



2020 Admissions Round Feedback

Physics

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.

We had 128 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, 25 candidates were invited for interview. A detailed report on the aptitude test and applications for Physics across the University is available on the Physics website at: <https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates/applications/physics-aptitude-test-pat/pat-past-papers>. 20 candidates were interviewed at Keble, of which 8 have been admitted for 2021 entry, and 5 candidates transferred to another college to account for a higher number of Keble applicants. Out of these 5 candidates, 3 have been admitted.

All interviewees at Keble were assessed on the basis of two thirty-minute online interviews 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.

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 require the candidates to apply their mathematical skills to describing physical phenomena. They are designed to test the candidates' ability 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.