

English Admissions 2019

This year the University of Oxford had a high number of applicants for English Language and Literature. Many of the candidates who applied made very good applications and, as every year, we had to make many difficult decisions. These figures might help to give context to the process this year. (The figures are preliminary.)

Total number of applicants		899
Not invited to interview (or withdrew)		290
Interviewed in Oxford (or remotely)		609
Places offered (including 26 Open Offers)		258
Approx. ratio of applicants to offers		3.5:1

We cannot interview all applicants, so we have to make decisions on whom to shortlist, based on the UCAS information about past and predicted exam results, the UCAS academic reference and personal statement, the submitted written work, and the result of the ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test). For UK candidates we also use contextual data, such as school performance and postcode data, as outlined on the Oxford Admissions website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>

The ELAT is a ninety-minute test requiring an essay which responds to passages of literary material on a given theme. Candidates may access their test results from Monday 14 January 2019 from the following website:

<https://results.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/candidates/controller/open/login.html>

Candidates who scored well in the ELAT, and had good exam results, written work, and references, were likely to be asked for interview. Candidates who had low scores in some aspects of their application will only have been invited for interview with special consideration of other factors.

The number of applicants to individual colleges varies from year to year, so a number of shortlisted candidates are reallocated from the most oversubscribed colleges to those with a lower ratio of candidates to places. Those applicants who make open applications are similarly allocated to the less oversubscribed colleges. After first college interviews, around 200 additional interviews were arranged in a second and sometimes a third college, to give candidates the best chance of being placed. We also made 26 Open Offers (offers to candidates who will be informed of the college where they will hold a place after examination results are released for the whole cohort).

We know it is disappointing for applicants and their schools when well qualified candidates do not receive an offer. The standard is very high, and we are conscious each year that we do not have room for all of the candidates with exceptional academic records, and who have excellent potential as students of English Literature. We thank you for your patience with our application process.