



2019 Admissions Round Feedback

Law

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 we received 61 applications for Law or Law with Law Studies in Europe from candidates from a wide range of backgrounds; this is about the same number as the previous two years. These applications were for 7 or 8 standard degree places and 1 or 2 places on the Senior Status degree. As is now normal a number of candidates were reallocated between the colleges in the University before the interview stage in order to deal with any problems of over- or under-subscription at any particular college(s). It may be, therefore, that we considered a candidate's application either because he or she had applied to Keble, or had made an open application, or because he or she had chosen another college but was reallocated to Keble. This had no influence on our final decision. After eliminating some candidates at the pre-interview stage, this left a ratio of approximately 3 candidates for each place at each of the colleges, including Keble.

The decisions about which candidates to interview were based on the following: (1) the UCAS form: grades to date, predicted grades (where applicable), personal statement and the helpful references (College gratefully acknowledges the time that referees spend writing references); (2) the LNAT (a written test taken by candidates before the interview stage which comprised both essay and multiple choice components); and (3) contextual information on applications designed to support the aims of Oxford's Access and Participation Plan. This year we were able to take advantage of a more comprehensive and detailed set of data on applicants, their schools, circumstances, and backgrounds.

Information on this can be found here:

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

Our final assessment of candidates interviewed was based on all of the following: (1) the UCAS form; (2) the LNAT; and (3) two twenty-minute interviews for candidates interviewed in Oxford, or one slightly longer interview conducted online for overseas candidates. The interviews largely consisted of legal scenarios designed to test for the criteria involved in selection (details of which are published on the web at

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/undergraduate-selection-criteria>).

They assumed no knowledge of law whatsoever; the problems were specifically chosen for the unusual nature of the scenario and any candidates who had studied some law were specifically told not to speculate on what the law might be.

In terms of the interviews, the best candidates were able to engage in a sophisticated way with the problems discussed and give reasons why the distinctions between the various scenarios postulated mattered (or did not matter). Weaker candidates tended to adopt a position without fully articulating their reasons for doing so or without being able convincingly to reject potential counterarguments.

We made nine offers for 2020, including one for Law with Law Studies in Europe. This year, we made no offers for the Senior Status degree.

The focus of admissions to study law at Keble is on academic merit. Extra-curricular activities play little to no part in the decision making process. We are looking for exceptionally bright and motivated students who are intellectually curious and who will thrive in the intellectually charged atmosphere of law at Keble.