

Oxbridge 2023



There are many great things about Oxford: the best libraries, stunning colleges, emphasis on welfare, serious kudos with employers...

Why Oxford or Cambridge?

1. University rankings – for teaching excellence, academic research and facilities—currently nos. 1 and 3 respectively across the world and on our doorstep. (THE)
2. The Collegiate system- 44 Oxford; 31 Cambridge: individual communities within the wider institution, it is where you will be taught, study, live, eat, socialize and from which you will compete with other colleges across a range of sports. Pastorally, this helps as you are known personally, supported and gain a strong sense of identity and belonging.





Teaching

The Tutorial system- a weekly meeting with a small number of fellow students to discuss an essay or problem in depth with your tutor -a leading academic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceR7algkGEk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9S6UCNndlk>

The people- similar to yourself, keen minds who will be intellectually stimulating and fun to be with. BOPs!

Two beautiful, ancient cities –magical to experience from ‘the inside’ and to make memories which will last a lifetime.



What does
an Oxbridge
student look
like?



Grace McGrovy

Lauren Mason

James Gallagher

Hannah Porter



Stats and facts from an Oxford Admissions tutor

Demographics

British= 77%

Gender= 51.2% female 48.8% male

Ethnicity = 81.7% white 18.3 % BME

Region= London and SE predominate c. 7% from the West Midlands 2% from the North East

This reflects the % of applications from these regions

The conclusion- elite universities are trying hard to be accessible rather than socially elitist.

The number of applications are rising – ironically more competition ...more difficult to win a place .

‘This year Magdalen had a total of 1,210 candidates for 120 offers of places.’ 2023 letter to Referees.



The key 'demographic'?



Academic achievement and **potential**



Proven : *mostly 8s and 9s at GCSE*



Almost 90% of admitted students achieve A*AA at A level



42.3 % have A*A*A* or better



Contextual data is taken into account- so achievements are seen within the wider academic context of the school the applicant attends and their home post code

Is it for me?

These are
the
qualities
admissions
tutors will
be looking
for....

Self-motivation, commitment and **serious interest in chosen course**

Ability to think **independently** and critically

Being able to use of existing knowledge to assess new problems

Ability to work through difficult issues **in dialogue**

Resilience and resourcefulness

Is it for me? Open Days in June, July and September

‘There’s the odd super-genius, but in general everybody is a relatively ordinary person who just happens to be pretty intelligent! This means that — contrary to popular belief — you're allowed to come to Oxford and be normal. If you’re in two minds, it’s certainly worth putting it down on your UCAS — it's one choice out of five and an aspiration that benefits you whether or not you come.’

‘I hesitated a lot about choosing Oxford, but I’m so glad I did. I’d heard a lot of the stereotypes and I worried about the sort of environment it would offer, but I’m glad to say I was completely wrong! For me, one of the best things at Oxford is the collegiate system.’

[Open Days and visiting | University of Oxford](#)

[Cambridge Open Days | Undergraduate Study](#)

How do you apply?

Initial decisions

1. Choose the **right course**- **research** is key, but **passion** is the requirement. Look carefully at admissions criteria. Do you have the right subject combination, the predicted grades. Will you have admissions tests?

2. Choose the university- Visit; see websites : UNIFROG

3. Choose a college? – Visit, see websites, find prospectuses both official and Alternative

or you can make an Open application.

OXFORD <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide>

CAMBRIDGE <https://www.cam.ac.uk/>

Dr Stuart Davis

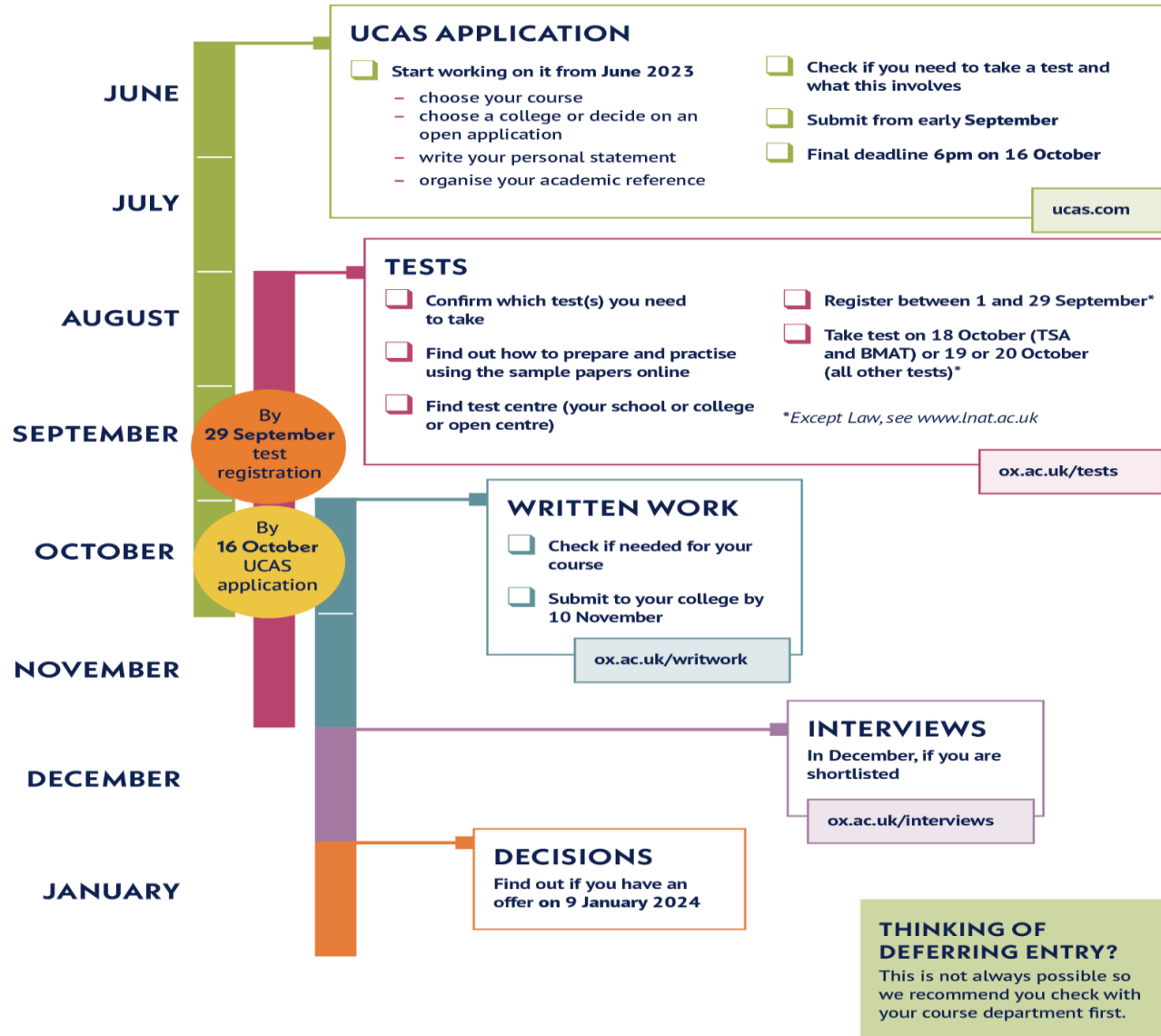
Admissions Tutor

Girton College

My top tip for potential applicants is always do your research and work out which is the right subject for you: are you genuinely interested in it? Are you motivated enough to take on the challenge of dedicating three or four years to studying it? What are the requirements to get on to the course and are you studying the right subjects, if any are required? Take a look at the descriptions of the subjects on our webpages and see if you like what you see and if you are the right fit.

HOW YOU APPLY

2024 ENTRY



NB for Cambridge the Supplementary Application Questionnaire SAQ

What makes a successful application?

1. From the UCAS form

- An excellent Personal Statement
- An excellent Personal Reference
- Your academic track record and potential

2. From tests/ written work e.g. essays

Academic ability and potential – tests are to help differentiate between applicants; they aren't easy and you're not expected to get 100% ; essays should be typical course essays marked by your teacher

3. From the interview

Your ability to enjoy and contribute to **academic discourse, debate and discussion**. Your ability to apply prior knowledge to new scenarios and a **flexibility** which can acknowledge a contrary view yet be able to contend and justify your own informed view or adopt a new position in the light of further information.

- comments from subject teachers indicating a rank order in class (such as 'top of 20' or 'in the top four out of 23') or a comparison with current or previous applicants (for instance 'one of our top 10 university applicants this year')
- evidence of a willingness to explore and discuss ideas outside the confines of the subject specification, if applying for a subject studied at school/college

<https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/webinar-series>

So, you are the key to your own success!

Essential -wider **reading**/ podcasts/TED talks/ bbc sounds/ newspapers and Radio 4

To demonstrate your academic curiosity, discipline, ability to engage critically with ideas and concepts-
start now! All the university subject pages have reading lists and links

Keep a diary or log of your reading and reflections on it.

Take MOOCs – See UNIFROG

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

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/ug-digital-resources/students-over-16>

[Suggested Subject Resources | University of Oxford](#)

[NRICH - Mathematics Resources for Teachers, Parents and Students to Enrich Learning \(maths.org\)](#)

Super- curricular activities

Attend courses, take part in debates, set up clubs, go to lectures, visit museums, write to authors, join a political party...demonstrate your interest and commitment to your subject!

Talk! Get used to articulating your ideas aloud, explaining your thinking processes and presenting a case.

How can school support me?

1. Mrs. Quinney and the Sixth form team and HOD's will support you in preparing your **Personal Statement, Personal References** and the specifics of the UCAS form. There will be a **PS workshop** with exemplars of good statements.
2. Your subject teachers will be mentors and help you to realize your potential in your individual A levels and prepare you for **entrance tests**.
3. Mrs. Pascoe- Williams and the EPQ mentors will help in developing the **wider reading** and personal study skills which will be invaluable when writing your **Personal Statement** and at interview.
4. Myself and your subject mentors will **meet you regularly** in L6 to support your application, encourage and guide you. We will bring in outside speakers, discussion groups with pupils from other schools and **arrange mock interviews**.
5. Mrs. Dodds will arrange for **your tests** to take place and be invigilated.

What if I'm not successful?

Table 1.1: Overall applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, all domiciles, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED
2020	23,414	3,932	3,695
2019	23,026	3,895	3,286
2018	21,516	3,841	3,310
2017	19,953	3,786	3,285
2016	19,164	3,771	3,282

You have been on an academic journey which has been rigorous but enjoyable and are lucky enough to be convinced about your subject choice. You will have worked consistently hard to achieve your top grades and enhanced your study skills!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDw18a0wWml&t=70s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fljDn2mEc0E&t=773s>

You can reapply –with top grades in the bank you are almost certain to reach the interview stage and second time round your previous experience can give you an enormous advantage.

HAVE AN EXCELLENT PLAN B !

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Research!!! FIND THE RIGHT COURSE.

The Alternative prospectuses are good as are the huge number of youtube videos from current students or individual colleges about their courses and the application process.

ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUSES

<http://apply.oxfordsu.org/colleges/>

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>

https://issuu.com/ousu/docs/ap12_web

<https://www.applytocambridge.com/colleges>

Explore the hugely helpful online resources.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnNVIMI7Zly2laJ4Md8AdLA> YOUTUBE CHANNEL JESUS, OXFORD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frjl6MeWuHw> A DAY IN THE LIFE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcUh0vp9Rcs> EXEMPLAR PPE INTERVIEW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s76pBi2uG60> EXEMPLAR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FROM ADMISSIONS TUTOR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tw66mLgayc0> INTERVIEW ADVICE FROM TUTOR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INJFFq-Nh1s> INTERVIEW INSIGHTS FROM STUDENT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWN3y1we3b4> STUDENTS REFLECT ON THEIR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

The UCAS Process

All applications to any university are through UCAS.com

5 choices in total

Can only apply to Oxford OR Cambridge – leaves 4 other choices

Oxford/Cambridge application deadline 15 October

Deadline for other universities January

Only one personal statement

You will be guided through the application process by tutors and myself.

Predicted grades

These really must be in line with the entry requirements for the courses selected

Largely based on the summer mock exams

Staff are very experienced in predicting success

Predicted grades must be realistic and reflect the student's potential based on progress made so far

There are some opportunities to improve these by engaging in extra work over the summer

Tips

Lots of other universities offer similar courses and are also academically rigorous

Visit others – you need back ups that you like

Use [Unifrog.org](https://www.unifrog.org) to search for alternatives

If you like the collegiate system, consider Durham, Lancaster, York or Kent

Any Questions?
