



Nº1

The UK's Number One
Summer School

COURSE OVERVIEW

English Pathways

14-17yrs

📍 Dukes Cambridge Summer School



At a glance

Introduction to English Pathways

The English Pathways programme at Cambridge is designed for students who want to strengthen their communication skills and confidence in English. Whether your aim is academic study, professional growth, or everyday fluency, the course builds the language tools needed to succeed. Through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, you'll practise using English in realistic contexts while also exploring topics that connect with university life and global issues.

Academic Content

20 hours of subject-specific academic content per week with an experienced subject tutor, delivered through interactive seminars and hands-on practical workshops.

English Language Level

Students require a minimum English level of B1+ to enrol onto this programme.





About the programme

English Pathways gives you two weeks to improve your language skills through engaging, practical work. You'll build vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation while also focusing on academic writing, discussion skills, and presentation techniques. Lessons connect language learning with real-world tasks – writing articles, preparing interviews, or giving talks – so you can immediately apply what you learn.

Collaboration is central. You'll work in pairs and groups to solve problems, create projects, and share ideas, gaining confidence in using English with others. Activities are varied and interactive, from debates and role-plays to reading and analysing texts that reflect real academic settings.

The programme also prepares you for future study. You'll learn strategies for note-taking, essay planning, and structuring arguments in English, all of which are essential for success at university. By the end of the course, you will have developed your fluency, accuracy, and confidence, ready to use English more effectively in academic, professional, and social settings.





Key Learning Outcomes



1.

Strengthen Core Language Skills

Improve accuracy and fluency across reading, writing, listening, and speaking, building a stronger foundation in both academic and practical English.

2.

Apply English in Real-World Contexts

Use projects, discussions, and presentations to practise how English is applied in study, work, and everyday life.

3.

Develop Analytical and Critical Skills

Learn how to interpret texts, structure arguments, and evaluate information, strengthening your ability to think critically in English.

4.

Build Communication and Teamwork

Collaborate on group projects, practise presenting ideas, and work with peers from around the world, developing confidence in cross-cultural communication.





Subject Theme

The Challenge Lab

The Cambridge Challenge Lab gives students the chance to turn ideas into action. Over the course of the challenge, you'll take what you've learned in class – concepts, theories, and creative approaches – and put them to the test. Each subject sets its own challenge: scientists run live demos, medics work through clinic simulations, psychologists design social experiments, business students act as consultants, and artists create large-scale installations. English students launch a full publication, taking on the roles of writers, editors, and designers. The Lab becomes a space where experimentation meets presentation, where you'll learn how to move from planning to execution, and from individual thinking to group collaboration. The week culminates in a showcase where projects are demonstrated, performed, or displayed in real time, allowing the audience to see the full journey from theory to practice.





Fundamental concepts

This subject builds confidence in using English for real communication. Students work on the core skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, but always through practical tasks. The focus is on expressing ideas clearly, understanding others, and using language in a way that feels natural in academic and social settings.

English Pathways Frameworks

Lessons are project-based. Each week students work towards a shared outcome – for example, a short magazine, a live presentation, or a debate. Along the way, they practise vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation in context. Activities are designed to feel close to real use: interviews, surveys, note-taking, or preparing scripts.

Foundational Vocabulary

Vocabulary, grammar, fluency, accuracy, register, pronunciation, coherence, audience, expression, comprehension.





Time to Shine

Time to Shine gives every student the chance to practise public speaking in a structured setting. By researching, preparing and delivering a project to an audience, you build confidence in expressing ideas clearly and develop the ability to present with authority. It's an opportunity to refine communication skills that are valuable for academic study, professional life and beyond.

In keeping with the Challenge Lab theme, the final showcase highlights English as a tool for communication and collaboration. Students don't just practise language – they use it to present a finished project in front of an audience. The emphasis is on clarity, teamwork, and confidence, mirroring the way university students must present their ideas in seminars, tutorials, and group work.





Time to Shine Project: Week One

Produce a mini-publication based on the Challenge Lab experience. Students gather short reports, interviews, and reflections on the week's experiments and activities, then edit them into a magazine or newspaper. At the showcase, the finished publication is launched and shared with the audience, giving English learners the role of reporters of the Lab itself.

Time to Shine Project: Week Two

Deliver a group presentation themed around "big ideas for the future". Each student contributes a short section – introducing a problem, explaining a possible solution, or giving a personal perspective. The group structure mirrors the collaborative format of the Challenge Lab and allows students to practise formal spoken English in an academic-style presentation.





Case Study

Bridging Theory and Real World Application

Strong English skills open doors in almost every area of study and work. In business, teams use English to share reports, write proposals, and pitch to international clients. In science and medicine, researchers publish papers and present findings at global conferences. In media, English is often the language of news, film, and digital content that reaches worldwide audiences. Even in politics and law, speeches, agreements, and debates frequently take place in English on the international stage. By practising projects linked to the Challenge Lab – publishing, presenting, and reporting – students experience the same kinds of communication that connect people and ideas across many different fields.





Fieldwork Research

Groups explore the Cambridge environment, noting language in use around them – from signage and notices to public information displays. They then compare these examples with their own writing, learning how English is adapted for different audiences in daily life.





Academic Difficulty

No prior experience is needed to take part in this subject. Every student is welcome, whether or not they've studied the subject before. Key ideas and terms are introduced step by step, and all materials are provided during the course. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and curiosity, so students can contribute fully and grow in confidence as they prepare for the final showcase.





Certificate of Achievement & Reference Letter

On completion of your programme, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement from Dukes Cambridge, recognising the knowledge and skills developed during your studies. A personalised Letter of Reference is also available on request, providing an account of your progress and commitment. Both serve as valuable additions to your academic portfolio.





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