



2019 Admissions Round Feedback

Physics

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.

We had 134 applicants for a total of eight places to read Physics at Keble this year. Based on the results of a physics and mathematics aptitude test as well as information available on the UCAS forms 28 candidates were invited for interview. A detailed report on the aptitude test and applications for Physics across the University will be available on the Physics website at: <https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates/applications/physics-aptitude-test-pat/pat-past-papers> (at the time of writing, 15th January, the Department had not posted this year's report). Twenty-one candidates were interviewed at Keble and 7 candidates transferred to another College to account for a higher number of Keble applicants.

All interviewees at Keble were assessed on the basis of one twenty-five and one twenty minute interview with Physics fellows and tutors. Each of the two interviews contained a mix of physics and mathematics questions. They were designed to evaluate performance according to a number of criteria: motivation and readiness to work; mathematics use in physics; reasoning and problem solving skills; intuition and physical connection; oral and written communication. All candidates were subsequently interviewed at another randomly chosen College for a third time. The interview and test results as well as contextual information on the UCAS forms were collated by the department and available to all Colleges for the final selection process. The process is designed to ensure that the best suited candidates are offered a place to read physics, irrespective of College choice.

Let me finally mention that we are not looking for candidates who have memorized a large number of physics formulae. The interviews are like mini-tutorials about basic physics principles and effects and also ask the candidates to apply their mathematical skills to describing physical phenomena. They are designed to require candidates to "think on their feet" and to respond to guidance given by the interviewers. We do not expect immediate and polished answers to the physics problems discussed during the interviews.

