



CHARTERHOUSE

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ADMISSION STATISTICS

(REVISED APRIL 2020 TO REFLECT OXFORD ADMISSIONS STATS FOR 2020 APPLICATION CYCLE INCLUDING INFORMATION ON ADMISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT)



Cambridge University Undergraduate Admissions Statistics 2019 cycle (2020 not yet available)

These statistics refer to applications made from September 2018 onwards for admission to courses starting in October 2019 or by deferred entry to courses starting in October 2020.

	Total Applications	Total offers	Offer rate
Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic	60	36	0.60
Archaeology	58	34	0.59
Architecture	455	68	0.15
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	143	68	0.48
Chemical Engineering via Engineering	158	24	0.15
Chemical Engineering via Natural Sciences	214	25	0.12
Classics	134	81	0.60
Classics (4 yrs)	57	29	0.51
Computer Science	1330	140	0.11
Economics	1143	190	0.17
Education	153	61	0.40
Engineering	2092	379	0.18
English	766	233	0.30
Geography	297	131	0.44
History	616	222	0.36
History and Modern Languages	92	30	0.33
History and Politics	223	60	0.27
History of Art	122	33	0.27
Human, Social and Political Sciences	1089	245	0.22
Land Economy	314	75	0.24
Law	1498	296	0.20
Linguistics	100	40	0.40
Maths	1518	541	0.36
Medicine	1584	340	0.21
Modern and medieval languages	417	198	0.47
Music	172	89	0.52
Natural Sciences	2708	716	0.26
Philosophy	251	57	0.23
Psychological and behavioural science	527	110	0.21
Theology, religion and philosophy of religion	124	59	0.48
Veterinary Medicine	392	96	0.24
Total	18807	4706	0.25

Summary

- The total number of applications was 18,807 (18,378), an increase of 2.3%.
- *The total number of offers was 4,706 (4,559), an increase of 3.2%.*
- The number of applications per offer was 4.0.
- The five most popular courses, in order of number of applicants: Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Maths and Law accounted for 50% of total applications.

Cambridge are keen to stress that the admissions process involves a strong element of cross-College moderation. Directors of Studies in each subject meet during the admissions period to discuss the overall standard of applications so they can see how their own College's applicants compare, and through the pool system they can ensure, as far as possible, that applicants in a given year are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by the level of applications to their chosen/allocated College.

Oxford University Undergraduate Admissions Statistics and Information on Admissions by Department for 2020 cycle



These statistics refer to applications made from September 2019 onwards for admission to courses starting in October 2020 or by deferred entry to courses starting in October 2021.

Subject	No of Applicants	Offers made	Offer rate	Shortlisted	Shortlisted rate
Biochemistry	707	119	0.17	335	0.47
Biology	739	141	0.19	369	0.50
Chemistry	774	230	0.30	630	0.81
Classical Archaeology and Ancient History	85	31	0.36	79	0.93
Classics course 1 (LH1)	182	73	0.40	165	0.91
Classics course 2 (LH2)	73	43	0.59	70	0.96
Classics with oriental studies course 1	8	6	0.75	8	1.00
Classics with oriental studies course 2	7	2	0.29	5	0.71
Classics with modern languages course 1	13	4	0.31	10	0.77
Classics with modern languages course 2	10	3	0.30	9	0.90
Classics and English course 1	16	6	0.38	16	1.00
Classics and English course 2	27	10	0.37	27	1.00
Computer Science	682	44	0.06	126	0.18
Mathematics and CS	505	49	0.10	118	0.23
CS & Philosophy	174	17	0.10	42	0.24
Engineering	1156	210	0.18	443	0.38
English	899	258	0.29	609	0.68
History	1053	287	0.27	721	0.68
Ancient and modern history	100	20	0.20	72	0.72
History and economics	170	17	0.10	63	0.37
History and english	119	14	0.12	57	0.48
History and modern languages	110	27	0.25	91	0.83
History and politics	427	53	0.12	185	0.43
Law	1536	236	0.15	596	0.39
Law Studies in Europe	292	30	0.10	114	0.39
Mathematics	1828	206	0.11	559	0.31
Mathematics and statistics	230	12	0.05	33	0.14
Mathematics and philosophy	119	20	0.17	55	0.46
Medicine	1766	170	0.10	425	0.24
Modern Languages					
Czech	7	5	0.71	6	0.86
French	428	174	0.41	397	0.93
Beginners German	27	12	0.44	25	0.93
German	148	142	0.96	72	0.49
Italian	111	40	0.36	98	0.88
Modern Greek	3	2	0.67	3	1.00
Polish	2	1	0.50	2	1.00
Portugueses	36	18	0.50	33	0.92
Beginners Russian	34	13	0.38	30	0.88
Russian	28	13	0.46	21	0.75
Spanish	307	86	0.28	264	0.86
Music	185	85	0.46	152	0.82
Physics	1828	211	0.12	497	0.27
PPE	2229	271	0.12	738	0.33
Experimental Psychology	500	71	0.14	156	0.31
Philosophy and Linguistics	26	6	0.23	11	0.42
Psychology and Linguistics	85	18	0.21	28	0.33
Psychology and Philosophy	149	15	0.10	40	0.27
Total	19940	3521	0.18	8605	0.43

Summary

- The total number of applications was 19,940 (21,515), a decrease of 7.9%.
- The total number of offers was 3,521 (3,840), a decrease of 9.0%.
- The number of applications per offer was 5.7
- The five most popular courses, in order of number of applicants: PPE, Maths, Physics, Medicine, Law accounted for 46% of total applications.

Oxford are keen to emphasize that the probability of admission should not depend on the applicant's choice of college. Departments therefore use a reallocation process in which candidates are transferred from Colleges with a large ratio of candidates per place to Colleges with a smaller ratio. This ensures that the number of short-listed candidates per place is approximately constant across the collegiate University, ensuring that all strong candidates have the same chance of obtaining places at Oxford, although possibly not at their first choice Colleges.

See Appendix A for details of admissions by department.

Appendix A – Summary of Oxford Admissions by Department (Source Oxford University)

See the following link [Oxford Admissions Feedback](#) for the full report

Biochemistry

This year there were 694 applicants across the University for direct entry (a decrease of 45 on the previous year) and 13 for deferred entry to study Biochemistry. We had 98 places available for entry next year and made 98 college offers, 20 open offers (where a University place is guaranteed if the conditions are achieved but the College place will be allocated in August) and 1 offer for deferred entry.

The Departmental policy is that conditional offers should normally be set at A*AA at A2-level with the A* in a science or maths, or the equivalent. As in previous years the UCAS forms of all applicants were read and graded centrally, by the Biochemistry Department, prior to short-listing (we aim to shortlist approximately 3 applicants per place); all short-listed applicants who could come to Oxford were interviewed at two colleges; the applicants were ranked according to their UCAS and both interview grades; and the final decisions were made at a meeting of all College tutors. Of the 707 applicants, 335 applicants were short-listed. Of these, 330 received an overall grade of 4.5 or better out of 7 (with 4 being “worth careful consideration” and 5 being “worth a place if one is available”) and 287 received an overall grade above 5, so being made an offer of a place is a very considerable achievement.

Biology

In the 2019/20 admissions round there were 739 applications for Biology, which was an increase of 39 on the previous year. This included 17 deferred applications for 2021 entry to the course. 128 candidates made an open application, i.e. they did not choose a college when they applied. There were 100 places available for 2020 entry to the course, meaning there were 7.39 applications per available place.

Of the 739 applications received, 457 (61.8%) were home applicants, 64 (8.7%) were EU applicants and 218 (29.5%) were overseas applicants. 472 (64%) applications were from female candidates and 267 (36%) were from male applicants. 369 applicants (50%) were shortlisted for interview.

After interviews took place, 139 college offers were made, including 33 open offers (where a place is guaranteed if the offer conditions are achieved but the college place will be allocated in August). In addition to this 2 deferred offers were made for entry to the course in 2021. In total 19% of applicants received an offer.

The standard offer for Biology is A*AA, at A level, including Biology plus Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics and with the A* in a Science or a Mathematics (or equivalent). There was variation in the remaining A level subject(s) taken by A level applicants – some shortlisted applicants held Biology plus two or more of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. For other candidates, the third subject included Geography, English Literature, Psychology, History, Physical Education, Computer Science, French, Geology, Economics and Politics.

Prior to shortlisting, a team of Biology tutors reviewed the applications as a gathered field and made interview recommendations to all other Biology tutors involved in admissions. As part of this assessment, performance at GCSE and equivalent or other qualifications that had already been attained were evaluated, plus school type and the various measures and indicators on the UCAS forms were taken into account. Of the 369 candidates who were shortlisted, 285 (62% of those who applied) were home applicants, 28 (44%) were EU applicants and 56 (26%) were overseas applicants.

Of those shortlisted for interview, 243 (52% of those who applied) were female and 126 (47%) were male. This year, after shortlisting had taken place, more applicants were redistributed to a new college so that all colleges had a similar number of interviewees per available place. All shortlisted candidates were then allocated a second college and again each college had approximately the same number of applicants to consider per available place. All shortlisted applicants were invited to attend interview at each of the two colleges.

Although the content of interviews may vary between interviewing panels, all interviewers asked detailed questions about subjects, objects or written/graphic material that the interviewees are not expected to recognise or have studied before. The candidate's Personal Statement was also often discussed.

Of the 141 offers that were made, 119 were home applicants (26% of home Biology applicants were successful), 11 were EU applicants (17% of EU Biology applicants were successful) and 11 were overseas applicants (5% of overseas Biology applicants were successful). 89 offers were made to female candidates (19% of female applicants were successful) and 52 were made to male candidates (19.5% of male applicants were successful). Two candidates have been put forward as Opportunity Oxford candidates.

The average number of GCSEs taken by shortlisted candidates who took GCSEs was 10.1 (average for all applicants who took GCSEs is 9.9). As well as considering GCSE results, a candidate's GCSE performance relative to their school was also considered (sometimes known as 'contextual GCSE' or 'cGCSE' score). In general, successful candidates had performed better than unsuccessful candidates

relative to their schools – the average cGCSE score for all applicants was 0.28, for shortlisted applicants was 0.62, and for successful applicants was 0.69.

Chemistry

Summary

In total 774 (637 last year) applications were received in 2019 for Chemistry. Of these 630 (596 last year) applicants were shortlisted for interviews. In all 230 (221 last year) offers were made, including open offers. To even out the chances of admission between Colleges 60 shortlisted applicants had their first-assigned Colleges reallocated and 100 shortlisted applicants had their second-assigned Colleges reallocated.

The school backgrounds of those given offers are as follows:

State school: 135 (59%)

Independent school: 57(25%)

Other (including unknown): 38 (17%)

The gender breakdown of those given offers is as follows:

Female: 90 (39%)

Male: 140 (61%)

Throughout the process all UCAS forms, contextual information, application and interview grades were easily accessible to all College tutors involved via a web-based database.

Shortlisting

Shortlisting was performed by the Chemistry Admissions Coordinators and the College tutors in accordance with the stated admissions criteria (<http://admissions.chem.ox.ac.uk/admissionscriteria.aspx>), based on all available and relevant data: in particular these data include all aspects of the applicant's UCAS form and any further relevant contextual data specific to the application.

Interviews

All shortlisted applicants were invited to Oxford for interviews around mid-December.

Each applicant had a first-assigned College. This was either the College to which they applied or a College assigned by the Admissions Office or by the Admissions Coordinator in such a way as to even out the competition for places across Colleges. Each applicant was also assigned a second College by an algorithm in order to equalise across Colleges the interview load per place ratio.

During their time in Oxford, applicants had at least two interviews at their first-assigned College, and may have also been interviewed by their second-assigned College and other Colleges. Interviews were academic in nature. Applicant performance was judged according to the admissions criteria. The interviews were graded on a scale of 0 to 9 against agreed descriptors. All shortlisted applicants in the most disadvantaged band who were predicted to achieve the standard offer were interviewed at two separate Colleges.

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

This year the Faculty of Classics at the University of Oxford had 85 applicants for Classical Archaeology and Ancient History this year, one of whom subsequently withdrew. The application process involves careful evaluation of several aspects of the applicant's profile: written work, personal statement, teacher reference, past and predicted exam performance and, for those invited to interview, interview. Contextual data was taken into account at every stage of the process.

Five candidates were not shortlisted for interview, on the basis of the criteria set out at <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/admissions-criteria-classical-archaeology-ancient-history>.

Interviews were conducted at the colleges to which the candidate applied or been allocated, with a small amount of redistribution before interviews so as to relieve oversubscribed colleges and maximize candidates' chances of admission. After first college interviews, around 40 additional interviews were arranged, to give candidates the best chance of being placed. 79 applicants were interviewed (i.e. 85 minus 1 (withdrawn) minus 5 (not shortlisted) candidates), and 31 offers were made on the basis of the published criteria (<https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/admissionscriteria-classical-archaeology-ancient-history>), with a ratio of 2.7 applicants to offers, and a ratio of 2.5 interviewed candidates to offers.

Computer Science
Mathematics and Computer Science
Computer Science and Philosophy

The number of applications for each subject was as follows, with changes in comparison with the 2018 admissions round.

	Applications		Shortlisted		Places offered	
Computer Science	682	-1%	126	-11%	44	-17%
Mathematics & CS	505	+17%	118	+9%	49	+9%
CS & Philosophy	174	+17%	42	-5%	17	+13%
Total	1,361	+7%	286	-3%	10	-3%

Computer Science applications were stable this year following an exceptional increase last year, but applications in the two joint schools continued to grow. The relative numbers of places offered in Computer Science and in Mathematics and Computer Science returned to the normal pattern. Applications continue to outstrip the number of places, and as a result many very able candidates were not offered a place.

Shortlisting

In the light of the competition for places, the purpose of shortlisting is to identify those applicants who are most likely to succeed in the rest of the selection process, giving interviewers time to consider each shortlisted candidate carefully. The number of shortlisted candidates was therefore restricted to slightly less than three for each quota place.

Shortlisting was performed in accordance with the stated admissions criteria. All applicants are expected to sit the Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT) prior to shortlisting, including questions designed to assess aptitude for Computer Science. Details of the test and several past papers and specimen papers with solutions can be found online.

Tutors are guided by a statistically validated score derived from the MAT and the number of A* grades achieved by those candidates taking GCSEs, and exercise discretion within thresholds determined for each degree subject by the subject coordinator. They take into account all information from the UCAS form and any relevant contextual information such as educational background. Shortlisting decisions are reviewed by the subject coordinator in order to ensure consistency between colleges.

Interviews

All shortlisted candidates are invited to Oxford for interview in mid-December, on dates advertised by the University in advance. Each candidate is associated with a first college, either of their choosing, or selected for them in a way that aims to even out the competition for places across the colleges. Each candidate is also associated with a second college chosen randomly with the same aim.

During their time in Oxford, candidates are interviewed by both their first and second colleges, and may be invited to further interviews at other colleges. Applicants for joint degrees are typically given separate interviews in the two subjects. Interviews are academic and subject-focussed in nature. The applicant's performance in each interview is judged according to the admissions criteria, codified on a numeric scale against agreed descriptors, and shared among all tutors involved in admissions, together with the candidates' UCAS forms and their test results.

The colleges use various procedures in a coordinated effort to ensure that the strongest candidates are admitted across the University irrespective of the college considering their application. These include complete transparency of all information gained about each candidate, supported by an online information system, and a final meeting where the strongest unplaced candidates are identified and open offers are agreed.

Typically around 30% of offers made come from a college other than the candidate's first college, or are open offers (meaning that the candidate is offered a place at Oxford at a college that will be determined in August).

Classics

This year the Faculty of Classics at the University of Oxford, in conjunction with the Faculties of Oriental Studies, Modern Languages, and English, had a large number of high quality applicants for the several degree courses we offer: Literae Humaniores (Classics) Courses 1 and 2 (LH1 & 2), Classics with Oriental Studies Course 1 and 2 (COS1 & 2), Classics with Modern Languages Courses 1 and 2 (CML1 & 2), and Classics and English Courses 1 and 2 (CE 1 & 2). The figures given in this summary are preliminary.

The application process involves careful weighting of several aspects of the applicant's profile: CAT test results, written work, personal statement, teacher reference, contextualized GCSE performance, and A-level predictions.

1. CAT Test

For more detail on the CAT test, see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-tooxford/tests/cat>, where you will also find past papers and keys to the CLAT tests since 2010. This year the average marks (with range in brackets) for the test sections were:

Greek Verse	Greek Prose	Latin Verse	Latin Prose	CLAT
57 (11-88)	68 (29-98)	61 (6-98)	64 (5-98)	69 (30-99)

2. Deselected Candidates

Twenty-six candidates were deselected (not invited to interview), on the basis of the criteria set out at <http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/criteria-classics.html>.

3. Interviewed Candidates

Interviews were conducted at the colleges to which the candidate applied, and there was some redistribution before interviews so as to relieve oversubscribed colleges and maximize those candidates' chances of admission. After first college interviews, around 200 additional interviews were arranged at second- and third-choice colleges, to give candidates the best chance of being placed. This year 336 candidates applied, with the split across the courses as below:

LH1	LH2	COS1	COS2	CML1	CML2	CE1	CE2	total
182	73	8	7	13	10	16	27	336

310 applicants were interviewed (i.e. 336 minus 26 desummoned candidates), and 147 offers were made, with a 2.3 ratio of applicants to places, and a 2.1 ratio of interviewed candidates to places.

4. Offers

147 offers were made on the basis of the criteria listed at <http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/criteria-classics.html>. The distribution was as follows:

LH1	LH2	COS1	COS2	CML1	CML2	CE1	CE2	total
73	43	6	2	4	3	6	10	147

Engineering Science

This year we received 1156 applications and 1115 applicants sat the PAT. All applications were assessed independently by tutors from two colleges. The scores from these assessments were then combined with the PAT scores and contextual data to create an initial shortlist. Following a meeting of all tutors we short-listed 443 candidates. All of these shortlisted candidates were offered the opportunity to come to Oxford for interviews. Once the interviews were completed the tutors meet again and made 210 offers. This means that we short-listed 2.10 candidates per place.

For the whole cohort the mean UCAS grade for the applications was 7.6. The mean mark for the PAT was 39.2% and the standard deviation was 14.6%. For the short-listed candidates the average UCAS grade was 8.21 and the mean mark for the PAT was 47.3% and the standard deviation was 13.8%. For candidates who were made an offer the average UCAS grade was 8.31 and the mean mark for the PAT was 51.7% and the standard deviation was 13.0%.

Many of the candidates who applied made very good applications and, as every year, we had to make many difficult decisions. These figures might help to give context to the process this year. (The figures are preliminary.)

Total number of applicants 899

Not invited to interview (or withdrew) 290

Interviewed in Oxford (or remotely) 609

Places offered (including 26 Open Offers) 258

Approx. ratio of applicants to offers 3.5:1

We cannot interview all applicants, so we have to make decisions on whom to shortlist, based on the UCAS information about past and predicted exam results, the UCAS academic reference and personal statement, the submitted written work, and the result of the ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test). For UK candidates we also use contextual data, such as school performance and postcode data, as outlined on the Oxford Admissions website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data> The ELAT is a ninety-minute test requiring an essay which responds to passages of literary material on a given theme.

Candidates who scored well in the ELAT, and had good exam results, written work, and references, were likely to be asked for interview. Candidates who had low scores in some aspects of their application will only have been invited for interview with special consideration of other factors. The number of applicants to individual colleges varies from year to year, so a number of shortlisted candidates are reallocated from the most oversubscribed colleges to those with a lower ratio of candidates to places. Those applicants who make open applications are similarly allocated to the less oversubscribed colleges. After first college interviews, around 200 additional interviews were arranged in a second and sometimes a third college, to give candidates the best chance of being placed. We also made 26 Open Offers (offers to candidates who will be informed of the college where they will hold a place after examination results are released for the whole cohort).

English

This year the University of Oxford had a high number of applicants for English Language and Literature. Many of the candidates who applied made very good applications and, as every year, we had to make many difficult decisions. These figures might help to give context to the process this year. (The figures are preliminary.)

Total number of applicants 899

Not invited to interview (or withdrew) 290

Interviewed in Oxford (or remotely) 609

Places offered (including 26 Open Offers) 258

Approx. ratio of applicants to offers 3.5:1

We cannot interview all applicants, so we have to make decisions on whom to shortlist, based on the UCAS information about past and predicted exam results, the UCAS academic reference and personal

statement, the submitted written work, and the result of the ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test). For UK candidates we also use contextual data, such as school performance and postcode data,

as outlined on the Oxford Admissions website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>

The ELAT is a ninety-minute test requiring an essay which responds to passages of literary material on

a given theme. Candidates who scored well in the ELAT, and had good exam results, written work, and references, were likely to be asked for interview. Candidates who had low scores in some aspects of their application will only have been invited for interview with special consideration of other factors.

The number of applicants to individual colleges varies from year to year, so several shortlisted candidates are reallocated from the most oversubscribed colleges to those with a lower ratio of candidates to places. Those applicants who make open applications are similarly allocated to the less oversubscribed colleges. After first college interviews, around 200 additional interviews were arranged in a second and sometimes a third college, to give candidates the best chance of being placed. We also made 26 Open Offers (offers to candidates who will be informed of the college where they will hold a place after examination results are released for the whole cohort).

History

SECTION A: Basic information

1. Number of Applicants

History (Single Honours): 1053

Ancient and Modern History: 100

History and Economics: 170

History and English: 119

History and Modern Languages: 110

History and Politics: 427

TOTAL: 1979

(Includes 11 candidates who subsequently withdrew their applications.)

2.a) Breakdown of Applicants by Domicile:

Home: 1497 applicants

EU: 170 applicants

Overseas: 312 applicants

b) Breakdown of Applicants by Gender

Male: 945

Female: 1034

c) Breakdown of Applicants by Entry Year

Applications for 2019: 1941

Applications for 2021 (deferred): 38

d) Number of Open Applications:

There were 199 open applications for History and its associated Joint Schools in 2019.

3. Number of Applicants Shortlisted

History (Single Honours): 721

Ancient and Modern History: 72

History and Economics: 63

History and English: 57

History and Modern Languages: 91

History and Politics: 185

TOTAL: 1189

4. Number of Applicants Offered Places

Number Success Rate

History (Single Honours): 287* 27.3%

Ancient and Modern History: 20 20%

History and Economics: 17** 10.1%

History and English: 14 *** 12.1%

History and Modern Languages: 27 **** 24.6%

History and Politics: 53 ***** 12.4%

TOTAL: 418 21.1%

* This includes twenty three candidates who were interviewed for a place in a Joint School with History, but were subsequently offered places for Single Honours History. Includes two deferred candidates.

** 19, but two candidates accepted for single-honours History.

*** 25, but eleven candidates interviewed for History and English were offered places for Single Honours, eight in History and three in English. Includes one deferred candidate.

****38, but eleven candidates interviewed for History and Modern Languages were offered a place for Single Honours, two in History and nine in Modern Languages. Includes three deferred candidates.

***** 63, but ten candidates interviewed for History and Politics were offered a place for Single Honours History. Includes one deferred candidate.

5. Procedure for Shortlisting

Candidates are shortlisted if their combined HAT/contextualised GCSE score (or HAT score alone, if no cGCSEs are available) is above the cut-off point of the cohort as a whole. The cut-off point will be determined by the Organising Secretary at a level to ensure that the University's preferred interview to place ratio (3-1) is not exceeded. Colleges are also able to shortlist candidates whose score is below this level if they consider there are strong grounds for retaining particular candidates on the basis of school performance data and/or other relevant information from the UCAS forms (eg. illness or difficult family circumstances).

In the case of HPOL, AMH, HML, and HECO, joint school candidates will also be recommended for shortlisting if they are above the cut-off point on the cGCSE/HAT score. In the case of HENG, English written work will also be included in the shortlisting algorithm (according to the formula of 40% HAT, 30% English written work, and 30% contextualized GCSE). In the case of HECO, the TSA score will also be included in the shortlisting algorithm (according to the formula one third HAT, one third TSA, one third contextualized GCSE). Joint-School candidates may also become candidates for Classics (AMH), English (HENG) or Modern Languages (HML), in each case with the agreement of the tutors from the other side of the school.

College tutors may also make a case to deselect other candidates whose scores are above the HAT/GCSE threshold, on specific grounds (for example they are not predicted grades which meet our conditional offer).

History and Modern Languages

HML candidates are considered at each stage of the process through consultation between College tutors from both History and ML. All information about these candidates, for both subjects, - GCSE score, pre-interview test scores (HAT and MLAT), written work scores, interview times and scores - is entered into the Modern Languages Admissions Database (MLAD) by the College's ML Primary User (who is one of the ML tutors). This results in each candidate carrying a 'guide score' (school written work scores are not included in this calculation). Final admissions decisions may be informed by this score, but it is not used mechanistically as a ranking tool.

Although the scores, individually and combined, provide a helpful framework for assessing candidates, tutors also take into account the individual circumstances and potential abilities of each candidate.

Law

Overall picture

1828 applications (8 candidates were withdrawn before interview) were received for 237 undergraduate degrees this year (excluding 55 senior status applications). There were approximately 7.7 applicants per place.

- 1536 for the Jurisprudence BA
- 292 for Law Studies in Europe

710 candidates were invited to interview, equating to 3.0 per place.

266 offers were made: 236 for Jurisprudence and 30 for Law with Law Studies in Europe; 8 deferred offers

18 Colleges participated in the Open Offer scheme, making 22 offers between them.

17 colleges exported candidates for second college interviews, and these were received by 5 importing colleges.

49 candidates were nominated for consideration by a second college (including 2 senior status candidates). 28 of these candidates were reallocated to a second college and their applications considered (57.1%). 14 of the reallocated candidates received an offer (50.0%) (including 1 senior status candidate). Overall, 28.6% of candidates nominated for reallocation to a second college received offers.

The Admissions Process

LNAT Essay Marking

Centralised essay marking was trialed this year. New, Somerville and St Edmund Hall opted out of centralised marking. A large amount of essays was clustered around the 60-66 region (1086 in total) which made it very difficult to differentiate between candidates. Only 22 students were given 70 marks and above.

Opportunity Oxford – Bridging Programme

There were 20 Opportunity Oxford offers made for Law out of 76 eligible candidates invited for interview. The following colleges made offers for the programme.

Appendix 1: Law Faculty Statistics and Information Applications

Breakdown of applicants

318 Open Applications

51 deferred entry applications

The gender split was 1161 female to 667 male applicants

1053 applicants were categorised as 'Home' applicants

218 were from the EU

557 were from overseas

135 applicants were disability flagged.

158 mature candidates.

MATHEMATICS
MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
MATHEMATICS & PHILOSOPHY

Overall Application Statistics

In all 2682 (last year 2445) applications were received in 2019 for the above four degrees. Of these, 2628 successfully registered for and sat the MAT (2391 in 2018).

All applicants are expected to sit the Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT), or must seek permission in exceptional circumstances from the subject Admissions Coordinator to be exempted from the test.

- 17.5% of applications made were open applications (18.2% in 2018).
- 15 applicants applied for deferred entry (17 in 2018). Of these, 3 were interviewed, and fewer than 3 were offered places.
- 32.8% of applicants were female (35.5% in 2018) and 27.1% of offer holders are female (26.3% in 2018).
- 1427 applicants were studying A-levels in the UK (1356 in 2018). Of these, 95% were taking Further Mathematics as a full A-level. Of the 74 applicants who weren't taking Further Maths as a full A-level, 10 were short-listed for interview, and fewer than 3 were offered a place.
- In 2019 there were 994 international fee-paying applicants (843 in 2018).
- Of the 2682 total applications made, 765 or 29% (828 or 34%) were short-listed. In all 287 (288) offers, including open offers, were made.

- Broken down by degree subject:
Mathematics: 1828 (1653) applications; 559 (617) short-listed; 206 (211) offers.
Mathematics and Statistics: 230 (224) applications; 33 (46) short-listed; 12 (12) offers.
Mathematics and Philosophy: 119 (138) applications; 55 (57) short-listed; 20 (16) offers.
Mathematics and Computer Science: 505 (430) applications; 118 (108) short-listed; 49 (45) offers.

Shortlisting

In light of the competition for places, the purpose of short-listing is to provide time, during the December interview window in Oxford, to guarantee all short-listed applicants receive interviews from at least two different colleges while they are in Oxford.

Details relating to the MAT, including several past and specimen papers, can be found at:

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/maths-admissions-test>

In 2019 the average score on questions 1-5 was:

- 44.9 (50.8) amongst all applicants;
- 63.6 (67.1) amongst short-listed applicants;
- 69.3 (72.9) amongst successful applicants.

The average score on questions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 was:

- 46.6 (51.6) amongst all applicants;
- 71.7 (72.2) amongst short-listed applicants;
- 76.2 (76.5) amongst successful applicants.

Short-listing is performed in accordance with the stated admissions criteria on the basis of all

currently available and relevant data: in particular these data include an applicant's score from the MAT, all aspects of the applicant's UCAS form and any further relevant contextual data specific to the application.

As guidance, and on the basis of a validated weighted combination of the test score and proportion of A* at GCSE (where applicable), the Admissions Coordinator advises college tutors as to a calculated upper threshold score and a calculated lower threshold score. All candidates above the upper threshold were recommended to be short-listed, and candidates below the lower threshold were recommended not to be short-listed, except in the case of exceptional circumstances. Around two thirds of the candidates between the two thresholds were short-listed for interview, resulting in around 3 applicants per place.

Throughout the process all UCAS forms, all test scores, all contextual information, comments and interview grades, are easily accessible to all college tutors involved with admissions via a web-based database.

College tutors review the UCAS forms, and any other information relevant to individual applications, and in light of all information enter their provisional short-listing decisions in the web-based admissions database. In light of further information a college may reverse the default short-listing decision, making known the reasons for their decision to the Admissions Coordinator. Provisional short-listing decisions will become final by an agreed deadline unless appealed by another college or the Admissions Coordinator.

The admissions criteria are published on the department's website at:
www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/prospective-undergraduates/how-apply/admissions-criteria

Interview Stage

All short-listed candidates are invited to Oxford for interview in mid-December.

Each applicant has a first-assigned college, which is either the college to which they applied or – in the case of open applications – a college randomly assigned by the Admissions Office in such a way as to even out the competition for places across colleges. Each applicant is also randomly assigned a second college by an algorithm so as to equalise across colleges the interview load per place ratio.

In cases where a college is particularly over-subscribed (more than four applicants per place), a college must reallocate a fraction of their candidates. These candidates are then assigned at random to other colleges. In 2019, 32 candidates were reallocated to a different first choice college.

During their time in Oxford, applicants are guaranteed interviews by at least two different colleges (their first- and second-assigned colleges) and may also be interviewed by other colleges. Applicants to joint degrees typically have separate interviews in the two disciplines.

Interviews are academic in nature. An applicant's performance will be judged according to the admissions criteria. The interviews will be graded on a scale of 1-9 against agreed descriptors and a report of the interview will be made on a standardised form.

The Admissions Group operates various procedures in a coordinated effort to ensure that the strongest applicants are admitted to the University irrespective of college choice; these include

transparency of all test results, interview grades, and UCAS forms amongst all tutors involved with admissions, and a final meeting of tutors at which the strongest unplaced applicants are collectively discussed and open offers are made by the Admissions Group. Around 30% of offers (27% in 2018) are either open offers or made by a college other than the first college considering the applicant.

Colleges may make offers conditional on the Opportunity Oxford bridging programme to eligible students who would not otherwise have been admitted. In 2019, 11 such offers were made for Mathematics, including joint honours courses. More information on this programme is available at: www.ox.ac.uk/opportunityoxford.

Medicine

In 2019 we received 1,766 UCAS applications (1,792 in 2018). Of these applicants 1,713 successfully registered for and sat the BMAT (1,742 in 2018). Any applicant who did not register for or did not sit the test had their application deemed incomplete, and was notified that their application was no longer under consideration. All data below relate to complete applications unless otherwise stated.

- Approximately 17.6% of applicants submitted an open application, which is fewer than in 2018.
- 41 applicants applied for deferred entry (36 in 2018). Of these, 12 were shortlisted and interviewed, and 4 received an offer of a place for 2021 (compared to 2 last year who were offered deferred places for 2020).
- Over 125 applicants did not meet the advertised academic entry requirements which determine eligibility to apply and consequently did not have their applications considered.
- 64% of applicants were female (62% in 2018).
- 69% of applicants offered A-levels.
- 20% of applicants resided outside the EU and 13% resided in the EU outside the UK.
- 14 graduates submitted applications (8 of these were international applicants).
- Overall, approximately 25% of applicants who made complete applications were shortlisted (25% in 2018 also).

SHORTLISTING

As part of the process to decide which applicants are called to interview, we established a numerical ranking on the basis of GCSE performance and BMAT results (both are quantitative and objective measures), equally weighted). If applicants had not taken GCSEs or iGCSEs ranking was based on BMAT score alone. This ranking formed the basis of an initial shortlist of 385. Note that the AQA Level 2 qualification in Further Maths is included in the GCSE calculation, whereas the OCR Level 3 qualification is not.

BMAT is the only element of an application that is common to all applicants for Medicine and giving as it does a snapshot of ability and aptitude, is an important selection tool when assessing a large number of extremely well qualified applicants.

We do not ascribe equal weighting to all sections of BMAT. In 2019, weightings were: section 1=40%, section 2=40%, and section 3=20%. In calculating the section 3 score, double weight was ascribed to the 'Quality of content' score and single weight given to the 'Quality of English' score (with A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, E=1, and X=0).

The GCSE measure used was a combination of proportion of A* grades at GCSE and number of A* grades at GCSE (with equal weighting). For shortlisting purposes a grade 8 or 9 is considered equivalent to an A*. We also used GCSE performance data for schools in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to help tutors to assess whether an applicant's grades at GCSE may reflect an under- or over-performance within the context of the school at which they were taken. Therefore, it is possible that the chance of being shortlisted was increased/reduced if an applicant had a higher/lower proportion of A* grades than would be predicted for the average student applying to Oxford from their GCSE school.

The applications of candidates who did not make the initial shortlist were then reviewed by

tutors, taking into account any individual circumstances - both academic and non-academic - that might indicate that GCSE and/or BMAT performance is likely to have underestimated their potential. Any applicants deemed worthy of further consideration were then reviewed by a cross-college panel, alongside applicants immediately below the initial shortlist. As a result of this process 40 additional applicants were added to the shortlist.

- For those shortlisted the mean adjusted BMAT score was 61.8%.
- For those shortlisted who had taken GCSEs, the mean number of A*s at GCSE was 10.2 and the mean proportion of A*s at GCSE was 0.94.
- 1 graduate was shortlisted.
- 32 international fee-status applicants were shortlisted.

Interviews & Offers

Each applicant was seen at two colleges: the college of preference, or allocation if an open application was made, and one other randomly assigned by computer so as to equalise as far as possible the strength of the applicant field at each college (as measured by the numerical ranking produced by the shortlisting algorithm). The number of applicants called for interview was fixed at 425, in other words about 2.5 applicants per place available.

Interviewers assessed each candidate against our explicit list of selection criteria. The composition of interview panels was arranged such that every candidate was interviewed by at least one practising clinician.

Following interviews, colleges ranked all the candidates they had seen, on the basis of all information available to them at that time. After disclosure of the candidate rank from the second college, BMAT score and BMAT essays, colleges reviewed their ranking and submitted a final version. On the basis of this final ranking, candidates were provisionally assigned offers at a particular college, with the college the applicant had chosen (or had been allocated to) having first refusal. Admissions decisions were confirmed at a final meeting of college tutors.

Please note that colleges interviewed blind of college of choice (or allocation) and BMAT score.

Colleges made 153 quota offers, 4 deferred offers and 13 open offers (which means the applicant is guaranteed a place at Oxford to study Medicine, but will not be assigned to a college until after A-level results are known).

- The overall success rate for male applicants was 11%; the overall success rate for female applicants was 9.3%.
- For those with an offer of a place, the mean adjusted BMAT score was 63.41%.
- For those with an offer of a place who had taken GCSEs, the mean number of A*s at GCSE was 10.8 and the mean proportion of A* at GCSE was 0.93.
- No graduate applicants received an offer of a place (graduates compete with schoolleavers for places; there is no separate quota).
- 5 international fee-status applicants received an offer for 2020; 1 international fee-status applicant received a deferred offer for 2021.
- 43.5% of offers were made by colleges other than the college of preference (or allocation). This compares with 39% in 2018.

GCSEs & BMAT

- In 2019, male applicants did slightly better on BMAT than female applicants, while female applicants performed slightly better in GCSEs than male applicants.

All A-level applicants must take Chemistry. The table below summarises the distribution of other subject choices amongst applicants this year taking A-levels.

Subject	% of applicants	% of applicants shortlisted	% of applicants placed
Biology	97	95	97
Physics	19	17	11
Mathematics	78	89	92
Further Maths	6	12	15

With regard to 'Other subjects', the most popular subjects were Psychology (6%), English Literature (4%), History (3%), French (3%), followed by Spanish (2%), Economics (2%) and Geography (2%).

20% of applicants taking A-levels were studying Chemistry plus just one more science or maths subject. This compares with 11% of shortlisted applicants and 7% of those offered places.

17% of applicants taking A-levels were studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics AND Mathematics (compared to 12% of shortlisted applicants and 7% of applicants offered places).

N.B. Despite the fact that most applicants offering A-levels tend to take Biology (or Human Biology), this subject is NOT required at A2 level (or indeed at AS-level). However, do be aware that not having A-level Biology is associated with a greater risk of having difficulty at the early stages of the course (and other medical courses).

65.5% of applicants taking A-levels were doing/had done 3 A-levels, 30.5% were doing 4 A-levels and approx. 4% were doing 5 or more A-levels (though not necessarily all being completed in one academic year).

31% of all applicants offered alternative qualifications, the most popular of which were the IB (13%), US qualifications (2%) and the Singaporean SIPCAL (2%). 14% of applicants who were shortlisted and 9% of applicants with an offer studied for qualifications other than A-levels (including the IB).

SCHOOL TYPES

73% of applicants attending school in the UK were from state schools (including sixth form and further education colleges), while 27% were from independent schools.

The overall success rate in 2019 was 14.4% for state school applicants and 11.7% for independent school applicants.

International applicants

346 applicants identified as international for fee-paying purposes submitted complete applications. Following shortlisting, which is conducted in line with the quota imposed on the Medical School by the UK Government for the available international places, 32 of these applicants were shortlisted and 5 applicants received an offer for 2020; 1 received a deferred offer for 2021.

[Prospective candidates are reminded that the Medical School is required by the Higher Education Funding Council to limit the number of international (non-EU) medical students admitted to a maximum of fourteen each year .]

MEDIEVAL & MODERN LANGUAGES

1. ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

This year, the number of applicants for Modern Languages (and associated Joint Schools) at Oxford remained stable: 837 as against 844 from last year. Overall figures are as follows:

Total number of applications: 837

Candidates who withdrew or were not invited for interview: 92

Candidates interviewed: 745

Places offered for 2020: 301

Places offered for 2021: 8

Open Offer Scheme offers: 20

Ratio of applications to offers: 2.70

Applications in 2019

Language	No. of applicants (M/F)	No. interviewed (M/F)	No. of offers (M/F)
Czech	7 (2/5)	6 (2/4)	5 (2/3)
French	428 (103/325)	397 (96/301)	174 (46/128)
Beginners'			
German	27 (10/17)	25 (9/16)	12 (2/10)
German	148 (56/92)	142 (54/88)	72 (25/47)
Italian	111 (37/74)	98 (34/64)	40 (17/23)
Mod Greek	3 (2/1)	3 (2/1)	2 (2/0)
Polish	2 (1/1)	2 (1/1)	1 (1/0)
Portuguese	36 (16/20)	33 (15/18)	18 (7/11)
Beginners'			
Russia	34 (8/26)	30 (7/23)	13 (5/8)
Russian	28 (16/12)	21 (13/8)	13 (8/5)
Spanish	307 (83/224)	264 (71/193)	86 (21/65)

2. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

General Admissions Criteria

Successful candidates for admission displayed the qualities listed below. The admissions process as a whole is designed to identify which candidates possess them in the greatest measure:

- Motivation and commitment along with capacity for sustained study of language and literature.
- Communication: willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and orally; ability to listen and to give considered responses.
- Proven competence in the language(s) as established by school work written in the language(s), by the language test and (in some cases) by oral competence at interview. In the case of beginners, clear evidence of aptitude and potential for language study.
- While there is no requirement that candidates will have read any literature in the language(s), successful candidates will demonstrate an aptitude and commitment to the study of literature by evidence of their readiness to discuss their reading in English or in the relevant language(s) or by their response to a reading-passage at interview. Assessors will look for evidence of intellectual curiosity and critical engagement. ^[SEP]

Selection is competitive and it may well be that a candidate is able to demonstrate these qualities and nonetheless is edged out of contention by a candidate with stronger all-round

claims. In applying these criteria, the main concern is to identify proven competence in the language(s) along with future promise and aptitude in literary and cultural studies. Candidates who display one or more of the above shortcomings may nonetheless be invited for interview if the paper application reveals a clear justification for, or explanation of, the shortcomings and clear alternative evidence of the candidate's potential.

2.1. Shortlisting

A decision not to shortlist a candidate conforms to current ML guidelines, according to which candidates will normally be invited to interview unless they display at least one of the following shortcomings:

- results in official examinations, especially GCSE, are not at a sufficiently high level;
- results predicted for A-level or other impending official examination suggest that the candidate is unlikely to succeed in meeting a conditional offer;
- the school report contains clear negative aspects relevant to the general admissions criteria;
- the written work submitted is clearly deficient in respect of the general admissions criteria;
- test results are a) in the bottom quintile for each of two languages, or b) a test result in the bottom quintile means an application in a single language or joint school or a language with a beginners' language (except for any language where a LAT score is available) is not viable.

Reallocation:

The purpose of reallocation is to give worthwhile candidates the chance of interview.

Reallocation is carried out on the faculty MLAD database. Colleges with a higher ratio of candidates to places than the average across all Colleges will automatically be invited to reallocate candidates. Colleges with a lower ratio than the average will be asked to receive candidates.

Number of Reallocated students: 75

Interview Process

Interviews took place in Oxford in the second week of December. During the interviews, candidates were given the opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and commitment, and their capacity for the sustained study of language and literature. They were assessed against the published criteria on their overall communication skills and, where appropriate, on their oral competence in the relevant language(s).

For detailed FMML Selection and Interview Criteria see: <https://www.modlangs.ox.ac.uk/faqs#faq-12>

All candidates receive at least two interviews from their First Choice College. All data is shared on the Faculty Admissions Database (MLAD) and Admissions Tutors from other colleges can decide to second-college interview a candidate, giving priority to Lower Choice colleges.

Candidates interviewed at another college: 185

Guide Score:

The Faculty Admissions Database (MLAD) calculates each candidate's Guide Score by double-weighting the Interview Score and single-weighting all other factors. GCSE score (or its contextualised equivalent) and Composite Score (based on Contextual Data concerning Prior Education, Residential Postcode and Care Status) are then taken into account before Admissions Tutors make a final decision.

PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TESTS

The written language tests last half-an-hour and are taken in schools in November. It may vary in format from one language to another. The test is designed to test knowledge of basic structures of the foreign language. It is not primarily a test of vocabulary. Each year, tests are vetted by a committee which involves secondary school teachers so that they reflect current teaching aims and practices.

Please see below Average Test performance of applicants in 2019:
Statistics for all candidates

	Mean	Median
French	7.3	7.6
German	7.5	7.8
Beginners German	5.5	5.5
Spanish	6	5.9
Beginners Italian	5.8	5.8
Italian	7.6	7.8
Russian	6.9	7.7
Beginners Russian	5.3	5.6
Portuguese	7.3	7.1
Beginners Portuguese	5.6	5.7
Linguistics	5.5	5.4
Philosophy	6.4	7.0

Music

The Music BA course received 185 total applications this year (96 female, 84 male) compared with 193 in 2018. This number included 14 Band A candidates and 33 Band B candidates.

The Admissions Panel comprised representatives from all participating colleges. Every UCAS application was reviewed by the Admission Coordinator against the subject's published selection criteria to advise on deselection. Contextual data and any special circumstances were taken into consideration as appropriate. Candidates were only deselected where they had not achieved or were not predicted to achieve the entry requirements, where there were no special considerations.

Written work was marked centrally by a team of postgraduate students who were trained by the Chair of Faculty and Admissions Coordinator to ensure consistency. This did not form part of the selection for interview process but was considered by tutors as part of the decision-making process alongside personal statement, academic record, school reference, and performance at interview and audition. In Music, a few colleges receive the bulk of applications, therefore candidates are reallocated via an algorithm to undersubscribed colleges on the basis of the number of places they have available. This enables all candidates to have the best possible opportunity to be assessed fairly, and not to be disadvantaged by applying to an oversubscribed college.

85 female and 67 male candidates were invited for interview. Interviews were held either in the Faculty of Music or in the relevant colleges. Each candidate attended at least two interviews, one interview at each of their first- and second-choice colleges (the second choice college also being allocated by algorithm). Interviews focused on interests mentioned in personal statements, written work, compositions (where applicable) and usually included a prose and/or musical excerpt given to the student to examine for a period of time before the interview. Band A candidates were given three interviews. The intention here was to enable them another opportunity to show their knowledge and potential.

Following completion of first and second interviews, college interviewers were required to rank all their interviewed candidates and grade them. The Faculty then held an Initial Selection meeting. This involved discussing every candidate with great care against the published selection criteria and initially determining those candidates on whom the interviewing colleges had reached a consensus (offer/not offer) and those still under consideration.

Those candidates still under consideration who might be either taken by a college still considering or given an Open Offer place were given a third interview. These interviews were coordinated centrally, with each interview panel made up of two interviewers (usually University postholders) from different colleges. Open offer holders may be allocated to a college in which a student offered a place there has not achieved their grades. 10 colleges participate in the scheme, but not always every year. This year there were 8 Open Offer places available.

When considering the allocation of Open Offer places, the Faculty took into account not only candidates' interview performances but also their strength on paper, with the intention of trying to ensure that these underwritten candidates who would be reallocated to colleges where first-choice candidates had failed to meet the offer requirements would not themselves fail to make their grades.

The Faculty made 85 offers (42 female, 43 male), including 8 open offers, equal to last year,

making a 40% success rate. By school type, 89 applicants (48%) came from state schools and 62 (34%) from independent schools, with 34 providing no data (for example, overseas students). In terms of offers, 50 (59%) went to state school applicants, 27 (32%) to independent school applicants and 8 (9%) to those who provided no data. In terms of the new contextual data, 6 Band A candidates were made offers, and 19 candidates from Band B.

PHYSICS

In 2019 Oxford Physics received a total of 1828 applicants for places in Physics and Physics and Philosophy, an increase of 246 (15.5%) compared to 2018. 1804 applicants were applying for entry in 2020 contesting 204 places, more than 8.8 applicants per place.

Of all the applicants, 1069 (58.4%) were classified as “UK” applicants (down from 64.5% in 2018), 337 (18.4%) were classified as EU but not UK (up from 13.1% in 2018), and 423 (23.1%) were classified as non EU (up from 22.4% in 2018).

The Physics Aptitude Test (PAT) has been run for several years, and it is known to be a good predictor of future performance at Oxford. The test is set to a defined syllabus and the content is checked by school teachers to ensure that the level is appropriate. Maths and physics elements are mixed together into a single two-hour paper. Further details, including the admissions criteria and sample papers can be found on the Oxford Physics Admissions website at: www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/admissions/.

The total marks achieved on the PAT ranged from 0% to 96%, with a mean mark of 41.45% (52.7% in 2019) and a standard deviation of 16.76% (16.0% in 2018).

In short-listing, we used the results of the PAT, the contextualised GCSE1 (cGCSE) score and all other contextual information described at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data> in reducing the number of applicants to around 2.5 per place.

388 candidates were automatically shortlisted using test marks and cGCSE alone (R-Score), with a further 69 candidates added after including contextual information. Finally a further 40 candidates whose application forms showed other evidence of excellence or mitigating circumstances were also short-listed to arrive at a final short-list of 497 candidates who were invited to Oxford for interview. Overseas (non EU) applicants were offered the option of remote interviews via video conference.

A key goal of the Oxford admissions process is that the probability of admission should not depend on the applicant's choice of College. Short-listing was therefore followed by a reallocation process, in which candidates were transferred from Colleges with a large ratio of candidates per place to Colleges with a smaller ratio. This ensured that the number of short-listed candidates per place was approximately constant across the collegiate University. This year 71 candidates were reallocated. Reallocation has been practised by the University for many years, ensuring that all strong candidates have the same chance of obtaining places at Oxford, although possibly not at their first choice Colleges.

In the vast majority of cases, two Colleges interviewed each short-listed candidate. Candidates from outside Europe who could not come to Oxford were interviewed by video conference. Candidates were then assessed based on their R-scores, interview results, and the information on the UCAS form, including contextual information, and compared centrally against all candidates applying to Oxford Physics. In this process, Colleges identified promising candidates for consideration by other Colleges, which may or may not have seen these candidates for interview. In 18 cases, candidates were offered a place from a college that had not interviewed them. Ultimately, 204 offers were made for entry in 2020 of which 13 were open offers and 13 were for Physics and Philosophy. 7 deferred offers were made for entry into Physics in 2021.

PPE

Section 1: Admissions statistics

This year the number of applicants was 2229. The number of applicants per place was 8.2. There were 368 open applications and 46 deferred entry applications. There were 959 female and 1270 male applicants. There were 1005 home, 463 EU and 761 overseas applicants. 738 applicants were shortlisted and 271 were offered places.

Section 2: admissions processes

The selection criteria for PPE are on the course website. The shortlisting criteria are described on the course website as follows: We only interview those who have a realistic chance of getting in, when judged by past and predicted exam results, school reports, personal statements and the pre-interview

test. Applicants who do not take the pre-interview test will not normally be shortlisted for interview. To achieve consistency in shortlisting decisions across colleges, all applicants are allocated to bands according to their TSA section 1 score.

Band 1 $n \geq 73.26$ Almost certainly shortlist

Band 2 $70.45 \leq n < 73.26$ Probably shortlist

Band 3 $68.37 \leq n < 70.45$ Marginal: use other information

Band 4 $n < 68.37$ Probably deselect

Colleges are then set deselection targets so that across all colleges 2.75 applicants per place are shortlisted. When making shortlisting decisions admissions tutors give the following weighting to the various elements of each application.

Information	High	Medium	Low
Pre-Interview Admissions Test	Yes		
GCSE (or equivalent) profile	Yes		
Predicted (or actual) performance at A-Level (or equivalent)	Yes		
UCAS teacher's reference		Yes	
AS-Level module grades			Yes
UCAS personal statement			Yes

After colleges have deselected their target number of applicants, some shortlisted applicants are reallocated. They are sent to the college where they will have the best theoretical chance of success, based on where they will be ranked highest (by TSA section 1 score) within the existing cohort of the college. After the reallocation has taken place, colleges can choose to rescue deselected applicants.

Section 2.2: interview process

Applicants will normally have at least two interviews at their first college, although some colleges may have a single longer interview. Most colleges will have a minimum of two interviewers per interview. Colleges normally wish to involve tutors from all three subjects, but since there are no specific subject requirements and the content of the interviews is not subject-specific, this is not necessarily the case.

The interview is described on the course website as follows: The interview is aimed primarily at

assessing the candidate's potential for future development. Interviewers will be looking for evidence of genuine interests and enthusiasms, and the motivation to work hard at them. The candidates should listen effectively, absorbing facts and ideas presented to them and assessing their relevance. They should be ready to respond to problems and criticisms put to them. They should present arguments and reasoning in a clear and carefully articulated manner. The interview is not primarily a test of existing knowledge, and in particular, is not a test of philosophy, politics or economics, unless these subjects have been followed at school. The candidates are expected to show reasons for their expressed interests in PPE. Candidates' general accomplishments are not relevant except insofar as they bear on one or more of the general admissions criteria.

Colleges assign candidates up to three interview scores. These do not have to be subject-specific.

Interviews are marked on a 1-100 scale:

70-100 Excellent A mark above 70 is a strong indicator for admission

65-69 Positive Most candidates admitted will have interview scores above 65.

60-64 Neutral

50-59 Weak A candidate with interview and test marks consistently below 60 is in a weak position

49 or less Very poor Interview strongly suggests that the candidate is not suitable

After colleges have entered their first interview scores and decisions (place, open offer, place for alternative year, recommend for second interview, or reject), candidates are ranked according to a formula based on the standardised average of their interview scores and their TSA section 1 and 2 scores. Colleges then select second interviews using all information available for each candidate. This year 41 candidates were selected for second interviews. After second interviews have taken place, colleges make their final decisions, based on all information available for each candidate at this stage.

PPL – Experimental Psychology, Philosophy, Linguistics

Admissions Statistics

Course	Applications	Shortlisted	Offers
Experimental Psychology	500(66%)	156(66%)	71(65%)
Philosophy and Linguistics	26(3%)	11(5%)	6(5%)
Psychology and Linguistics	85(11%)	28(12%)	18(16%)
Psychology and Philosophy	149(20%)	40(36%)	15(14%)
Total	760	235	110

- 17% of the applications made were open applications
- 15 applicants applied for deferred entry. Of these 1 was interviewed and 0 were offered places
- % of applications according to gender:
 - F - 77% (75% offer holders)
 - M - 23% (25% offer holders)
- % of applications according to fee status:
 - EU - 15% (9% offer holders)
 - Home - 50% (78% offer holders)
 - Overseas - 35% (13% offer holders)

Pre-interview Admissions Tests

All applicants are expected to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). For those applying to the Philosophy & Linguistics and Psychology & Linguistics route on the PPL course applicants must also sit the MLAT.

Any applicant who failed to register for the test (including those who registered late) or who did not sit the test – and did not have exceptional circumstances – were automatically deselected. Of the 760 applications received 714 applicants successfully registered for and sat the TSA. Of the 111 applicants for Philosophy and Linguistics and Psychology and Linguistics 100 applicants successfully registered for and sat the MLAT.

Thinking Skills Assessment Summary Statistics Max possible mark = 100.

All Applications

TSA	No.	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
TSA Problem Solving	714	34.63	87.73	62.96	8.74
TSA Critical Thinking	714	27.50	99.52	64.11	8.47
TSA Overall Score	714	35.51	83.61	63.40	7.10

Shortlisted Applications

TSA	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
TSA Problem Solving	234	38.67	87.73	68.68	8.39
TSA Critical Thinking	234	53.27	99.52	70.05	7.77
TSA Overall Score	234	48.43	83.61	69.04	6.47

Offered Applications

TSA	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
TSA Problem Solving	110	54.52	87.73	70.42	7.26
TSA Critical Thinking	110	55.29	99.52	72.26	8.07
TSA Overall Score	110	57.96	83.61	70.93	6.01

Admissions processes – shortlisting procedure

The selection criteria used can be found here:

https://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate_admissions/selection_criteria The department provides shortlisting recommendations to colleges for all candidates. Colleges then review these recommendations and make their decisions, raising any special cases with the department. All special cases raised by College Tutors are considered at this stage. The decision is based on the exam grades obtained and the grades predicted, together with the recommendation from the school or college, performance on our pre-interview admissions test and other relevant information.

Once shortlisting decisions are made a centralised reallocation process ensures that a consistent number of candidates per place are interviewed at each college. The number of applicants we are able to invite for an interview is approximately 3 applicants per place.

GCSE summary statistics

Number of GCSEs, contextualised GCSEs, and number of A stars per offer status

All Applications

GCSE Markers	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total number GCSE	448	1.0	15.00	9.81	1.75
Count 9/8/A*	431	1.0	13.00	6.67	2.93
cGCSE	366	-3.2	2.38	-0.10	1.04

Shortlisted Applications

GCSE Markers	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total number GCSE	186	1.0	13.00	10.26	1.36
Count 9/8/A*	183	1.0	13.00	8.11	2.51
cGCSE	172	-3.2	2.38	0.46	0.92

Offered Applications

GCSE Markers	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total number GCSE	88	6.0	13.00	10.42	1.21
Count 9/8/A*	87	1.0	13.00	8.55	2.32
cGCSE	85	-3.2	2.38	0.58	0.90

A Level Subjects

Top courses (at least 10% of applicants) studied by those who applied to this course, divided into those who applied for Experimental Psychology, and those who applied for PPL.

Experimental Psychology

Subject	N applied	Percentage applied	N Offered	Percentage Placed
Mathematics	201	47.63	54	62.79
Biology	161	38.15	45	52.33
Psychology	231	54.74	44	51.16
Physics	153	36.26	25	29.07
Computing	92	21.8	24	27.91
English	91	21.56	13	15.12
History	59	13.98	10	11.63

PPL cohort

Subject	N applied	Percentage Applied	N Offered	Percentage Placed
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Biology	117	27.73	39	45.35
Mathematics	168	39.81	34	39.53
Computing	60	14.22	17	19.77
Psychology	72	17.06	13	15.12
Physics	76	18.01	13	15.12

Admissions processes – interview process

The interview is aimed at assessing a candidate’s potential for future development and how well they will cope with the academic course. All applicants who are interviewed in Oxford are interviewed at two separate colleges, i.e. their “college of preference” and a second college. This is to ensure that we have two independent interview assessments of every candidate we have interviewed.

Tutors are looking for the following qualities at interview: Clarity of analysis and presentation of ideas; ability to generate own ideas and proposals; ability to listen and respond to ideas put forward during discussion, and to draw inferences from them; ability to put forward coherent and well thought out proposals and responses. Interviews are scored by interviewers on a scale of 0-5.

An overall assessment of all candidates is made at a meeting in the Department of Experimental Psychology. All College Tutors are asked to rank the candidates that they have seen, using the full range of indicators. These are: 1) GCSE’s or equivalent; 2) predicted or obtained A-levels or equivalent; 3) the reference from the school; 4) the admissions test; 5) the interview; 6) and other relevant information. Final offers are based upon all these factors.