

CAAH admissions feedback document January 2026

Section 1: Admission Statistics for 2022/3

1. Number of applicants

100 (of whom one was withdrawn by UAO and one withdrew before the shortlisting stage)

2. Number of applicants per place offered

3.4

3. Breakdown:

a) Breakdown of applicants by domicile

Home	83
EU	2
Overseas	15

b) Breakdown of applicants by gender

Female	64
Male	28
I use another term/Prefer not to say	8

c) Breakdown of applicants by entry year

Applications for 2026	99
Applications for 2027 (deferred)	1

4. Number of applicants shortlisted

86

5. Number of applicants offered places

29 (including 3 Open Offers)

Section 2: Admissions Processes

1. Procedure for shortlisting

2.1.1. Selection criteria: Candidates were assessed against the selection criteria published on the Classics Faculty website at <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/admissions-criteria-classical-archaeology-ancient-history>.

2.1.2. Selection process: Candidates could be recommended for de-summoning if their first-choice college believed beyond reasonable doubt that candidates are not qualified to undertake a course in Oxford on the basis of one or more of the following specific grounds: poor results in official examinations; poor results predicted for A level or other impending examinations; negative school report; poor quality of written work; failure to demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. In the light of the ongoing uncertainty about the ‘rebalancing’ of A-level grade boundaries back to the pre-pandemic levels, and disparities between parts of the UK, particularly in availability of cGCSE data, colleagues were advised to be more than usually cautious about de-summoning on the basis of ‘poor results in official examinations, especially GCSEs’ or ‘poor results predicted for A level’. All proposals for not summoning to the interview had to be agreed by the first-choice college with the admissions coordinator and the allocated second-choice college and notified to the admissions mailing list. If there were no objections to the first-choice college’s decision not to shortlist the candidate, any other college could ‘rescue’ the candidate. Results of AHCAAT, as it was still in its pilot stage, could not be used in de-summoning decisions

2.1.3. Reallocation: in order to maintain the even ration of candidates per place, 7 candidates were reallocated from over-subscribed to under-subscribed colleges prior to the interview stage.

2.1.4. Statistics

i) UCAS personal statement score averages (out of 5)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
3.88	4.11	4.44

ii) UCAS reference score averages (out of 5)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
4.34	4.48	4.79

iii) Written work averages (out of 10)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
5.89	6.11	6.62

iv) Archaeology Interview score averages (out of 10)

Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
6.5	7.7

v) Ancient History Interview score averages (out of 10)

Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
6.3	7.5

vi) AHCAAT score averages (out of 100)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
56.4	59.2	65.8

NB: While AHCAAT was run as a pilot this year and AHCAAT results were not used in selection for interviews, we provide the average scores for information.

2. *Interview process*

2.2.1. Summoning for interview: All candidates summoned for interview were notified by their colleges by Wednesday 26 November. Interviews were conducted remotely via Teams on 8 and 9 December for 1st-choice colleges, and on 12 December by the faculty interview panels for the second round of interviews.

2.2.2. Interviews at 1st college: all candidates received two independent interviews of 20 to 25 minutes with separate pairs of interviewers at their first-choice college; at least one of the four interviewers had to be a historian and at least one an archaeologist. Colleges were allowed to enter into consortia (i.e., have the same two pairs of interviewers interviewing for more than one college).

2.2.3. Procedure for 2nd interviews: All second interviews were organised centrally by the Faculty of Classics; candidates flagged for second interview were assigned to one of the six faculty interviewing panels, each of which had a historian and an archaeologist on it, who conducted a single interview with the candidate.

2.2.4. Interview criteria: Interviews were intended to inform the admitting tutors about the following qualities of the candidate: candidate's potential for independent thinking, ability to follow an argument, skill in communication, and adaptability for tutorial teaching

2.2.5. Final Declarations Meeting procedure: all offers, including Opportunity Oxford offers, were confirmed by college representatives at the Final Declarations Meeting, which reviewed them against the candidates' mid-interview ranking. The meeting agreed the number of Open Offers and identified the Open Offer candidates. It also conducted a preliminary review of the admissions process.