FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL & MODERN LANGUAGES
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Modern Languages Admissions Feedback Information for Applicants – 2022

1. ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

This year, the number of applicants for Modern Languages fell considerably: 685 as against 778 from last year. Overall figures are as follows:

Total number of applications: 685
Candidates who withdrew or were not invited for interview: 65
Candidates interviewed: 620
Places offered for 2022: 308
Places offered for 2023: 11
Opportunity Oxford Offers: 19
Ratio of applications to offers: 2.14

Applications in 2022 (4 candidates were withdrawn)			
Language	**Number of applicants (M/F)**	**Number interviewed (M/F)**	**Number of offers (M/F)**
Czech	3 (2/1)	3 (2/1)	3 (2/1)
French	321 (89/232)	296 (79/217)	140 (39/101)
Beg. German	18 (5/13)	16 (4/12)	10 (2/8)
German	100 (36/64)	95 (32/63)	56 (19/37)
Italian	105 (32/73)	93 (27/66)	45 (18/27)
Modern Greek	9 (2/7)	7 (1/6)	4 (1/3)
Polish	1 (0/1)	1 (0/1)	0 (0/0)
Portuguese	19 (9/10)	19 (9/10)	13 (5/8)
Beg. Russian	27 (6/21)	27 (6/21)	16 (4/12)
Russian	30 (17/13)	28 (17/11)	11 (4/7)
Spanish	240 (75/165)	214 (69/145)	78 (25/53)

2. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

2.0. General Admissions Criteria
Successful candidates for admission displayed the qualities listed below. The admissions process as a whole is designed to identify which candidates possess them in the greatest measure:

• Motivation and commitment along with capacity for sustained study of language and literature.

- Communication: willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and orally; ability to listen and to give considered responses.

- Proven competence in the language(s) as established by schoolwork written in the language(s), by the language test and (in some cases) by oral competence at interview. In the case of beginners, clear evidence of aptitude and potential for language study.

- While there is no requirement that candidates will have read any literature in the language(s), successful candidates will demonstrate an aptitude and commitment to the study of literature by evidence of their readiness to discuss their reading in English or in the relevant language(s) or by their response to a reading-passage at interview. Assessors will look for evidence of intellectual curiosity and critical engagement.

Selection is competitive and it may well be that a candidate is able to demonstrate these qualities and nonetheless is edged out of contention by a candidate with stronger all-round claims. In applying these criteria, the main concern is to identify proven competence in the language(s) along with future promise and aptitude in literary and cultural studies.

Candidates who display one or more of the above shortcomings may nonetheless be invited for interview if the paper application reveals a clear justification for, or explanation of, the shortcomings and clear alternative evidence of the candidate's potential.

2.1. Shortlisting

A decision not to shortlist a candidate conforms to current ML guidelines, according to which candidates will normally be invited to interview unless they display at least one of the following shortcomings:

- results in official examinations, especially GCSE, are not at a sufficiently high level;

- results predicted for A-level or other impending official examination suggest that the candidate:

  1. is unlikely to succeed in meeting a conditional offer;
  2. the school report contains clear negative aspects relevant to the general admissions criteria;

- the written work submitted is clearly deficient in respect of the general admissions criteria;

- test results are a) in the bottom quintile for each of two languages, or
  b) a test result in the bottom quintile means an application in a single language or joint school or a language with a beginners' language (except for any language where a LAT score is available) is not viable.

Reallocation:

The purpose of reallocation is to give worthwhile candidates the chance of interview. Reallocation is carried out on the faculty MLAD database. Colleges with a higher ratio of candidates to places than the average across all Colleges will automatically be invited to reallocate candidates. Colleges with a lower ratio than the average will be asked to receive candidates. In addition, this year some Colleges signalled particular shortages in certain

languages. The coordinators manually reallocated a few candidates in those languages before running the automated reallocation system.

Number of Reallocated students: 79

2.2 Interview Process
Interviews took place on Teams in the second week of December. During the interviews, candidates were given the opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and commitment, and their capacity for the sustained study of language and literature. They were assessed against the published criteria on their overall communication skills and, where appropriate, on their oral competence in the relevant language(s). We know that it is disappointing to candidates and their schools that we are not able to offer places to all of the very able young people we see.
For detailed FMML Selection and Interview Criteria see: https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/faqs#faq-12

All candidates receive at least two interviews from their First Choice College. All data is shared on the Faculty Admissions Database (MLAD) and Admissions Tutors from other colleges can arrange further interviews, with priority given to colleges on the computer-generated string of 'lower' choices.

107 additional interviews were held.

Guide Score:
The Faculty Admissions Database (MLAD) calculates each candidate's Guide Score by double-weighting the Interview Score and single-weighting all other factors. GCSE score (or its contextualised equivalent) and Composite Score (based on Contextual Data concerning Prior Education, Residential Postcode and Care Status) are then taken into account before Admissions Tutors make a final decision.

The Mark Scheme (for schoolwork and interviews) is as follows:

10 outstanding   80+

9 excellent   79–75

8 very good   74–70

7 good   69–67

6 promising   66–64

5 competent   63–61

4 adequate 60–58

3 poor 57–51

2 weak 50–45

1 very weak 44–

All decisions to offer places to ML candidates (Joint School included) were confirmed at the ML Admissions Final Decisions meeting on Friday 16th December 2022. All colleges involved were represented by their ML Primary Users together with the Co-ordinators from each Joint Schools and from the Opportunity Oxford scheme.
We are grateful to colleges for their help in making the selection process run so smoothly.

3. PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TESTS

The written language tests last half-an-hour and are taken in schools in November. Some candidates were unable to sit the test in schools, and sat it at home with remote invigilation. The test may vary in format from one language to another. The test is designed to test knowledge of basic structures of the foreign language. It is not primarily a test of vocabulary. Each year, tests are vetted by a committee which involves secondary school teachers so that they reflect current teaching aims and practices.

Candidates may be informed of the quintile in which the test score fell, but it is Modern Languages practice not to release the actual test scores since the quintile provides more context for the performance, due to the incomparability across the languages (i.e. French vs. Russian).

Please see below Average Test performance of applicants in 2022:

Statistics for all candidates	Mean	Median	
French	6.7	6.9	
German	6.7	6.9	
Spanish	6.9	7.0	
Italian	8.4	8.7	
Russian	6.6	7.1	
Portuguese	8.3	8.3	
Polish	8	8.0	
Beginners German	8.9	9.6	
Beginners Italian	8.3	9.3	
Beginners Russian	8.7	9.6	
Beginners Portuguese	8.6	9.0	
Linguistics Philosophy	6.1	6.0	

Modern Languages does not currently produce graphs of test performance as this might enable the identification of individual students in smaller languages such as Czech and Modern Greek.