


Competitive Universities

STANDARD REQUIREMENT 3 AAA

*SOME OXBRIDGE /DURHAM/ BRISTOL A*AA*

*E.G OXFORD **ALMOST 90% OF ADMITTED STUDENTS ACHIEVE A*AA AT A LEVEL** 49.2 OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS % HAD A*A*A* OR BETTER*

A stethoscope with a dark blue tube and silver-colored metal parts is positioned vertically on a teal background. The earpieces are at the bottom, and the chest piece is at the top.

MedSoc at Princethorpe

Aim: To support pupils who are aspiring to read Medicine, Veterinary Sciences and Dentistry at university

Highly competitive courses

How we help via Teams:
Opportunities for conferences/work experience/volunteering opportunities / courses are posted on the MedSoc Team

By attending the weekly meetings from the start of Y12 pupils will:

- Finding the right university
- Discuss NHS in the news: Hot Topics
- Discuss ethical issues and situational judgement scenarios
- Assistance with preparing for UCAT admissions testing
- Assistance with writing the personal statement for UCAS
- Interview practice

Table 1.1: Overall applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, all domiciles, 2019–2023

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED
2023	23,211	3,721	3,219
2022	23,819	3,645	3,271
2021	24,338	3,555	3,298
2020	23,414	3,932	3,695
2019	23,026	3,895	3,286

Competitive !

LSE is a highly competitive institution. The high level of competition means that achieving, or being predicted to achieve, our usual standard offer grades does not guarantee that an offer of admission will be made.

In 2024, we received approximately 28,000 applications for roughly 1,850 places. This fierce competition for places means that every year we unfortunately have to disappoint many applicants.

Durham

37% of applicants were offered a place to read Government and International Affairs

27% of applicants were offered a place to study Computer Science

80% of applicants were offered a place to read History

[Applications-Receiving-offer-2023-24.pdf](#)

How to decide

Research!

The University- visit, look at online prospectuses

The Department- the specialisms within the department

The course- make notes on why these modules, topics, approaches interest you.

The style of teaching- hours of teaching/independent study

The style of assessments- coursework, summative assessments

What constitutes a strong application?

Academic Profile : Mostly 8s and 9s at GCSE

Working at the top of your class –consistently highest marks

Predicted As and A*s

Are you currently achieving A grades- how will your L6 exams go?

Are you top of your class?

Is there ***empirical evidence*** of your academic achievements- module tests, essay marks, competition scores, awards that could be cited by your teachers to show that you are performing at a very high level and comfortably exceeding that of your cohort?

This will look great on your teacher reference!

What constitutes a strong application?

PROVEN SUCCESS: GCSE GRADES

POTENTIAL: PREDICTED GRADES

but... to stand out you need to demonstrate passion, curiosity, commitment and dedication to pursue **your chosen subject** beyond the classroom.

Academic achievement+passion and potential

**ACTIVELY SEEK OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM-
THE SUPRA- CURRICULAR**

From the London School of Economics

Selectors look for students who can best reflect on the experiences and academic ideas they have encountered through the opportunities available to them, not those who have had the best opportunities. If you are not sure where to start, you could try listening to podcasts of LSE public events or look in the prospectus for examples of suggested reading. Remember we are interested not just in a list of what you have read/encountered, but evidence you have reflected on the academic ideas.

To help you begin, there are several questions you could think about:

- Why have you chosen the course? What attracted you to the subject? Which aspects of the subject have interested you sufficiently to want to study it at degree level? Is there a specific area of the subject you wish to focus on? What are the big issues in the subject, and what do you find most interesting about them? What are your thoughts on these topics?
- Have you developed your subject interest outside of your school studies? For example, have you undertaken any additional reading to broaden your knowledge of the subject? Have you attended lectures or explored online material relating to the subject? What did you find interesting in your reading/in the lectures you attended and what are your thoughts on the topics covered?

Some sites to explore the Supra-curricular

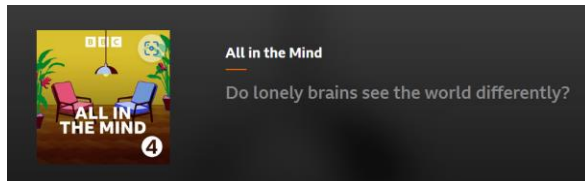
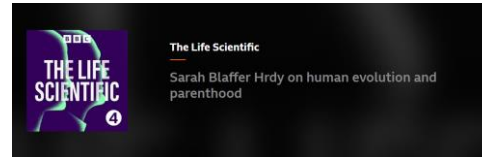
[Looking for ways to explore your subject? | Lucy Cavendish \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

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

[For students over 16 | University of Oxford](#)

ASK YOUR TEACHERS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Look for reading lists on university websites [English Literature reading suggestions | English | The University of Sheffield](#)



Other hugely beneficial resources

[BBC Sounds – Podcasts](#)

[BBC Radio 4 - Political Thinking with Nick Robinson](#)

Ted talks

Gresham College Lectures [Gresham College](#)

Moocs [Free online courses - Free online courses, University of York](#)

Supra- curricular *activities*

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

In summary: What makes a successful application to a competitive university?

From the UCAS form

An excellent Personal Statement- based on how your supra- curricular activities illustrate your passion, commitment and desire to further study your subject

An excellent Personal Reference- which speaks of your commitment to study, your resilience and your academic excellence and POTENTIAL

Your excellent academic track record and predicted grades

Personal Statement workshop after half term

Personal statement

Any Questions?
