



2020 Admissions Round Feedback

Law

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2020 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 67 applications for Law or Law with Law Studies in Europe from candidates from a wide range of backgrounds; this is a little higher than the number in the previous three years. These applications were for 7 or 8 standard degree places and 1 or 2 places on the Senior Status degree. As a result of a recent change to the admissions process, all decisions to shortlist candidates for interview were taken by the law faculty looking at the candidates across the University as a whole. The aim of this process is to ensure equal treatment of all applications regardless of the college which candidates may have chosen, or to whom they may have been allocated if they submitted an open application. As a result of the same process, all colleges will also have interviewed some candidates who did not choose, or were not initially allocated to them. This had no influence on our final decision.

The decisions about which candidates to shortlist for interview were based on the following: (1) the UCAS form: grades to date, predicted grades (where applicable), personal statement and the helpful references (the law tutors gratefully acknowledge the time that referees spend writing references); (2) the LNAT (a written test taken by candidates before the interview stage which comprises both essay and multiple choice components); and (3) contextual information on applications designed to support the aims of Oxford's Access and Participation Plan. Information on this can be found here: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>

Our final assessment of the candidates interviewed was based on all of the following: (1) the UCAS form; (2) the LNAT; and (3) two twenty-minute interviews which this year were conducted online because of the restrictions to deal with the pandemic. 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 ten offers for 2020, including one for Law with Law Studies in Europe and one Opportunity Oxford offer. 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.