

2025 Admissions Round Feedback

Archaeology & Anthropology

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2025 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

The tutors would like to thank all applicants for the time and care they put into their applications. We are also grateful to referees for providing their supporting statements and for the encouragement and support they give to applicants.

In Archaeology and Anthropology, 104 (the same as 2024) candidates applied to Oxford and 69 (59 in 2024) were shortlisted for interview. 28 (26 in 2024) offers were made for 2026 entry. At Keble, 15 out of the 22 first choice applicants and 13 applicants from other colleges were interviewed. Six offers were made for 2026, including one under-written open offer. One Keble applicant was made an offer at another college.

The criteria for shortlisting are:

- 1) A-level grades or equivalent AAA; 38 core points (with 6 in each Higher Level subject) at IB; or other equivalent; unless convincing extenuating circumstances can be demonstrated, these are the minimum prediction/secured set of grades and candidates without this will not be summoned for interview
- 2) submitted written work showing evidence of logical argument and analysis, as well as sufficient grasp of English to deal with the demands of an Oxford degree
- 3) a positive academic reference from someone acquainted with the candidate's academic background (this may be modified in the case of mature applicants)
- 4) a strong record of achievement, where relevant, in previous academic examinations, such as GCSEs
- 5) a personal statement that shows a convincing degree of enthusiasm and motivation for studying the subject.

Candidates who meet these criteria are interviewed.

Final selection was made on the basis of several factors, including achieved and predicted grades, personal statement, school report, written work, 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 this year had one interview with Keble tutors, normally of about 20 minutes each. The interviews were conducted remotely and online. There are no written tests, but candidates may be asked to read a passage to discuss in the interview or to engage with images or aspects of material culture. Interviewees were sent images online shortly before the interview. All candidates in Archaeology & Anthropology had at least one further interview with tutors from another college.

Candidates were assessed in respect of: enthusiasm and motivation for the degree; analytical reasoning ability; communication skills; aptitude for Archaeology & Anthropology; intellectual curiosity; engagement with images and objects presented. At the Final Decision Meeting held with tutors from all the participating colleges candidates were graded on their overall ability in respect of both their interview performance and all other selection criteria. Where assessments differed, candidates were discussed until agreement was reached upon filling all available places.

Further information on the admissions process is available from the departmental website: <https://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/admissions-process-undergraduates#collapse600921>