be paying particular attention to the subjects that students had done that related to the stream they were applying for English. We're looking for students to have an IELTS of 5.5 or equivalent of course, because this is young learners, the preference may be to undertake AE English or to complete a three as well. So that's an overview. Of course more detail is available and the RPMs and your regional teams can reach out to you to give you more detailed admissions training if that's required. The fees, as I mentioned previously are \$39,000 per year.

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We appreciate this is a new programme and it's a two year programme, so we do have some scholarships available to support conversion if the students that you're seeing or the markets that you're working in would need the scholarship support students pay in the same way that they do for diploma and foundation in instalments throughout the year. And because it's a new programme and we appreciate the support that our partners will be providing us, we will be paying agent commissions for the two study periods during the Cambridge programme for the recruitment of that programme. The pricing is very comparative to private schools, although slightly below. So we've been very mindful of the programme and the incredible value that this brings to students who complete this programme.

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So describing the programme. If I was to say it in a nutshell and give you a pitch in an elevator, I would say it's an exciting and innovative way for year 10 students to study at a top a hundred university. And they have the opportunity to undertake not just the Cambridge programme, but also to really focus in on STEM or business, the areas that they're passionate about and have an

experience to study first year subjects, improve their academic English and really focus on their personal development during the two years, the two year programme. When talking to parents, I think it's really good to highlight some of the, I guess, experience that we have with students. We have 35 years of experience of preparing young students for university and of course under 18 students come into that category as well. We have very strong under 18 support wellness programmes to make sure that students are very well supported, not just academically but also through wellness programmes.

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And of course it's very important with students of this age group to make sure that parents are updated and kept across how their child is progressing, what they're doing during their study, and also to make sure that they have the principal and teachers are available to talk to them. All of these things will be available to parents who have students in the Cambridge programme. We also, although the experience the students really benefit from using the and being on the UTS campus, we really are very focused on making sure that within the college environment students have a secure and dedicated space where they'll be doing the majority of their learning so that we can make sure that it's suitable for younger students as well.

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So this is just a quick one. I know there's programmes available for parents, there's lots of options. There're private schools, there's international schools offering A Levels, of course there's some very good state schools in New South Wales that are available for international students to enrol in as well. I really feel that this programme has some very strong benefits that are unique to us and unique to the offering that we're sharing today. As I've mentioned, English language integration is a pivotal and core part of the programme. We really are going to be able to support students to really become very confident English speakers, writers, presenters. We have scholarships available to students to support you with converting students into the programme. We don't have a wait list. I've heard that private schools and a lot of the government schools are very full well into the future.

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And we have designed our programme so that we can accommodate large cohorts of international students into the programme. Of course, the STEM and business emphasis and focus is a big draw card because students have the opportunity to focus on areas that they're strong in and that they have a passion for. And of course the programme has a guaranteed pathway into a top a hundred university with the opportunity to package with a UTS degree. So students who are doing a Cambridge stream in engineering have the option to package with a bachelor of engineering and have a five year study plan once they come to Australia. I think one thing that is really unique to us as well is we have over 35 years of experience of working with international students and understanding their unique needs and challenges and also the contributions that they can make back as well. So we really will leverage that experience and we are very focused on supporting students for university success. And of course students have access to an inner city campus in the middle of Sydney, the central business district. So although we'll make sure that they're in a very nurturing and caring environment, they have an opportunity to be in a very vibrant precinct as well. So some really great advantages to this programme.

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Just a reminder that we have a lot of resources available to support you available on our portal, on our website, and in there you can find brochures, video content, social media assets. We're really happy to co-brand those or to work with you if you feel that you need support. If you need anything you need to familiarise yourself or help you with the counselling process, we can provide that. They're all available on the portal. And when we share those, that recording of this session, we'll

also include a link to that just to remind everybody where those assets are available. I can see it's just popped up in the chat. The benefits of the programme guaranteed entry into the university are for students that are graduating from year 10 access to the vibrant UTS campus, an opportunity for students to focus on their English language as they undertake their academic study and build really strong skills, interpersonal skills that will prepare them for university and also beyond and of course tailored experience for under 18 students and young learners. And we have a really good environment to support students, particularly international students that come at a younger age and students have the opportunity to study subjects they're passionate about. They can really focus in on science, technology, engineering or business applications are now open. The Cambridge programme can be applied for through study link, through our application portal. We're very excited to have this programme launched and delighted that you could join us today.

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We're happy to answer any questions. I can see if you are popping up in the chat, so I'll go through some of those. Now I have a question here for you, Justin.

Justin Chu ([22:35](#)):

Yes.

Olivia Barnes ([22:36](#)):

You turn your camera on for me. Yep. Thank you. So there's a question here about accommodation and I know that you touched on this, but will UTS college guarantee accommodation for Cambridge students that are coming into the programme?

Justin Chu ([22:53](#)):

This is a very good question and this is also our concern as well. From my understanding is once the student accept the offer, so the student will be asked to arrange the accommodation by following our specific links provided in the offer letter. The links will cover the options for home site student residential escape and also the special hosts that is the family members relative, et cetera. If students have difficulties with finding accommodation, our under 18 studies success advisor will be able to support and help in this space and they will try their best to support the process for the students.

Olivia Barnes ([23:37](#)):

Another one here, and then I'll take one, how many subjects do we have in our programme? So perhaps by an individual stream might be the best way to explain it.

Justin Chu ([23:48](#)):

Sorry, maybe when I go through the slide, I actually ran through quite very quickly. As each student is required to undertake four subjects, let me give an example. For example, if you study science, so you take mathematics, chemistry, biology, and computer science, these four subjects, and then in A Level you'd actually choose the best subjects, three subjects based on your AS results and also according to your interests as well. We actually think that you will give you intense interests based on your interest and based on your official destination and choose the best subjects for you.

Olivia Barnes ([24:28](#)):

Thank you. There's a question here which I will answer. Can the UTS Cambridge programme be packaged with a UTS degree and will UTS college issue packaged COEs? Yes, the Cambridge programme, the two-year programme can be packaged with a UTS degree and the ability to choose the UTS degree is enabled in study link. So when counselling students, the degrees can be selected at that point in time as well. And yes, there'll be a packaged to ECOE, so an ECOE for the Cambridge programme and an ECOE for the UTS degree. There was a question earlier about the student visas and school visas. Cambridge, our Cambridge programme is not a CRICOS registered school programme. It's a non-A award programme, so it's packaged with a UTS degree and if packaged with a UTS degree, it's a higher education visa. So if it's a packaged, packaged offer. So hopefully that answers that question. There may be a few more around this, so we're always happy to pick those up with an RPM offline as well. Justin, I have another question here for you around the difference between the Cambridge a-level programme and the foundation programme. So how would you explain the difference between those two programmes?

Justin Chu ([25:55](#)):

Yeah, sure. In terms of the length of the programme. The chemistry level as you know, is actually two years programme. They are typically taken by student at the age of 16, who has completed year 10 in high school. While our foundation studies is a one year programme and provide students who have already completed year 11 and then the programme itself for A Levels, the student can actually drill down to four subjects in a S and continue three subjects in their second year. The A Levels while in a foundation programme is more the English mathematics and some of the academic subjects to prepare students for further study as s. What is a more important difference for the Cambridge A Levels is that the Cambridge A Levels programme is internationally recognised pre university qualifications. While you can imagine that the UTS foundation studies more specific for our UTS bachelor programme. And the third difference is the Cambridge A Levels programme that we designed is more targeted on the popular STEM and commerce stream. Which is actually popular among students is also what the industry and also what the industry needs and what the student future career will be about. We think that the Cambridge A Levels programme will be more popular for students who want to mature fast in a quick way, mature and also have an all-around development because we have the Berg Award as well. It's very different from the UTS foundation studies.

Olivia Barnes ([27:46](#)):

Justin, I'll keep you here because I've got another one for you, but I'll just jump in and answer a question. There's this question here, can students use the Cambridge qualification to apply for universities in the UK or in other countries outside Australia? So absolutely, the Cambridge qualification that students will receive from us is the same as they would receive regardless of where they were studying. They can use that qualification to apply for global universities. It's globally recognised. Justin, is there an English package available for students who study the Cambridge programme?

Justin Chu ([28:21](#)):

Yes, before they start the Cambridge, the student will be able to undertake a special block of the AE academic English level three before they start the Cambridge. It will be able to package with the AE three plus the Cambridge programme.

Olivia Barnes ([28:41](#)):

Thank you. There is a question here which I will answer, but you can jump in if I've missed anything. What do the fees include for Cambridge? So the Cambridge fees include English language, so the AE4 and AE5, they include the four first year university subjects. They include of course the Cambridge programme and all the exam fees and anything that comes to do with Cambridge. They also include the face-to-face teaching hours and students will become part of the Duke of Edinburgh, which is part of the professional development programme. So of course, their registration fees for that programme are included. And we also have some inclusions in the phase for field trips and activities that contribute to students learning experience as well. It really is a very robust and a very valuable programme that students are participating in. I know that we are, we're out of time.

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We will keep the chat open, keep it open for another 10 or 15 minutes for anyone who wants to stay online and chat with our team. We have quite a few people answering questions, so please if you feel like your questions haven't been answered by Justin and I feel free to drop them into the chat and the team will respond to those in the next few minutes. Partner managers will reach out to you to arrange some more detailed training, answer any questions you have on the programme, and of course recording of this session will also be shared so you can rewatch it or share it with your teams if they weren't able to participate. I'd like to say thank you to everybody, our presenters, and also most importantly our attendees. Thank you so much for taking the time to attend and learn more about the UTS Cambridge Accelerator programme and we are really excited to welcome students into the programme in 2025. Thank you very much. Goodbye.