



2020 Admissions Round Feedback

Classical Archaeology & Ancient History

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.

In Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, 121 (85 in 2019) candidates applied to Oxford and 107 (79 in 2019) were shortlisted for interview; 28 (31 in 2019) offers were made for 2021 entry and one for 2022. At Keble, five out of the six first choice applicants were interviewed, and a number of applicants from other colleges were also interviewed. Two offers were made for 2021, and one Keble applicant was offered a place at another college.

As described below, tutors consider candidates from other colleges as well, so the direct application to place ratios for each college are not strongly indicative of a candidate's chance of success.

For Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, candidates will normally be summoned for interview. Grounds for not summoning include: less good results in official examinations (especially GCSE); less good results predicted for A level and/or other impending examinations; less good written work showing lack of intellectual coherence or power of analysis, or serious inaccuracy.

Final selection was made on the basis of several factors, including achieved and predicted grades, personal statement, school report, written work, contextual information, and performance at interview. All interviews took place remotely, online, this year due to the pandemic. In admitting students we hope to select those individuals who, from the evidence that we have available to us, are the most able and most likely to benefit from the course that we offer. Tutors were looking for evidence of enthusiasm for studying the course, combined with an inquiring mind, analytical skills, intellectual ambition, commitment and motivation.

As in previous years, tutors across the University worked together to ensure that the best candidates from the entire cohort applying to Oxford were offered places, regardless of which college they had applied to. CAAH applicants had two separate interviews, both held remotely. There are no written tests, but candidates may be asked to read a passage to discuss in the interview or to engage with images or aspects of material culture. Most candidates in Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, had at least one further interview with tutors from another college.

At Keble, Archaeology & Anthropology, Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, and Human Sciences form part of an integrated 'subject group' directed by two Tutorial Fellows, one in Anthropology and one in Archaeology. The subject group as a whole now admits up to 9 candidates per year.

The university website offers more information about the courses including the selection criteria:

<http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/classical-archaeology-and-ancient-history.html>

<http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses/criteria.shtml>