



## 2019 Admissions Round Feedback

### Biology

**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.**

Across all colleges, 739 applicants were received, an increase of around 6% on last year. 366 candidates were interviewed in Oxford or given the option of a remote interview if from outside Europe. 141 offers were made, including 34 open offers (where the college is not assigned until next August). Candidates taking A levels were required to obtain A\*AA grades for their conditional offer, with the A\* in science or mathematics; for the IB, a grade of 39 was required with a 7 in science or mathematics.

At Keble, we had 35 applicants for a quota of five places (one place was already given to a deferred applicant from the previous round) and we interviewed a total of 36 candidates including 20 Keble-allocated candidates. In addition to Keble places, two candidates were awarded pool places, and one was offered a place at another college. Keble had a very good field and we considered that another five candidates were good enough that we would have made offers to these applicants if our quota had been larger. Two offers made by Keble will be to candidates in Polar4 Q1 and/or ACORN4+5 (one in ACORN5, one in Polar4 4, ACORN5), contributing to reaching the University's Access targets.

All candidates who came to Oxford received two interviews, one at their first choice (or assigned) college, and one at a second college, with the exception of occasional overseas students for which a second remote interview could not be arranged. No written tests were set and interviews were approximately 25 minutes in length. During the interview, candidates were partly assessed on their ability to analyse and comment on biological data and/or specimens that were presented to them. Very little of the interview was concerned with questions that just required factual recall. We were particularly interested in assessing whether the candidates were genuinely enthusiastic about biology (this is a selection criteria for Biology) and here it was helpful to ask them to discuss recent reading, project work or other work of a biological nature carried out outside of school.