

Summary of Undergraduate Admissions Process for Biology, University of Oxford in 2023/24

In the 2023/2024 admissions round there were 731 applications for Biology. This included 11 deferred applications for 2025 entry to the course; 160 applicants (22%) did not choose a college when they applied. There were 6.5 applications per available place (112 places available).

335 applicants were invited to interview and 130 applicants received an MBIol offer. This included 16 Open Offers for 2024 course entry, where a place is guaranteed if the offer conditions are achieved but the college place will be allocated before the course commences, and 1 deferred offer for 2025 course entry. In total, 18% of applicants to Biology received an offer.

1 offer holder has been nominated as an [Opportunity Oxford](#) candidate.

Declared Gender	Applications	
	No.	%
Woman	433	59
Man	273	37
Prefer not to say	10	1
I use another term	15	2
Total applications	731	

Applicant Region	Applications	
	No.	%
Home	398	54%
EU	39	5%
Overseas	294	40%
Total applications	731	

Total Applications	Total Shortlisted Applicants		Total Offers	
	No.	%	No.	%
731	335	46	130	18

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 Ancient History, Drama, English Literature, Environmental Science, French, Music, Geography, History, Italian, Philosophy, Psychology and Religious Studies.

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, 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 9.7, and the average of those shortlisted was 10.0.
- The average number of 9s, 8s and A*s at GCSE by Biology applicants was 8.2.
- The average number of 9/8/A*s for shortlisted applicants was 9.2, and for those receiving an offer it was 9.6.

N.B. 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.

