



2020 Admissions Round Feedback

Engineering Science

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.

Engineering Science continues to be a very popular course at Oxford. There were over 1050 candidates for approximately 170 places across the University this year, a ratio of approximately 6:1 and comparable to previous years. In Keble College there were 90 applicants, an exceptionally high number. With very few applications for deferred entry, competition for places was extremely competitive.

Our assessment of candidates is based on the following: (1) the UCAS form: grades to date, predicted grades, personal statement and the school reference; (2) scores in the Physics Aptitude Test – PAT (organized centrally by the Department of Engineering Science); and (3) the two interviews: one in Keble and the second at another College, each of 30 minutes in duration with two interviewers.

Of the applicants, 32 were invited to come for interview (a lower number than normal) and all were able to attend the on-line interviews. Those candidates not invited had less strong UCAS applications (typically less good public examination results and/or predictions) and/or scored less well in the PAT. Almost all interviewed candidates had all or mostly A* grades at GCSE and predictions at A level of straight A grades and generally two A* grades in maths and/or physics, or equivalent.

Both interviews largely consisted of one or more mathematics and physics problems designed to test for the criteria involved in selection (see <https://www.eng.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applications/>). Successful applicants were also able to demonstrate enthusiasm for and knowledge about engineering as a discipline. Admission to Oxford and to Keble thus remains highly competitive.

The overall outcome was that 12 applicants were offered places at Keble (a higher number than usual and one that reflects the college's recent expansion of places in Engineering Science) and that 6 others were offered a place or made an open offer by another college, all for entry in October 2021.