

Summary of the 2022/23 University of Oxford Admissions Process for Biology

In the 2022/2023 admissions round there were 740 applications for Biology. This included 10 deferred applications for 2024 entry to the course; 127 applicants (17%) did not choose a college when they applied. There were 6.5 applications per available place (114 places).

343 applicants were invited to interview and 128 applicants received an offer for 2023 course entry. This included 10 Open Offers, where a place is guaranteed if the offer conditions are achieved but the college place will be allocated before the course commences. 17% of applicants to Biology received an offer.

Four offer holders have been nominated as [Opportunity Oxford](#) candidates.

Total applications	Female Applicants		Male Applicants		Home Applicants		EU Applicants		Overseas Applicants	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
740	486	66	254	34	416	56	46	6	278	38

Total Applications	Total Shortlisted Applicants		Total Offers (2022 course entry)	
	No.	%	No.	%
740	343	46	128	17

The standard entry requirements for Biology are set out on the [University of Oxford](#) website. [The standard offer for Biology](#) is A*AA, at A level, including Biology plus Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics and with the A* in a Science or a Mathematics (or equivalent). There was variation in the remaining A level subject(s) taken by A level applicants – some shortlisted applicants held Biology plus two or more of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. For other candidates, the third subject included Economics, English Literature, French, Latin, Music, Sociology, Geography, History, Psychology, Art & Design, Computer Science and Spanish.

Prior to shortlisting, a team of Biology tutors reviewed the applications as a gathered field and made interview recommendations to all other Biology tutors involved in admissions. As part of this assessment, performance at GCSE and equivalent, or other qualifications that had already been attained were evaluated, plus school type and the various measures and indicators on the UCAS forms were taken into account. The application college also assessed all applications to their college and made recommendations. All recommendations were then taken to a meeting attended by representatives from all colleges that admit Biologists, and shortlisting decisions were discussed and agreed.

After shortlisting, some applicants were redistributed to a new college 1 so that all colleges had approximately three shortlisted candidates per available place. All shortlisted candidates were then allocated a second college. Again, each college had approximately the same number of applicants to consider per available place. All shortlisted applicants were then invited to attend online interviews with each of the two colleges.

Although the content of interviews varies between interviewing panels, all interviewers asked detailed questions about subjects, objects, data or written/graphic material that the interviewees

are not expected to recognise or have studied before. Questions arising from the candidate's personal statement were also often posed.

Following interviews, representatives from all colleges met as a group to agree and confirm all decisions, including which candidates would receive a Biology Open Offer.

The average number of GCSEs taken by Biology applicants was 9.99, and the average of those shortlisted was 10.0. The average number of 9s, 8s and A*s at GCSE by Biology applicants was 8.4. The average number of 9/8/A*s for shortlisted applicants was 9.2, and for those receiving an offer it was 9.4. All of these numbers include only applicants taking more than 5 GCSEs. The graph below shows the distribution of 9s, 8s and A*s achieved by applicants.

