

even AIM HIGHER

‘Studying for Advanced Highers developed my study and research skills’

Hanna Weibye



Hanna Weibye left St Margaret’s School in Edinburgh having achieved six Highers and three Advanced Highers all at ‘A’ grade. She loves languages and knew from an early age that this is what she wanted to study. Her heart was set on continuing her education at Cambridge University and she was delighted that her three Advanced Highers, in English, French and German, met the University’s entry requirements.

When Hanna was invited for interview, she was concerned this would be a daunting experience. ‘In fact’, she says, ‘it was the exact opposite – everyone was really friendly and put me at my ease immediately. I really enjoyed the discussions that took place and came away from the interview convinced I had made the right choice and hoping that my application would be successful.’ Hanna’s application did prove to be successful and the University offered her a place to study French and German.

Cambridge University welcomes applicants with Scottish qualifications. However, they do not normally make offers on the basis of Highers alone. Cambridge would usually expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of 4 A grades at Higher, plus Advanced Highers, with offers normally being based on AAB in three Advanced Highers.

STUDENT:

Hanna Weibye

ADVANCED HIGHERS:

English, French and German

HOME TOWN:

Edinburgh

UNIVERSITY:

Cambridge

DEGREE:

French & German

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In addition to meeting these entry requirements, Hanna found that achieving Advanced Highers helped prepare her for her University studies. She says, 'Studying for Advanced Highers developed my study skills, my research skills and helped me get into the way of writing essays. I wasn't thrown at all by the teaching style at Cambridge because this is what I had been exposed to with Advanced Highers.'

Hanna feels that Advanced Higher courses, although challenging, are well structured. 'The internal assessments can really motivate students by showing them how they are doing and making them feel confident about the examination itself' she says. Hanna also recognises the significant role of her teachers at school, particularly her German teacher who was a great source of inspiration to her.

Hanna is now thoroughly enjoying her course and finds the tutorial system used at Cambridge to be particularly productive. As part of her degree, she spent a successful year in Austria working in a school as an English language assistant. Her future plans include undertaking a postgraduate qualification.

When asked what advice she would offer to those thinking of applying to university, Hanna replied, 'Aim really high – you've nothing to lose by applying to Cambridge.'