

Written evidence submitted by Christian Education Europe Ltd

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

OF ICCE/NCSC ALUMNI

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INTRODUCTION

Young people have been studying using Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) materials across Europe for over 25 years. A survey has been carried out to gather information about the academic outcomes of students who have used these materials. This report summarises the responses to the survey.

BACKGROUND ON A.C.E.-BASED CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

The International Certificate of Christian Education (ICCE) is a certification scheme for students who have studied using A.C.E. materials. Various certificates are awarded by the scheme which reflect different levels and types of learning. The certificates which are currently offered are below. The Academic Certificates are indicated by an asterisk:

- Vocational
- Foundation
- Basic
- General*
- Intermediate*
- Advanced*
- Advanced Higher (*formerly Advanced Plus*)*

ICCE exists to provide a qualification for students on the A.C.E. programme that satisfies the requirements for tertiary studies and employment.

The vision of ICCE is:

To provide a quality exit qualification that is accepted internationally by education authorities, tertiary institutions and employers, and produces graduates who are assets to their communities and ambassadors for Christ.

The A.C.E. programme is flexible and may be used in many settings: in schools, for homeschooling and for remedial help. The mastery learning methodology that underpins the curriculum allows students to master each step before moving on to the next. Each subject is divided into self-instructional units (PACEs) that students complete through self-study, receiving assistance only when needed.

The A.C.E. programme is a learning-based and not a teaching-based system. Thus, the student is responsible for their own learning, and the supervisor does not teach so much as facilitate the process. Students must master each unit before they may continue to the next.

The minimum score required to pass is 80%. Therefore, students progressively move from one PACE to the next only once all the prescribed work is complete and the summative assessment is passed. There are several opportunities for both formal and informal formative assessments during the completion of the unit. It may take more or less than an academic year to complete a level as progress is at the student's individual rate and according to their performance level. Learning is the constant, and time is the variable.

ICCE began as the National Christian Schools Certificate (NCSC) in response to the need for an alternative to the secular examination system in the UK for students on the Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) programme. It soon became clear that the need also existed in countries outside the UK. Several countries in Africa began to use the NCSC. To capture both the national and international scope of the NCSC and its use by school and home-school students, the NCSC was renamed the International Certificate of Christian Education (ICCE) in 2004.

The ICCE Academic Certificates were benchmarked by UK NARIC in 2007 (then called NARIC) and 2011. The UK NARIC study undertook a comparative analysis of the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and the ICCE qualifications in terms of content and learning outcomes, programme delivery and the relative effectiveness of the quality assurance processes.

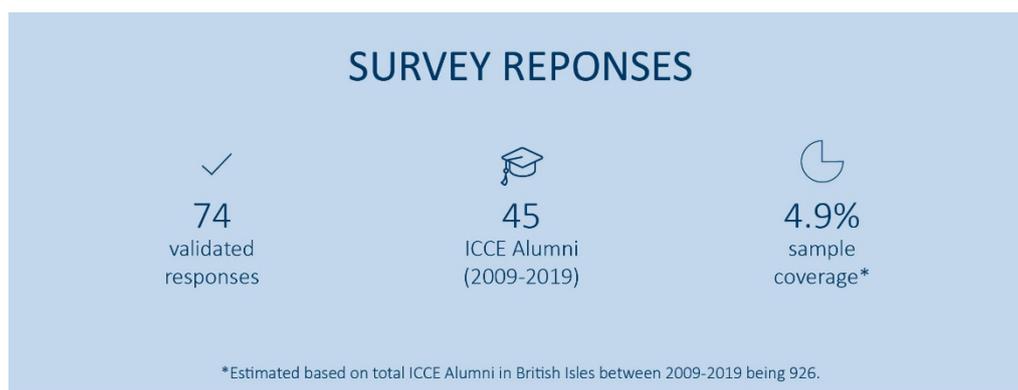
The outcome of the UK NARIC studies, in both instances, reported that the ICCE Advanced Certificate is comparable to Cambridge International Examinations Advanced level (A level) standard and that the General Certificate is comparable to Cambridge International Examinations Ordinary level (O level) standard.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY & SAMPLE

A wide range of students have been invited to describe their academic outcomes by completing a survey. Each response to the survey is traceable to the individual respondent, although not all respondents have given their permission for their personal details to be published.

The responses to the survey have been validated against the list of NCSC/ICCE alumni held by ICCE Ltd., and only corroborated results have been analysed and presented. Background statistical data (e.g. number of certificates awarded) is drawn from records held by ICCE Ltd. Alumni have completed ICCE certification programmes at various levels, but this report focuses on the outcomes at university of those who have achieved Academic Certificates. Other alumni have gone on to apprenticeships or entered employment. All of the alumni within this sample were located in the British Isles for at least part of the time while they were studying. (Additional responses from students from other locations are welcome.)

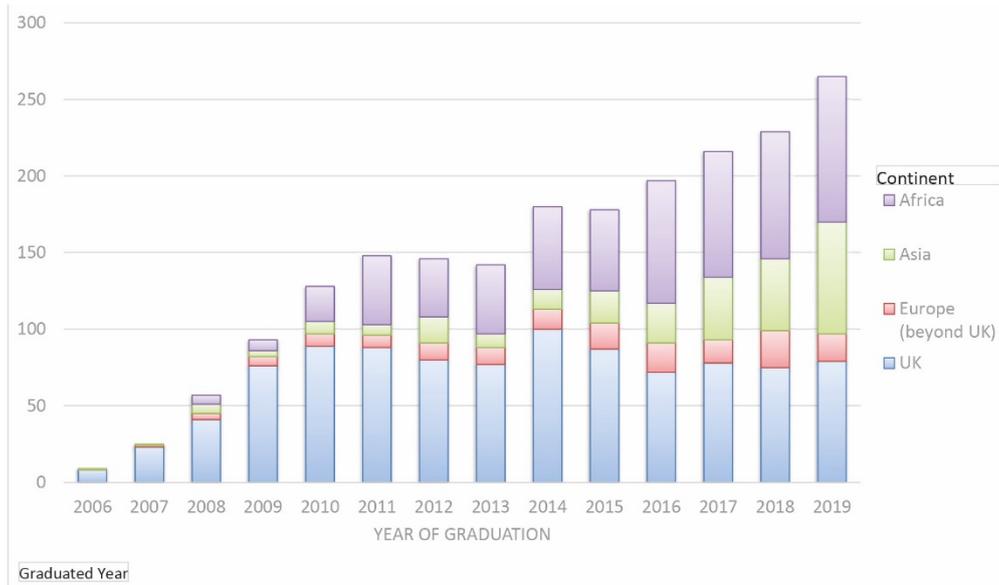
Some details of the sample size and composition are given below to provide an overview.



BACKGROUND STATISTICAL DATA

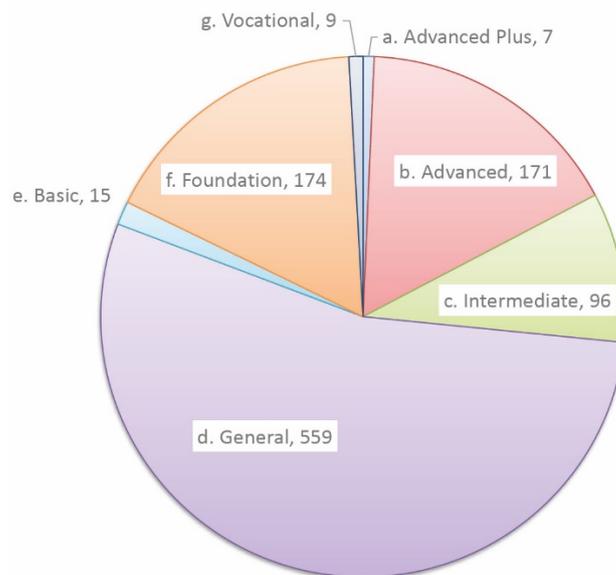
NUMBER OF ICCE ALUMNI

This chart shows the number of alumni worldwide who have been awarded an ICCE certificate.



ICCE ALUMNI IN THE BRITISH ISLES (2006-2019)

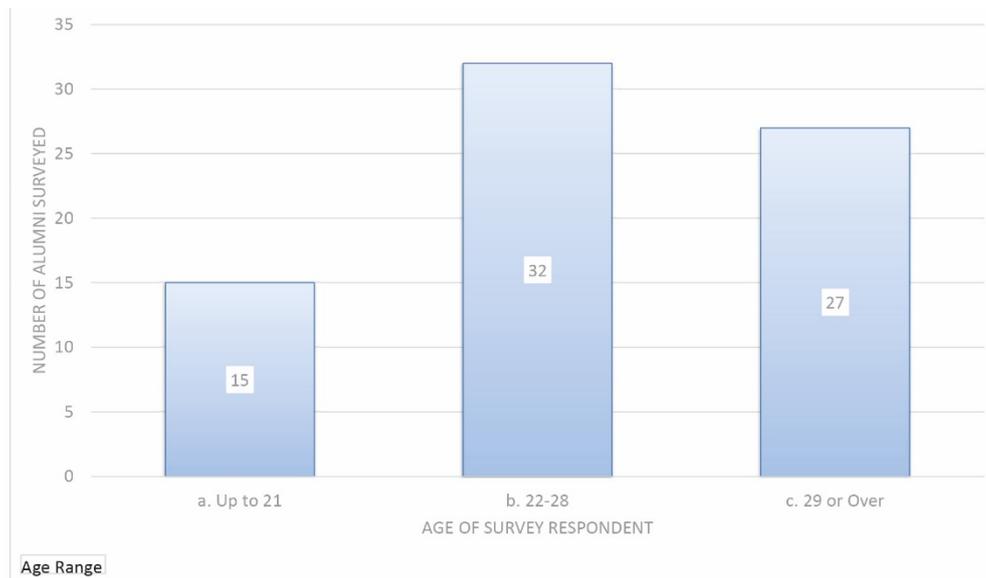
This chart illustrates the proportion of students awarded the various certificates of the ICCE scheme.



SURVEY RESULTS

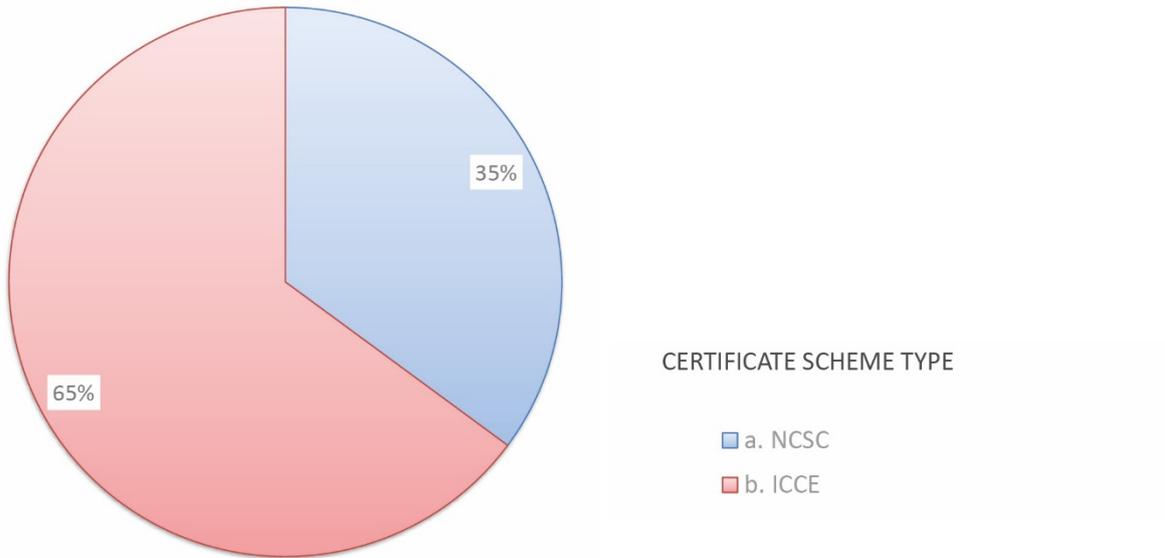
NUMBER & AGE OF NCSC/ICCE ALUMNI SURVEYED

This chart shows the age range of students who have responded to the survey



CERTIFICATION SCHEME BREAKDOWN

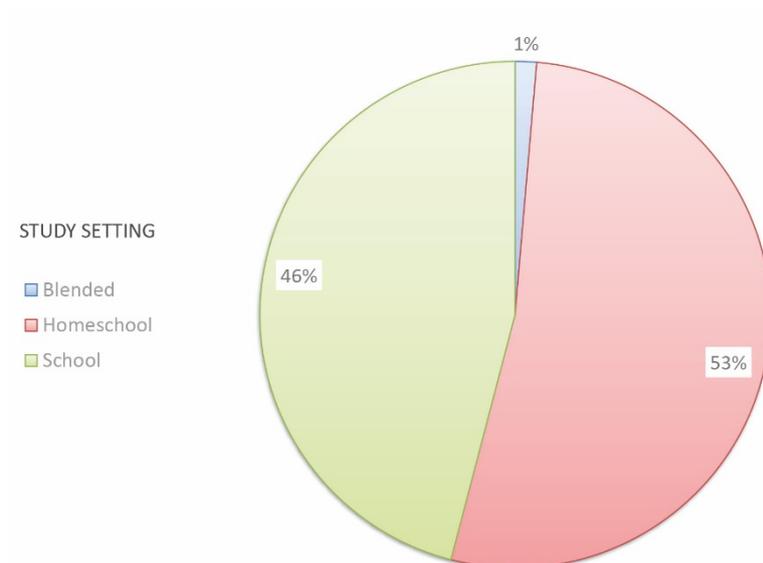
This chart shows the proportion of respondents who studied within the NCSC or ICCE certification schemes



SURVEY RESULTS (CONT.)

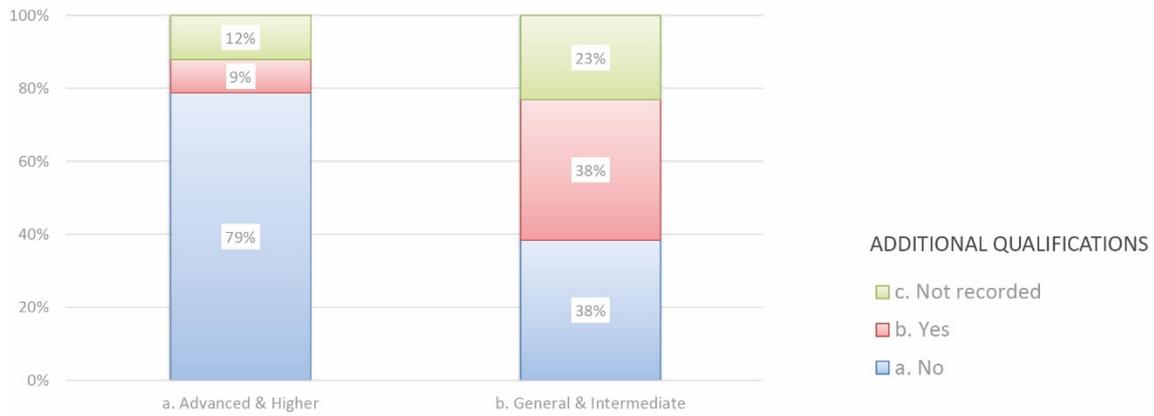
STUDY SETTING

This chart shows the proportion of respondents who studied at home compared to those at a Christian school



ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED?

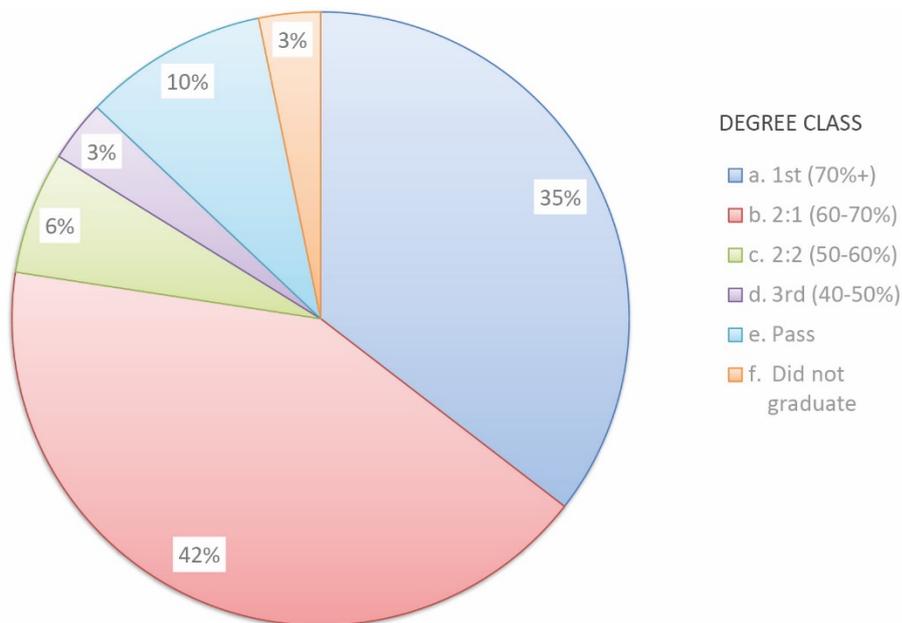
This chart illustrates how often additional qualifications were required, beyond the NCSC/ICCE certificate attained, to obtain entry to university.



SURVEY RESULTS (CONT.)

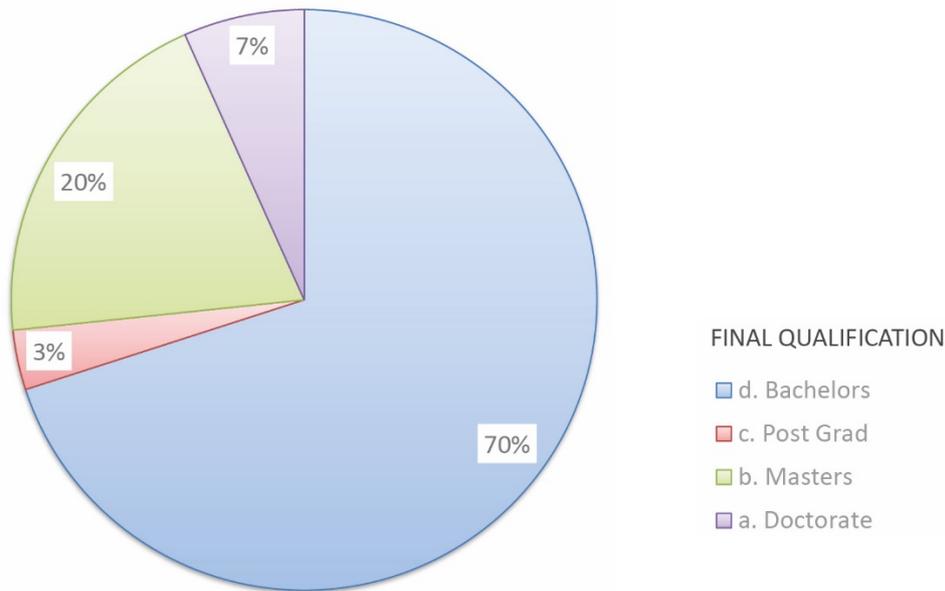
DEGREE CLASS OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

This chart shows the degree class earned by various students.



FINAL QUALIFICATION VS. NCSC/ICCE CERTIFICATE LEVEL

This chart shows the final qualifications of NCSC/ICCE alumni.



ONGOING

This is not the only survey of this type; notably Dr J Rousseau made a study of 438 South African A.C.E. alumni in 2011.

Further responses are welcome from those who have studied using A.C.E. materials within the framework of the NCSC or ICCE certification programmes.

The data capture method for this analysis is an online survey tool.

Additional information relating to ICCE and the associated A.C.E. educational materials may be found at:

www.icce.education

www.christian.education

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