

# Law (Jurisprudence)

## Feedback on Admissions round 2017

*This report describes the admissions process and outcomes for Keble and also provides a summary for Law admissions across the University prepared by the Faculty of law.*

This year Keble received 63 applications for Law or Law with Law Studies in Europe. These applications were for 7 or 8 standard degree places and 1 or 2 places on the Senior Status degree. As is now normal a number of candidates were reallocated between the colleges in the University before the interview stage in order to deal with any problems of over- or under-subscription at any particular college(s). It may be, therefore, that we considered a candidate's application either because they had applied to Keble, or had made an open application, or because they had chosen another college but was reallocated to Keble. This had no influence on our final decision. After eliminating some candidates at the pre-interview stage, this left a ratio of approximately 3 candidates for each place at each of the colleges, including Keble.

The decisions about which candidates to interview were based on the following: (1) the UCAS form: grades to date, predicted grades (where applicable), personal statement and the helpful references; and (2) the LNAT (a written test taken by candidates before the interview stage which comprised both essay and multiple choice components).

Our final assessment of candidates interviewed was based on all of the following: (1) the UCAS form; (2) the LNAT; and (3) two twenty-minute interviews or one thirty-minute interview for applicants interviewed by Skype. Both interviews largely consisted of legal scenarios designed to test for the criteria involved in selection (details of which are published on the web at <http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/criteria.php>). They assumed no knowledge of law whatsoever; the problems were specifically chosen for the unusual nature of the scenario and any candidates who had studied some law were specifically told not to speculate on what the law might be.

The focus of admissions to study law at Keble is on academic merit. Extra-curricular activities play little to no part in the decision making process. We are looking for exceptionally bright and motivated students who will thrive in the intellectually charged atmosphere of law at Keble. Keble's law teaching team involves two full-time tutorial Fellows: Professor Edwin Peel (who teaches Contract, Torts, International Trade, and, on graduate courses, the Conflict of Laws) and Professor James Goudkamp (who teaches Roman Law, Criminal Law, Torts, and, on graduate courses, Commercial Remedies, Civil Procedure and Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law); and two College Lecturers, Roisin Swords-Kieley (who teaches Constitutional Law) and Aleksi Ollikainen (who teaches Trusts).

## Faculty of Law Report on the 2017 Admissions Round

### Overall picture

1805 applications were received for undergraduate degrees this year (excluding senior status). This amounts to 7.6 applicants per place. A total of 255 offers were made – 222 for Jurisprudence and 33 for Law with Law Studies in Europe. 657 candidates were invited to interview, which is 2.8 per available place.

18 Colleges chose to participate in the Open Offer scheme, making 25 offers between them. 17 colleges exported candidates for second college interviews, and these were received by 9 importing colleges. 32 candidates were nominated for second college interviews (including 3 senior status candidates). All of these candidates received a second interview (100%), with colleges requesting 36 candidates for second interviews. 10 received an offer (31%) after second interviews.

### Candidate Groups

#### Access candidates

The University received 201 applications for BA Law or LSE from access flagged candidates. This total included 31 students from UNIQ 2017 and 5 from Pathways to Law C10. 80 access candidates were shortlisted and 37 received an offer, including 4 open offers. This gives access candidates a success rate of 46% from interview to offer and 18% from application to offer. This is significantly higher than our overall success rate of 37% and 14%, respectively.

The admissions results for UNIQ and Pathways to Law students are illustrated below. UNIQ saw a decrease in applicants but a proportionate increase in interviews and offers compared to 2016. Pathways to Law figures saw a decrease in applications but large proportionate increase in interviews and offers.

Programme	UNIQ			Pathways to Law		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Admissions Cycle						
Number of applications	40	48	<b>31</b>	12	12	<b>5</b>
Number of interviews	37	25	<b>22</b>	4	4	<b>4</b>
Number of offers	26	13	<b>15</b>	3	2	<b>3</b>
Success Rate	65%	27%	<b>49%</b>	25%	17%	<b>60%</b>

Although there were fewer applications from these access programmes this year, the success rates of 49% for UNIQ and 60% for Pathways to Law are much higher than the general success rate from application to offer of 14%, and better than previous years.

Not all UNIQ and Pathways to Law applicants received an access flag- 23/31 UNIQ candidates and 2/5 Pathways to Law candidates were access flagged.

Please note that whilst UNIQ is the University's Widening Access programme, Pathways to Law is Widening Participation, and we don't yet know the final destinations of our Cohort 10s in terms of Russell Group attendance.

### **Senior Status**

57 senior status applications were received. 29 SS candidates were interviewed, with 3 receiving second interviews 10 SS offers were made. SS had an application to offer success rate of 18% and an interview to offer success rate of 35%.

### **The Admissions Process**

#### **LNAT Scores**

LNAT scores are linked to candidates via UCAS numbers, and sent to the universities candidates have indicated they are applying to. Each year a number of candidates fail to tick 'Oxford' when they sit their LNAT test. This entails a number of candidates do not have LNAT scores automatically sent to Oxford by Pearson Vue. The Law Admissions Office must undertake a manual search to link the LNAT and UCAS form for these candidates. When manually searching for records, if candidates have taken the test on multiple occasions, previous results also show up. This makes matching essays harder and increases the possibility of error. There were over 300 missing details this year – taking up considerable time.

#### **Trial of offering selected access candidates for additional interviews**

At Selection Committee it was agreed that given the slightly low number of reallocated students (2.7%) colleges would be given the choice to interview a few additional access candidates if they so wished. 6 colleges opted to interview a total of 9 additional candidates. These candidates were identified as the highest ranking access candidates who had narrowly missed reallocation, and were reallocated to colleges randomly. No candidates were given to the college who originally assessed their application. Of the 9 candidates nominated for this process, 4 received offers.

## Appendix 1: Law Faculty Statistics and Information

### Applications

<p><b>Total applications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1862 applications total               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1805 for the Jurisprudence BA and Law with Law Studies in Europe</li> <li>- 1460 for the Jurisprudence BA</li> <li>- 345 for LSE</li> <li>- 57 for Senior Status (not included in the stats below)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Please note that 9 candidates included in these total numbers withdrew either before or after shortlisting, and 1 application was cancelled by UCAS</p>
<p><b>Breakdown of applicants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 362 Open Applications</li> <li>• 56 deferred entry applications</li> <li>• The gender split was 1164 female to 641 male applicants</li> <li>• 955 applicants were categorised as 'Home' applicants; 233 were from the EU; and 617 were from overseas</li> <li>• 201 applicants were access flagged.</li> <li>• 104 applicants were disability flagged.</li> <li>• 135 mature candidates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of applicants shortlisted</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 657 interviewees total               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 37% or ratio of 2.7:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 541 for Jurisprudence               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 37% or ratio of 2.7:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 116 for LSE               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 34% or ratio of 3:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 80 access flagged candidates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 40% or ratio of 2.5:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 35 disability flagged candidates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 34% or ratio of 3:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 53 mature candidates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 39% or ratio of 2.6:1 from application to shortlisting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of applicants offered places</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 255 offers total               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 39% or ratio of 2.6:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 14% or ratio of 7.1:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 222 for Jurisprudence               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 41% or ratio of 2.4:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 15% or ratio of 6.6:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 33 for LSE               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 28.5% or ratio of 3.5:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 9.6% or ratio of 10.5:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 48 LSE applicants received an offer for <b>Jurisprudence or LSE.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 41% or ratio of 2.4:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 14% or ratio of 7.2:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 13 disability flagged candidates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 37% or ratio of 2.7:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 12.5% or ratio of 8:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 37 access flagged candidates</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 46.3% or ratio of 2.2:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 18.5% or ratio of 5.4:1 from application to offer</li> <li>• 14 mature flagged candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 26.5% or ratio of 3.8:1 from interview to offer</li> <li>- 10.5% or ratio of 9.6:1 from application to offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The total includes 25 Open Offers</li> </ul>
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### Test scores

<b>All Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNAT Multiple Choice Score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mean = 22 (21.66)</li> <li>- Median = 22</li> <li>- Standard Deviation = 5.14</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Shortlisted</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNAT Multiple Choice Score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mean = 26 (25.93)</li> <li>- Median = 26</li> <li>- Standard Deviation = 3.65</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Offers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNAT Multiple Choice Score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mean = 27 (27.2)</li> <li>- Median = 27</li> <li>- Standard Deviation = 3.63</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### GCSE A\* grades

Of those applicants who had undertaken GCSEs, the average number of achieved A\* grades for those who were offered places was 8 (7.96). However, in practice places were offered to candidates with anything from no A\* grades up to 14A\*s.

### Second College Interviews

31 candidates were nominated for second college interviews, 1 for reserve second interviews.

32 second college interviews were held (including 3 SS).

- 100% or a ratio of 1:1 from nomination to interview (excluding reserves).
- 100% or a ratio of 1:1 from nomination to interview (including reserves).

10 candidates nominated for a second interview received an offer (including one offer for LSE)

- 31% or ratio of 3.2:1 from interview to offer.
- 32.5% or ratio of 3.1:1 from nomination to offer (excluding reserves).
- 31% or ratio of 3.2:1 from nomination to offer (including reserves).