

Geography Admissions Report 2023

A. Profile of applicants

There were 289 applications. 277 applications were for entry in 2024 and 12 for entry in 2025.

This year, there were four gender options to select: “Man”, “Woman”, “I use another term”, and “I prefer not to say”. Four applicants chose either “I use another term” or “I prefer not to say”. In the tables below, totals refer to all applicants but only the numbers for “Man” and “Woman” are represented in order to protect the identity of individuals in categories with low numbers. In 2022 and previous years, applicants could only select “Male” and “Female” (which have been represented alongside “Man” and “Woman” below).

Table 1: Total applications

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Woman | 169 | 179 | 191 | 292 | 282 | 333 | 182 |
| Man | 116 | 154 | 142 | 163 | 165 | 205 | 137 |
| Total | 289 | 333 | 333 | 455 | 447 | 538 | 319 |

Table 2: Applications by gender and school type

| | Woman | Man | Total | % of total applicants from this school type (2022 figures in brackets) |
|-------------|-------|-----|-------|---|
| State | 89 | 66 | 157 | 54.3% (59%) |
| Independent | 44 | 32 | 78 | 26.9% (21%) |
| Overseas | 36 | 18 | 54 | 18.7% (20%) |

B. Admissions Process

The admissions panel drew up an initial shortlist of 200 applicants based primarily on contextualised GCSE (cGCSE) scores where these were available, but also including all post qualification applicants who had already achieved the level of standard offer in A Levels. 20 applicants in the most disadvantaged group who were predicted to obtain the required offer were shortlisted irrespective of their cGCSE score.

College tutors were then asked to nominate applicants for rescue paying particular attention to:

- i) Mitigating circumstances
- ii) Applicants who did not have a cGCSE score
- iii) contextual information regarding GCSE results (where available)
- iv) applicants in the next most disadvantaged group
- v) contextual measures

Oxford uses a range of contextual measures related to an applicant’s school and home postcode. More information can be found on the University website at ox.ac.uk/context.

There were 246 applicants on the final centrally agreed shortlist. College tutors were then asked to identify (2 x quota of offer places) applicants to retain for interview. The remainder of the shortlisted applicants were reallocated across Colleges. College tutors were free to choose to retain for interview more than this number, but any such applicants were considered to be in excess of the 3x quota place and not included in the reallocation process. In line with University policy all interviews were conducted online.

C. Outcomes

The outcomes of the Admissions process are tabulated below.

Table 3: Outcomes

| | Overall | | | State | | | Independent | | | Overseas | | |
|--|---------|--------|------|---------|--------|------|-------------|--------|------|----------|--------|------|
| | Overall | Female | Male | Overall | Female | Male | Overall | Female | Male | Overall | Female | Male |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total applicants | 289 | 169 | 116 | 157 | 90 | 66 | 78 | 44 | 32 | 54 | 36 | 18 |
| Offers for 2023 | 84 | 55 | 28 | 56 | 36 | 19 | 21 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Offers for 2024 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Open offers | 10 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Rejected after interview | 157 | 81 | 73 | 85 | 42 | 42 | 48 | 24 | 22 | 24 | 15 | 9 |
| Deselected | 34 | 23 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 17 | 4 |
| Success rate as % of all applicants in each category (includes deferred and open offers) | 34% | 38% | 28% | 40% | 46% | 32% | 33% | 43% | 19% | 17% | 11% | 28% |
| 2022 figures | 27% | 25% | 29% | 32% | 30% | 34% | 20% | 19% | 20% | 18% | 17% | 21% |
| Success rate change v 2022 | +7% | +13% | -1% | +8% | +16% | -2% | +13% | +24% | -1% | -1% | -6% | +7% |

Table 4: Outcomes for disadvantaged candidates

| | Two most disadvantaged groups | | | Most disadvantaged group | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|-----|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| | Overall | Woman | Man | Overall | Woman | Man |
| Total applicants | 73 | 47 | 25 | 23 | 18 | 5 |
| Offers 2024 | 26 | 21 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Offers 2025 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Open offers | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rejected after interview | 39 | 20 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Deselected | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Success rate as % of all applicants in each category (includes deferred and open offers) | 40% | 51% | 20% | 43% | 44% | 40% |