



2019 Admissions Round Feedback

Archaeology & Anthropology, Classical Archaeology & Ancient History and Human Sciences

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2019 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

At Keble, Archaeology & Anthropology, Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, and Human Sciences form part of an integrated 'subject group' directed by two Tutorial Fellows, one in Anthropology and one in Archaeology. The subject group as a whole now admits up to 9 candidates per year.

In Archaeology & Anthropology, 113 (107 in 2018) candidates applied to Oxford and 86 (74 in 2018) were shortlisted for interview; 31 (27 in 2018) offers were made. At Keble, there were 25 (26 in 2018) applicants, of whom 18 were shortlisted for interview. Five offers were made at Keble and two other applicants were made offers at another college.

In Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, 85 (110 in 2018) candidates applied to Oxford and 79 (99 in 2018) were shortlisted for interview; 31 (28 in 2018) offers were made. At Keble, 4 out of the five first choice applicants were interviewed, and a number of applicants from other colleges were also interviewed. Three offers were made.

In Human Sciences, 220 (186 in 2018) candidates applied to Oxford; 115 of those were shortlisted following the guidelines agreed among the colleges. The outcome was that 40 (39 in 2018) offers were made, 38 for October 2020 and 2 for October 2021. At Keble, there were 26 (27 in 2018) applicants for the 3 offers made.

As described below, tutors consider candidates from other colleges as well, so the direct application to place ratios for each college are not strongly indicative of a candidate's chance of success.

For Archaeology & Anthropology and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, candidates will normally be summoned for interview. For Human Sciences, the large numbers applying overall entail that it is not possible to interview all candidates: only a proportion of candidates can be summoned for interview – just over 50% this year. Grounds for not summoning include: less good results in official examinations (especially GCSE); less good results predicted for A level and/or other impending examinations; relatively low results in the TSA (Human Sciences only); negative school report; less good written work (Archaeology & Anthropology and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History) showing lack of intellectual coherence or power of analysis, or serious inaccuracy.

Final selection was made on the basis of several factors, including achieved and predicted grades, personal statement, school report, written work (Archaeology & Anthropology and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History only), TSA score (Human Sciences only), contextual information, and performance at interview. In admitting students we hope to select those individuals who, from the evidence that we have available to us, are the most able and most likely to benefit from the course

that we offer. Tutors were looking for evidence of enthusiasm for studying the course, combined with an inquiring mind, analytical skills, intellectual ambition, commitment and motivation.

As in previous years, tutors across the University worked together to ensure that the best candidates from the entire cohort applying to Oxford were offered places, regardless of which college they had applied to. Candidates are normally interviewed by at least two different colleges. Keble applicants have two interviews with Keble tutors (except in the case of Skype interviews), normally of about 20-25 minutes each. There are no written tests, but candidates may be asked to read a passage to discuss in the interview or to engage with images, graphs (particularly in the case of Human Sciences), or (for Archaeology & Anthropology and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History) aspects of material culture. All candidates in Archaeology & Anthropology and Human Sciences, and most in Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, had at least one further interview with tutors from another college.

Some applicants to Keble were this year offered places at other colleges, as noted above. Keble has one of the largest cohorts in the university of students reading Archaeology & Anthropology, and has a specific commitment to taking two students in Classical Archaeology & Ancient History and three in Human Sciences every year (admission numbers, particularly in Classical Archaeology & Ancient History are more variable in most other colleges).

These subjects maintain a strong presence at the college academically and in other areas of student life.

The university websites offer more information about the courses including the selection criteria:

<https://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions>

<http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/classical-archaeology-and-ancient-history.html>

<http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk>

<http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses/criteria.shtml>