

2025 Admissions Round Feedback

Biology

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

In Biology, 846 (770 in 2024) candidates applied to Oxford. 345 (349 in 2024) were shortlisted for interview, and ultimately 155 (149 in 2024) offers were made (including 3 deferred offers for 2027 course entry), meaning that 18% of Biology applicants received an offer.

At Keble, 18 out of the 41 first choice applicants were interviewed; each shortlisted applicant for Keble was interviewed here and by one other pre-arranged college. Eight offers, including two open offers, were made for 2025. One offer was made to an applicant to another college and one applicant to Keble was made an offer elsewhere.

We took account of the full range of information available to us at shortlisting, including information about school performance and on any specific factors affecting achievement. Students were selected for interview from their UCAS forms on the basis of examination scores (achieved and predicted), referee's report, and personal statement – showing both an interest in and an academic potential for Biology.

In their assessment of individual applications, the tutors took account of contextual data concerning relative individual and school performance as well as some background characteristics related to place of residence. This information is available only for applicants from within the UK. An explanation of how the University uses contextual data can be found here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applyingtoxford/decisions/contextual-data>.

Regarding the interviewing process at Keble, 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 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> .