APPLYING TO OXFORD

AMY FORBES, OUTREACH AND ACCESS OFFICER

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

WORLD LEADING

Oxford University has ranked number 1 in the world for five years running.
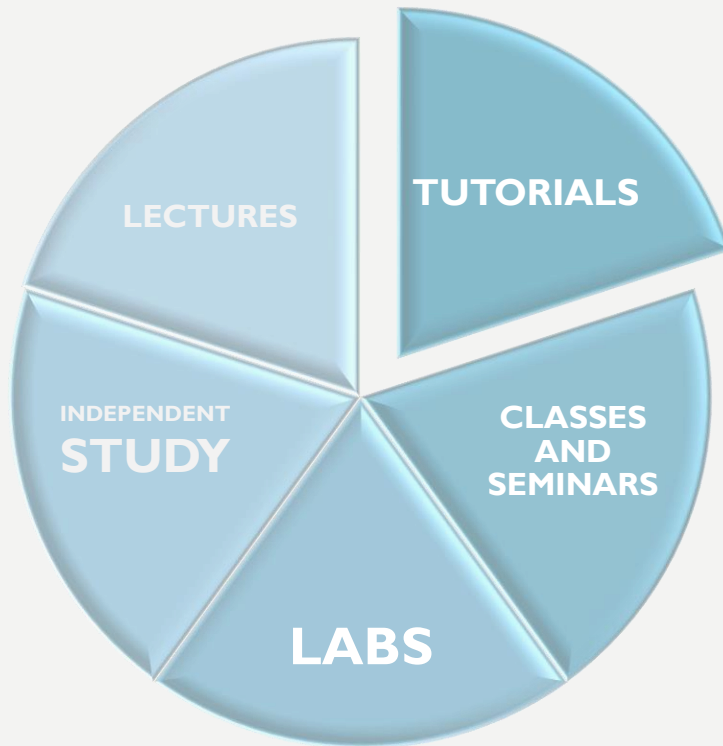
(Times Higher Education World Rankings 2021)

For centuries, it has been a leading centre of learning and research with great impact and influence.

STUDYING WHAT YOU LOVE

- Our courses are rigorous and demanding, and very inspiring.

- Oxford offers a rare level of personalised attention from academic experts.

- The teaching here also encourages you to build skills in independent study.

- 3 x 8 weeks terms in a year

- 30-40 hours a week of work   (which is like your school timetable)

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING

TUTORIALS

LECTURES

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

INDEPENDENT STUDY

LABS

Tutorials are central to teaching at Oxford

These are conversations, usually between two or three students and their tutor, who is an expert in that topic

SOME OF OUR COURSES

Biochemistry
Biomedical Sciences
Experimental Psychology
Medicine

Physics
Materials Science
Mathematics
Biological Sciences
Computer Science
Earth Sciences
Engineering Science
Chemistry

Archaeology and
Anthropology
Economics and
Management
Geography
Philosophy, Politics &
Economics
Law
Human Sciences

Classics
English Language and Literature
History
History of Art
Fine Art
Linguistics
Modern Languages
Music
Oriental Studies
Philosophy
Theology & Religion

COLLEGIATE UNIVERSITY

- The university is made up of mini campuses called colleges

- The college is your base as a student, where you live, eat, sleep and study.

- Colleges also provide excellent welfare and financial support

OUR CRITERIA

There is no blueprint for the ideal Oxbridge student.

ACADEMIC ABILITY AND POTENTIAL

A LEARNING STYLE THAT SUITS OUR ENVIRONMENT
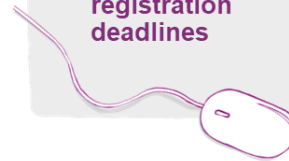
A PASSION FOR YOUR SUBJECT

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TIMELINE

1 Choose your course

2 Choose a College or open application

3 Check admission assessment/ test registration deadlines

4 UCAS application

Remember!!
Application deadline
15 Oct

5 Additional Information (Cambridge)

6 Submit written work and/or take admission assessment/ test

SILENCE PLEASE
ASSESSMENT IN PROGRESS

7 Interview (December)

8 Decision (January)

Oxford

A-level	AAA / A*AA / A*A*A
IB	38 / 39 / 40 with 6/7 in higher level subjects
Pre-U	D3, D3, D3 / D2, D3, D3 / D2, D2, D3

Cambridge

A-level	A*AA (Humanities/Arts & Veterinary Medicine) A*A*A (Sciences & Economics)
IB	40-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level
Pre-U	Individual basis but likely D2/D3 in Principal Subjects

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PERSONAL STATEMENTS

WHAT IS IT?

Your chance to explain to universities why you want to study your chosen course
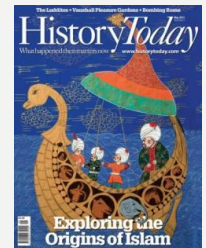
80% Should be **academic content** such as building on your school, super-curricular activities and any work experience.

Should be **extra-curricular content** for the benefit of other universities such as clubs, societies and part time work not linked to your chosen subject. **20%**

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SUPER CURRICULAR

Home of Big Questions

OXPLORE

BBC RADIO 4
92—95 FM

Future Learn

+plus magazine

BRITISH LIBRARY

BBC iWonder

History Today
Exploring the Origins of Islam

TED
IDEASWORTHSPREADING

JSTOR

UCAS

BBC iPlayer

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WRITING A PARAGRAPH

Writing your statement involves **critically thinking** about what you like about your chosen subject and what you've done to show it.

1. **Discuss**, don't list

2. **Depth** rather than **breadth**

3. **Read** everything you claim to

4. Be **critical** and **analytical**

ADMISSIONS TESTS & WRITTEN WORK

TAKING THE TEST

You will take the test at a **local registered test centre** (this is probably your school).

Make sure you get your test candidate entry number from your school or test centre as proof of entry by **6pm on 15 October.**

The tests are designed to show how you think!

HOW TO PREPARE

The best way to prepare is to do some practice papers!

The test is designed to be difficult and you are not expected to get top marks. These tend to be more skills based than knowledge based.

It will probably be on a topic unfamiliar to you. This is to see if you have the skills needed for your course.

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WRITTEN WORK

Written work is just a piece of school-work you have already done that you send to us.

- You should check the requirements for written work, it varies for each subject
- Pick something on a topic that you like as you may be asked about it at interview
- Email the written work to your chosen college (or submit as requested by College – Cambridge).

The deadline for submitting written work is 10 November (Oxford).

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INTERVIEWS

University of Oxford

WHAT TO EXPECT

- In Oxford: Either **2-3 days** in Oxford or online interviews (may be interviewed at **more than 1 college**)
- In Cambridge: Usually **1 day** in Cambridge or online interviews (interviewed at **1 college**)
- At least **2 interviews**
- Usually **2 interviewers** in each interview
- Interviews usually last **20+ minutes**

We use interviews to see if you would suit the **tutorial/supervision system**, to see if you **suit your course** and to see **how you think**

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TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Analysis of a prepared text, picture or object/specimen

Building on existing knowledge from current or previous studies (personal statement and written work may be used here)

Descriptions of presented material

What do you think about current topics (relating to your subject area)?

Problem solving

There are no trick questions or hidden agendas

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HOW TO PREPARE

DO...

✓ Get used to **thinking out loud**

✓ **Talk** to anyone you can about your subject

✓ Review your personal statement/written work, **anything you said you'd read**

✓ Think about your subject **in the wider world** (keep up with the news)

DON'T...

X Panic- the tutors will understand you're nervous and be **trying to help you**

X Prepare speeches/answers for questions you think may come up–
HOW you think is what is important

X Do last minute **revision**- you can't revise for an interview
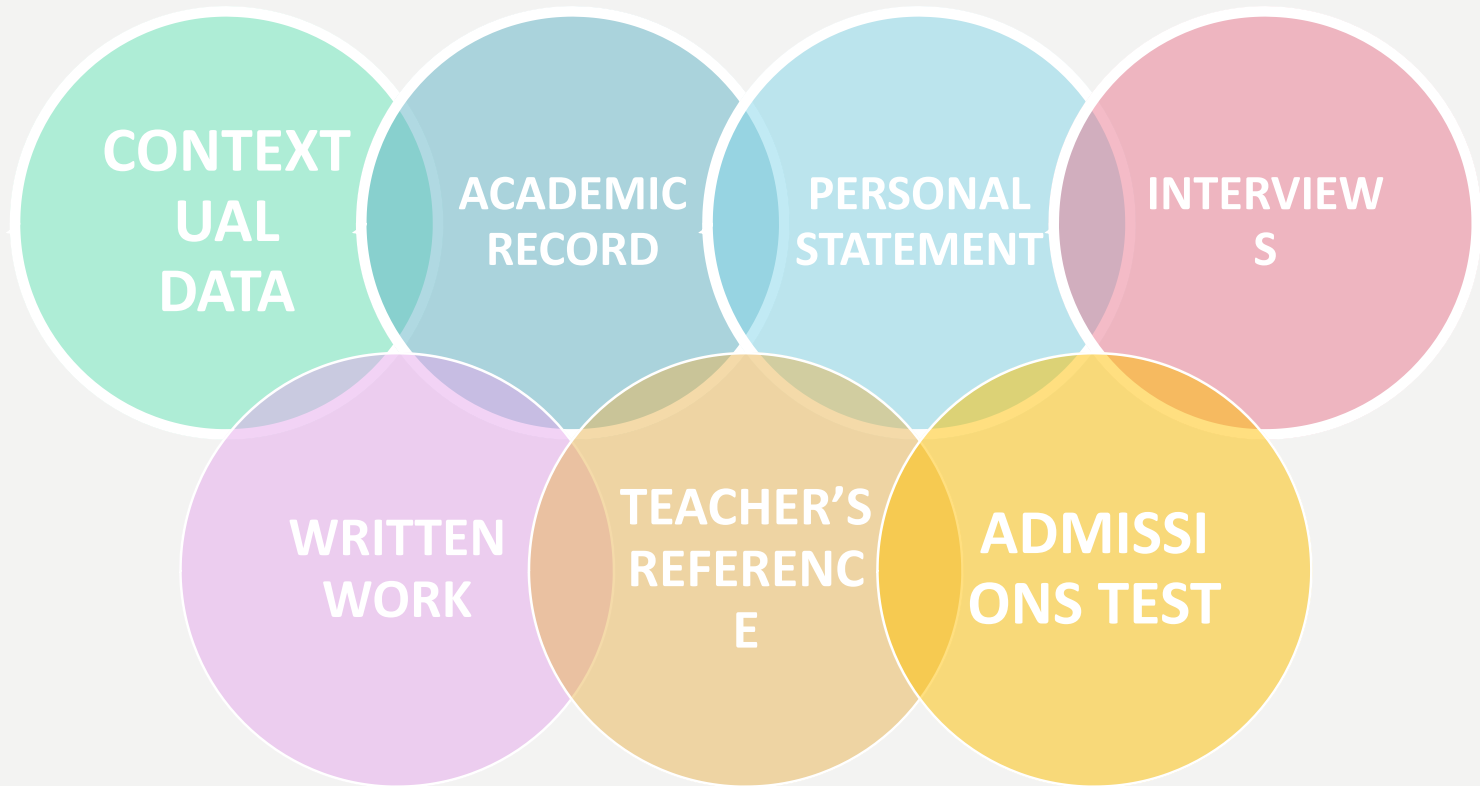
UNDERSTANDING YOU IN CONTEXT

We want to understand your achievements in the context of your individual background. To do this, we look at a range of publicly available data.
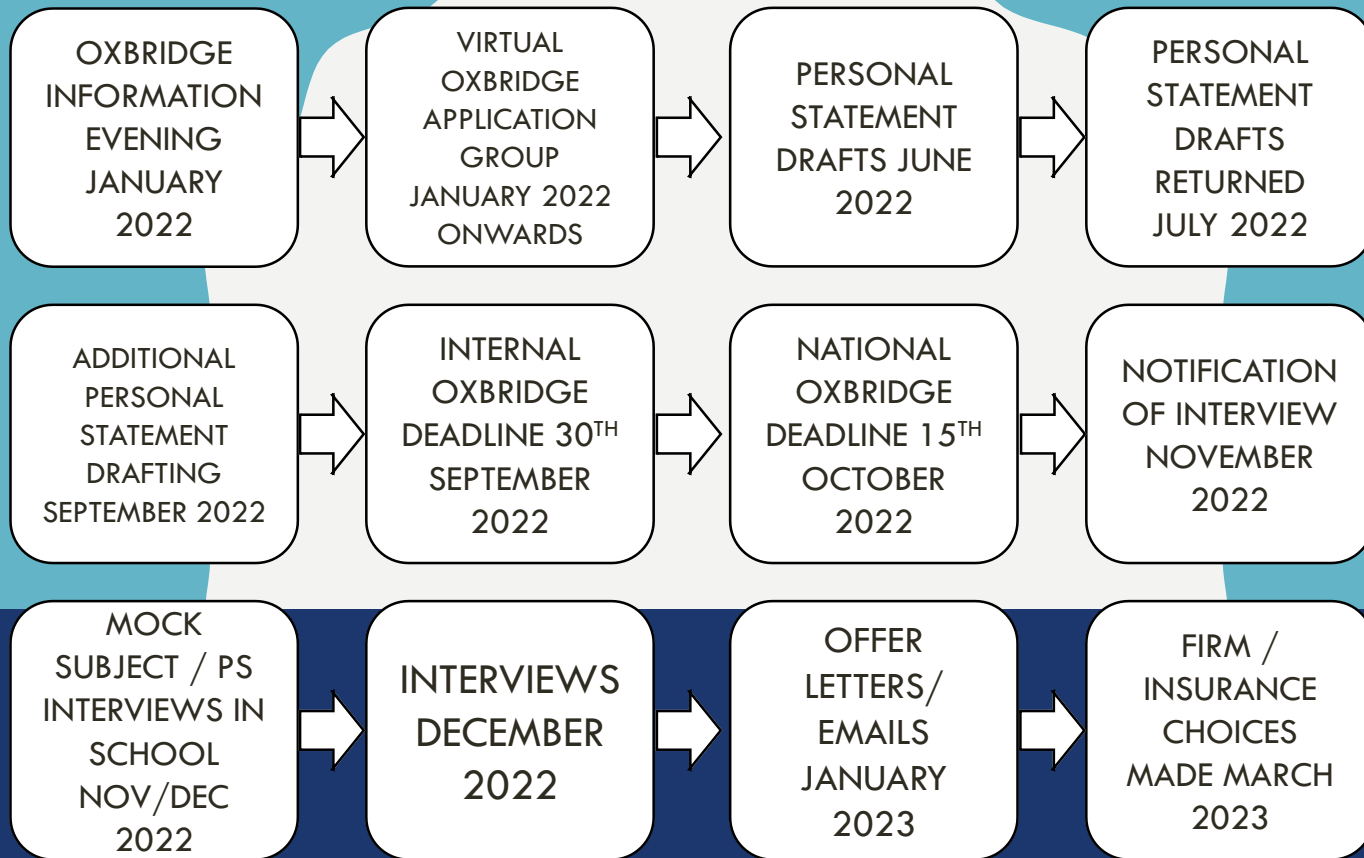
• This includes:

• Information about the applicant's school and the school's performance at GCSE and A-level

• Information about the applicant's neighbourhood

An applicant's experience in the care system

• This information helps us to understand more about each candidate's particular circumstances and to compare them fairly with all other applicants.

DECISIONS

OXBRIDGE INFORMATION EVENING JANUARY 2022 →

VIRTUAL OXBRIDGE APPLICATION GROUP JANUARY 2022 ONWARDS →

PERSONAL STATEMENT DRAFTS JUNE 2022 →

PERSONAL STATEMENT DRAFTS RETURNED JULY 2022

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENT DRAFTING SEPTEMBER 2022 →

INTERNAL OXBRIDGE DEADLINE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022 →

NATIONAL OXBRIDGE DEADLINE 15TH OCTOBER 2022 →

NOTIFICATION OF INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 2022

MOCK SUBJECT / PS INTERVIEWS IN SCHOOL NOV/DEC 2022 →

INTERVIEWS DECEMBER 2022 →

OFFER LETTERS/ EMAILS JANUARY 2023 →

FIRM / INSURANCE CHOICES MADE MARCH 2023

WBS OXBRIDGE TIMELINE 2022-2023

31 Offers

Success rate of 48%

National success rate 25%

OXBRIDGE SUCCESS 2017-2021

12 offers of interview

Offers?

OXBRIDGE APPLICATION GROUP 2022-2023

THINKING OF OXBRIDGE?

PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORT

DEVELOPING YOUR SUPERCURRICULAR PROFILE

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

OXBRIDGE APPLICATION GROUP 2022-2023

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT