

2023 Admissions Round Feedback

Law

Please note this is subject admissions feedback from the 2023 selection round. The admissions system tends to change to varying degrees annually and in any event these pages only give a general indication regarding the process.

This year 28 candidates were interviewed at Keble for places on the Law programme or Law with Law Studies in Europe programme. The candidates, who had a diverse range of backgrounds, were vying for seven places (i.e., a ratio of 4:1). The decision about which candidates to interview is taken at the faculty level by assessing all candidates who had applied to the University, and not just those who had applied to, or had been allocated to, Keble. The ratio of candidates per place prior to the faculty shortlisting was approximately 10:1. All candidates interviewed were more than capable of reading Law at the University which meant that we had to make some exceptionally difficult choices between very impressive candidates. There was little to separate many of the candidates from each other.

Several candidates were reallocated between the colleges in the University before the interview stage in order to address, in particular, any problems of over- or under-subscription at any particular college(s). It may be, therefore, that we considered a particular candidate's application either because they had applied to Keble, or had made an open application, or because they had chosen another college but were reallocated to Keble. This had no influence on our final decision. We also interviewed several candidates who had already been interviewed for a place at another college. Again, this had no bearing on any of the conclusions that we reached.

Eight offers were made for 2024 entry, including one Open Offer. Two of these offers were on the Opportunity Oxford scheme. In a separate exercise, an offer was made under the new Astrophoria Foundation Year programme for entry in 2024.

Our final assessment of candidates interviewed was based on all of the following: (1) information detailed in the UCAS form; (2) the LNAT; and (3) two twenty-minute interviews. The interviews consisted in putting scenarios to candidates which were designed to test the selection criteria (details of which are published by the Law Faculty at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/undergraduate-selection-criteria>). No knowledge of the law was expected or required. 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 deal with potential counterarguments.

The focus of admissions to read law at Keble is on academic merit and potential to thrive on the programme. 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 flourish at Keble.