

2026 Admissions Round Feedback

Engineering Science

The Engineering 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.

Engineering Science continues to be a very popular course at Oxford. There were 1273 applications to Engineering Science this year; 444 applicants were shortlisted for interview, and 215 offers were made. In Keble College there were 127 first-choice applicants, of whom 52 were shortlisted for interview including eleven at other colleges.

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.

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*/8 and 9 grades at GCSE and predictions at A level of straight A grades and generally two A* grades in maths, further maths (where offered) and/or physics, or equivalent. International qualifications were assessed according to the published guidance: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/for-international-students/international-qualifications>.

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/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>.

Each shortlisted applicant had two interviews: one at Keble and the second at another pre-assigned College, each of around 30 minutes in duration with two interviewers. These interviews were conducted remotely and online, using Microsoft Teams and Miro whiteboard software. 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.

The final outcome was that 14 applicants were offered places at Keble for 2026. Six Keble applicants were made offers at other colleges.