

# even AIM HIGHER

**‘Advanced Highers were ideal preparation for university study’**

**Sarah Henderson**



Sarah Henderson is passionate about History and always knew she wanted to study the subject at University. At Dumfries High School, Sarah achieved six Highers and three Advanced Highers, English, German and History, all at ‘A’ grade.

Sarah applied to study History at university, with Cambridge being her first choice. She feels that her achievements at Advanced Higher level were critical to the success of her application. She was attracted to Cambridge by the opportunity to be taught by leading academics in small tutorial groups.

Sarah says the application process wasn’t as stressful as she thought it would be.

‘I thought that when I came down for the interview, I would feel like a fish out of water — but it wasn’t like that at all. I actually enjoyed the interview!’.

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:

**Sarah Henderson**

ADVANCED HIGHERS:

**English, German and History**

HOME TOWN:

**Dumfries**

UNIVERSITY:

**Cambridge**

DEGREE:

**History**

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'Advanced Highers were ideal preparation for university study' says Sarah. 'I really learned to work independently and developed my writing skills.' She adds, 'In Advanced Higher History, I really enjoyed the opportunity to write a dissertation — this was a real challenge and got me into the habit of doing research and lots of extra reading which was a taster of how it would be at university.'

Sarah's course at Cambridge is certainly meeting her expectations. She particularly enjoys the flexible approach to studying and finds her tutors truly inspirational. She is beginning to consider her future plans and would like to get into a graduate programme, possibly in the voluntary sector. Sarah is also thinking of going back to take a Masters degree, sometime in the future.

Sarah is happy to offer the following advice to potential university students: 'Don't dismiss the idea of applying to Oxbridge — give it a go! Above all, choose your course based on your passion for the subject area.'