

2021 Admissions Round Feedback

History and joint schools

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2021 selection round - there will be changes each year, and these pages are only retained to provide a general indication of process.

The History 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.

Keble admits students for History, ancient and Modern History, History and Politics, and History and Modern Languages (French, Italian, and Spanish only). A summary of the number of applications, shortlisted applicants and offers in History and joint schools is provided by the Faculty of History and is available on this website. This year there were 1871 applications for all courses involving History; 376 offers were made.

In Keble, there were 37 first-choice applicants (four for Ancient and Modern History, four for History & Politics, two for History & Modern Languages, and 27 for History); 29 were shortlisted for interview. Twelve offers were made for 2022 and one for 2023.

The criteria for shortlisting differ according to the course, and they are described in full in the Faculty's summary report mentioned above.

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>

Because of the pandemic interviews were not in-person. All interviews took place on Microsoft Teams and lasted 30 minutes (20 minutes in the case of second round interviews). Applicants for History were interviewed by a team of three History tutors. Applicants for joint schools, including Ancient and Modern History, were also interviewed by tutors in the appropriate subject. Interviews for History began with tutors asking question about a piece of historical writing sent to each applicant online seventy-five minutes before the start of the interview. Interviewees could also be asked questions arising from topics they have studied at school, their written work, or from their UCAS personal statement.

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.

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>.

This year tutors were also aware of the potential and uneven impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both learning and assessment.

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

There is a commitment across the colleges to ensure that the chances of being made an offer are not disproportionately affected by college choice. The History tutors therefore interviewed a number of applicants to other colleges and, in turn, some Keble applicants were also interviewed elsewhere.

Thirteen offers were made at Keble this year, including one for 2023. These included eight for History, two for Ancient and Modern History and three for History and Politics. There were no offers for History & Modern Languages this particular year. Three of these offers were made to applicant to other colleges and one Keble applicant was made an offer elsewhere.