



2019 Admissions Round Feedback

History and Joint Schools

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2019 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

This year Keble received 69 applications in History and Joint Schools (38 for History, 22 for History and Politics, 7 for History and Modern Languages and 2 for Ancient and Modern History). Of these we interviewed 37 following reallocations between colleges. We also interviewed 13 other candidates who had initially applied to other colleges at the mid-interview stage. We made a total of 16 offers: 11 in History; 2 in History and Politics; 2 in Ancient and Modern History and 1 in History and Modern Languages. Two Keble candidates received offers at other colleges; and six of our offers were to imports from other colleges. Three offers were made to non-UK candidates; of the other offers all but one was given to state school candidates. All offers were for 2020.

All aspects of a candidate's application were carefully reviewed, including their contextualised GCSE score (where available) and other qualifications, before any decision was to call them to interview. Performance on the HAT and contextualised GCSE scores are particularly significant in deciding whether to summon a candidate for interview. Marking of the HAT is fully anonymised and all scripts are double-blind marked by members of the History Faculty. Further information about the History Aptitude Test, including past papers and mark schemes, can be found on the History Faculty Website: <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/history-aptitude-test-hat>

All applicants for History and joint schools received two interviews. One interview was used to discuss historical topics previously studied, and matters arising from the personal statement. The second interview involved discussion of a passage of historical writing, in this case about processes of state building. In the interview on the set passage we are assessing the ability to apply and develop new ideas encountered in a challenging piece of historiographical writing. Joint school applicants received an additional interview from the partner discipline.

Our final decisions were based on very careful consideration of all aspects of each candidate's application: achieved and predicted examination results, UCAS reference and personal statement, submitted written work, performance in the HAT and performance in interview. In all aspects of the application procedure we are looking for evidence of strong analytical ability, clarity of expression, historical imagination and enthusiasm for the subject.

Further details of the History Faculty's selection criteria can be found at:
<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/how-apply#collapse1-0>

We were very impressed with the quality of our candidates. Most had excellent achieved and predicted results; the best were able to discuss their work in a fluent and analytical way, and to

apply ideas they had encountered for the first time to periods and areas they had studied at school. We found UCAS personal statements that gave us a sense of the candidates' broader reading and intellectual interests to be particularly helpful. The vast majority of candidates interviewed were very able indeed. However, this is, of course, a very competitive process and the college has to prefer those candidates who perform best in comparison with one another across the range of criteria specified above.