



2020 Admissions Round Feedback

Biology

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2020 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

Across all colleges 677 applications were received, a decrease of about 8% on last year. 339 candidates were invited to two interviews with different colleges, using Microsoft Teams. 111 offers were made, including 10 open offers (where the college is not assigned until August). The number of open offers was reduced this year to reflect uncertainty as to how the examinations will be administered in the summer. Candidates taking A levels are required to obtain A*AA grades for their conditional offer, with the A* in science or mathematics; for the IB, a grade of 39 is required with a 7 in science or mathematics.

At Keble, we had 37 applicants for a quota of six places and we interviewed a total of 43 candidates including 21 Keble-allocated candidates. In addition to quota Keble places, one candidate was awarded a place under the 'Opportunity Oxford' scheme¹. All offers were for 2021 entry (there were no applications for 2022 entry this year). In addition, one Keble-allocated candidate was awarded a place at another college. Two offers made to Keble-allocated candidates were composite measure band A or B, contributing to reaching the University's Access targets.

Regarding the interviewing process at Keble, no written tests were set and interviews were approximately 30 minutes in length. During the interview, candidates were partly assessed on their ability to analyse and comment on biological data or images 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 criterion 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.

Further and general information on Biology admissions can be found here:
<https://www.biology.ox.ac.uk/admissions>

¹ <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/opportunity-oxford>