

# OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ADMISSIONS AND SELECTION

**Submitting a competitive application**

# SMRT Application process

- **May – August:** Research, Virtual Open Days, Webinars, Writing Personal Statement, Admissions Tests guidance
- **September:** Enter for admissions tests, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> drafts of personal statement
- **October:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October School Deadline (this gives us time to check your application and add finalised your reference in time for the deadline)
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6pm:** Final UCAS deadline
- **October ½ term (Date TBC):** Admissions tests take place at school
- **Summer 2021:** Maths STEP tests dates TBC



# The Collegiate University

A college is like a mini campus providing a base for students

## Role of the college

- Admit students
- Academic and pastoral care
- Accommodation, dining and recreation
- Organise small group teaching
- Facilities for academic study e.g. library

## Role of the University

- Determines course content
- Organises lectures, seminars, practical and projects
- Sets and marks examinations
- Awards degrees



# The Collegiate University

- You can apply to a college or put in an open application
- Do your research – not every college has each subject
- Some colleges may be more competitive than others e.g. if it is located in the city centre more people may want to study there
- Some colleges will have bigger/smaller departments e.g. maybe only 5 studying Psychology at one college and 20 at another college



# How applications are assessed

Admissions decisions are based on:

- Academic ability & potential – knowledge of chosen subject, enthusiasm, evidence of forethought research, confidence and ability to cope with demands
- A level (or equivalent) grades and subject combinations
- GCSE grades
- UCAS school reference
- UCAS personal statement
- Submitted work (where requested)
- Admissions tests (where applicable)
- Interview performance



# Contextual data

Not used to make lower offers, but helps to put each individual into context

This year a few of our WP Cambridge students were made an offer on results day

- Living in a WP postcode (check this)
- Previous school (check this)
- Individual circumstances – free school meals/bursary, time in local care



# 2017 Entry Stats

## *Cambridge*

A level grades	Success rate
A*A*A*	51.3%
A*A*A	32.0%
A*AA	23.0%

## *Oxford*

A level grades	Success rate
A*A*A*+	41.6%
A*A*A	25.6%
A*AA	20.1%
AAA	16.8%



# Additional Exams – apply through school exams office

- Inform ability not otherwise revealed in examinations
- An add on to everything else

BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) – October	Classics Admissions Test (CAT)
English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)	History Aptitude Test (HAT)
Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT)	Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)
Oriental Languages Aptitude Test (OLAT)	Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)
Philosophy Test	Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Oxford

Oxford

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/>





# Cambridge

Course name	Pre-interview assessment
Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic	<a href="#">Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Admissions Assessment (ASNCAA)</a>
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	<a href="#">Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Admissions Assessment (AMESAA)</a>
Computer Science	<a href="#">Cambridge Test of Mathematics for University Admission (CTMUA)</a>

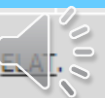
Computer Science	<a href="#">Cambridge Test of Mathematics for University Admission (CTMUA)</a>
Economics	<a href="#">Economics Admissions Assessment (ECAA)</a>
Engineering	<a href="#">Engineering Admissions Assessment (ENGAA)</a>
Geography	<a href="#">Geography Admissions Assessment (GAA)</a>

History	<a href="#">History Admissions Assessment (HAA)</a>
History and Modern Languages*	<a href="#">History Admissions Assessment (HAA)</a> and <a href="#">MML at-interview assessment</a>
Natural Sciences	<a href="#">Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)</a>
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	<a href="#">Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Admissions Assessment (PBSAA)</a>
Veterinary Medicine	<a href="#">Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)</a>

Chemical Engineering	<p>Chemical Engineering via Engineering (H810) requires the <a href="#">Engineering Admissions Assessment (ENGAA)</a>.</p> <p>Chemical Engineering via Natural Sciences (H813) requires the <a href="#">Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)</a>.</p>
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Medicine	You will need to take <a href="#">BMAT</a> .
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English	You will need to take <a href="#">SAT</a> .
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# Personal Statement – 4000 characters/47 lines

- How do they use personal statements?
  - To confirm appropriateness of chosen subject and course
  - As an embarkation-point for discussion at interview
- Subject focus (more than 80%)
- Reading and other wider exploration – supercurricular.
- Work experience – this might be virtual this year
- Personal statements must be both honest and *personal*
- Extra-curricular activities/positions of responsibility (less than 20%)
- All personal statements are scanned for plagiarism – don't be tempted!



# Submitted work

You may be asked to submit some work before your interview e.g. an essay

Can be a marked essay you have already completed

Why?

- To assess an applicant's academic and intellectual ability, and his/her ability to communicate on the page
- To assess teaching
- As a point for discussion at interview



# Interview process

- Interviews usually take place in December – you will only have around a week (sometimes less) notice
- Interviews are conducted principally by the preference College (Cambridge), or by the preference College and an additional College (Oxford)
- Applicants have 1, 2 or 3 interviews, each lasting 20-45 minutes, at each College
- Interviews are conducted by lecturers and are predominantly academic and subject-focused



# Interview process

- Interviews are a discussion in which interviewers hope to see applicants thinking problems through for themselves
- Focused and challenging questions, typical of teaching and learning at Oxford or Cambridge
- Applicants are usually asked to talk about:
  - Academic work completed in the last year or two
  - Relevant wider reading or work experience
  - Subject-related issues that are very readily visible in the wider world
  - ‘Prompt’ material
- New approaches to existing knowledge and problem-solving questions



# Standard Offer

Cambridge	A*AA
Oxford	AAA

Both universities have thought hard about the A\* but have come to different conclusions based on differing current practices. In both universities lower offers may be made in specific cases, usually for access reasons.



# Standard Offer

- Every year 10,000 unsuccessful Oxbridge applicants go on to achieve three or more A grades at A level
- They could happily take many more applicants were places available
- The strength of competition makes decisions VERY difficult
- Feedback is available but limited
- Re-application the following year is possible
- Conditional offers: they are conditional



## Cambridge: Sciences

	Applications	Acceptances	Offers	Success Rate
Chem Eng (Engineering)	159	24	17	10.7%
Chem Eng (Natural Sciences)	216	38	34	15.7%
Computer Science	1157	167	133	11.5%
Engineering	2140	386	313	14.6%
Graduate Course in Medicine	477	50	36	7.5%
Mathematics	1597	535	234	14.7%
Medicine	1474	305	265	18.0%
Natural Sciences	2594	680	577	22.2%
PBS	461	95	69	15.0%
Veterinary Medicine	357	88	71	19.9%





# Cambridge: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

	Applications	Offers	Acceptances	Success Rate
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies	133	67	47	35.3%
Archaeology	51	33	18	35.3%
Architecture	438	58	35	8.0%
Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	47	26	17	36.2%
Classics	141	76	63	44.7%
Classics (4 Year)	54	32	20	37.0%
Economics	1094	187	167	15.3%
Education	112	50	34	30.4%
English	760	235	187	24.0%
Geography	241	117	95	28.4%
History	576	214	176	30.6%
History and Modern Languages	78	27	23	29.5%
History and Politics	210	58	44	21.0%
History of Art	120	35	30	25.0%
Human, Social and Political Sciences	951	213	167	17.6%
Land Economy	312	73	58	18.6%
Law	1357	269	202	14.9%
Linguistics	112	45	31	27.7%
MML	408	191	158	38.7%
Music	157	81	63	48.1%
Philosophy	275	55	46	16.7%
Theology	99	49	35	35.4%



# Oxford: Sciences

	Applications	Offers	Acceptances	Success Rate
Biochemistry	731	115	108	14.8%
Biological Sciences	568	141	113	19.9%
Biomedical Sciences	370	44	37	10.0%
Chemistry	601	219	184	30.6%
Computer Science	427	36	36	8.4%
Computer Science & Philosophy	82	14	14	17.1%
Earth Sciences	122	39	31	25.4%
Engineering Science	904	207	170	18.8%
Experimental Psychology	295	64	51	17.3%
Geography	405	103	77	19.0%
Materials Science	167	42	31	18.6%
Mathematics	1371	209	185	13.5%
Mathematics & Philosophy	108	17	16	14.8%
Mathematics & Statistics	190	14	13	6.8%
Maths & Computer Science	306	42	33	10.8%
Medicine	1544	168	152	9.8%
Physics	1221	196	178	14.6%
Physics & Philosophy	131	13	13	9.9%



## Oxford: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

	Applications	Offers	Acceptances	Success Rate
Ancient & Modern History	104	29	23	22.1%
Archaeology/Anthropology	94	26	19	20.2%
Classics	293	127	116	39.6%
Economics & Management	1317	97	80	6.1%
English	938	255	224	23.9%
European & Mid East Langs	63	17	16	25.4%
Fine Art	246	31	28	11.4%
History	971	242	214	22.0%
History & Economics	121	18	16	13.2%
History of Art	126	16	14	11.1%
Human Sciences	185	34	30	16.2%
Law	1501	220	192	12.8%
Mod Langs & Linguistics	74	31	26	35.1%
Modern Languages	436	178	159	36.5%
Music	175	80	69	39.4%
Oriental Studies	155	54	44	28.4%
Philosophy & Mod Langs	48	22	17	35.4%
Philosophy & Theology	141	37	32	22.7%
PPE	1983	274	249	12.6%
Theology and Religion	99	36	30	30.3%



# Useful Websites

[www.stepmaths.co.uk](http://www.stepmaths.co.uk)

Admissions tests videos for all subjects – you should have received an email with login details for this.

Email Miss Isaac if you did not

<https://sites.google.com/site/smrtprogression2/home>

SMRT 6<sup>th</sup> form progression site – check out Oxbridge and Admissions Tests tabs

<https://www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk/student-conference/introduction>

A huge range of webinars which have replaced the student conference we missed in March

<https://www.myheplus.com/>

Lists of further reading to enhance your subject knowledge

The University of Cambridge - <https://www.cam.ac.uk/>

The University of Oxford - <http://www.ox.ac.uk/>

