

## 2024-25 Admissions Round Feedback

### Geography

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2024-25 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

A wholehearted thank you to all those candidates who either applied for or were interviewed for Geography at Keble College in the 2024 round. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of school staff in preparing the reports on the UCAS forms and in supporting students to apply to Oxford. For the 2024 admissions round, we were able to make 9 offers for 2025 entry (one more than initially planned because of the strength of applications this year). There was also one deferred place from the previous admissions round. In total 98 offers were made across all colleges, which equates to a success rate of 25.9%.

#### Online Demonstration Interview

Keble Geography contributed a demonstration interview to the university admissions resources. The online interview can be found [here](#). Dr Sam Hampton and Professor Richard Washington, both on the teaching staff in Keble Geography, ran the interview with one of the current students. Sam and Richard have interviewed together for Keble for the last few years and what you see in the video is as close to the real thing as could be. It is hopefully a useful resource for aspiring applicants.

#### 2024 Admissions Process

##### *Applications*

A total of 379 candidates applied to all colleges to study Geography at Oxford in the 2024 round, which was a 31% increase on last year. 369 applications were for entry in 2025 and 10 for entry in 2026.

*Table 1: Total applications*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Woman	227	169	179	191	292	282	333
Man	146	116	154	142	163	165	205
Total	379	289	333	333	455	447	538

Note: This year, like last year, there were four gender options to select: "Man", "Woman", "I use another term", and "I prefer not to say". Six 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.

*Table 2: Applications by gender and school type*

	Woman	Man	Total	% of total applicants from this school type (2023 figures in brackets)
State	124	55	181	47.6% (54.3%)
Independent	46	56	104	27.4% (26.9%)
Overseas	57	35	94	24.7% (18.7%)

##### *Shortlisting*

The admissions panel drew up an initial shortlist of 181 applicants based primarily on contextualised GCSE (cGCSE) scores where these were available. 23 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](https://ox.ac.uk/context).

There were 249 applicants on the final centrally agreed shortlist.

### *Reallocation*

College tutors were then asked to identify (2 x quota of offer places) applicants to retain for interview. Keble was initially able to offer 8 places this year and could therefore retain 16 shortlisted candidates for interview at Keble. Candidates beyond the 16 who had applied to Keble and who had been shortlisted were then reallocated to other colleges for interview. 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.

### *Keble Interviews*

Candidates invited for interview at Keble were assessed on the basis of two independent 30 minute interviews with Geography fellows and tutors. All interviews took place online via the Microsoft Teams platform following the agreement across Oxford colleges to adopt online interviews for the foreseeable future. During the interviews, interviewers asked a range of questions designed to test the candidate's ability in problem solving, ability to follow and evaluate an argument and independent thinking. Interviewers also presented the candidates with graphs, pictures and diagrams, to evaluate the applicants' ability to interpret data. We do not test directly for geographical knowledge, but we expect candidates to be able to engage with geographical topics. The academic staff conducting the interviews in 2024 were Professor Richard Washington and Dr Sam Hampton (panel 1), Professor Beth Greenhough and Dr Eleanor Thomson (panel 2) and Dr Fiona Ferbrache and Alex Henry. Panels 1 and 2 used a short reading which was supplied to the candidates 30 minutes before the interview. The first part of the interview (usually 15 minutes) dealt with the reading. Questions on the reading dealt with the content and interpretation of the content.

The strongest candidates were able to respond in a thoughtful way to questions and ideas, creatively applying pre-existing knowledge to new problems. They responded precisely and clearly to graphs, maps, pictures and diagrams, seeking clarification from interviewers when necessary, and showing good attention to detail. Strong applicants also came across as engaged and enthused by the topics they were discussing, and demonstrated a broad awareness of, and engagement with topical issues. Above all, the better interviewees responded to what was asked of them rather than tried to inject prepared statements or facts or rely too heavily on previous knowledge.

Each panel scored individual applicants out of 10. With each candidate doing two interviews, we ended up with two scores out of 10. There were often good reasons for within panel divergence and these cases typically were discussed.

Keble College Geography tutors do their absolute best to be as fair, rigorous and as consistent as possible in the identification of candidates with the potential and ability to flourish at the University.

Post interviews the panel of 6 met for several hours. Each candidate was discussed in detail. Discussion included the candidates' application form, exam grades and the interview itself. Decisions are never based on the interview alone.

We very much regret that we are unable to offer places to more candidates as so very many of them are deserving of a place. Thank you once again to all candidates for applying and to teaching staff for their very helpful contributions to the process.