



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

ANNUAL ADMISSIONS STATISTICAL REPORT

May 2021

Foreword

For a university with such a strong sense of place, this past year has been a highly unusual one in Oxford, where streets so often teeming with students have largely been silent for long stretches of time. The students who remained, and those studying from home, have displayed exemplary resilience and commitment to their education. Students and staff alike have taken enormous pride in the work of our academics in developing vaccines and therapeutics as well as enhancing our understanding of COVID-19. It is no surprise then that our admissions numbers continue to rise as prospective students see the many contributions Oxford makes to society both nationally and globally.



While the pandemic has, in many ways, changed the way we operate, it has not weakened our commitment to diversifying the make-up of our student body. In this, our fourth annual Admissions Report, we provide details of the success rate of British undergraduate applications by educational, regional, racial and socio-economic background as well as by subject and college. The highlights are as follows: over the past five years the proportion of students from state schools rose from 58% to 68.6%. The proportion identifying as Black and Minority Ethnic rose from 15.82% to 23.6%. The proportion from socio-economically disadvantaged areas rose from 8.2% to 15.9%. The proportion from areas of low progression to higher education rose from 11.4% to 15.6%. The proportion declaring a disability rose from 7.2% to 10.4%. The proportion of women rose from 48.6% to 54.2%. This reflects real progress and is a testament to the dedication of our Admissions Teams, the support of school teachers and, of course, the many talents of able and ambitious young people.

We welcomed our first cohort of students under the new Opportunity Oxford Programme in the autumn and responded rapidly to the pandemic by putting our access and outreach activity online, creating Virtual Open Days and developing digital versions of our signature programmes like UNIQ. In December this year we conducted our admissions interviews remotely for the first time.

Notwithstanding all the adjustments and adaptations required by the pandemic we remain committed to ensuring that every talented, academically driven pupil in the country, wherever they come from, sees Oxford as a place for them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Richardson".

Professor Louise Richardson
Vice-Chancellor

Contents

page 4 Section 1. **Overall numbers, including domicile**
page 7 Section 2. **Nation and region**
page 10 Section 3. **Disadvantage**
page 16 Section 4. **School type**
page 19 Section 5. **Gender**

page 22 Section 6. **Ethnicity**
page 34 Section 7. **Disability**
page 35 Glossary
page 38 Guide to the Oxford admissions process
page 39 Note on HESA data

About this report

This report presents undergraduate admissions statistics for the University of Oxford over five admissions years between 2016 and 2020, broken down into chapters covering the following areas: overall numbers, domicile, nation and region, disadvantage, school type, gender, ethnicity and disability.

The report includes information for Oxford's colleges and largest courses, aggregated for the three admissions years 2018 to 2020. Aggregation has been used as small yearly figures are likely to provide a misleading picture. Nonetheless, some figures remain so small that a handful of decisions can appear to create large swings which have limited statistical value. This health warning applies even more strongly to single-year statistics for colleges and courses. The full data are available to view online: ox.ac.uk/adstats.

The report also provides some national context for Oxford's data, primarily based on figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). This includes information on the numbers of students achieving Oxford's minimum standard offer: three A grades or better at A-level and equivalent Scottish qualifications. It also compares Oxford's data with the higher education sector as a whole and with the Russell Group of leading universities.

A summary of Oxford's admissions process can be found on page 38.

Key points

Following extended school closures in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, A-levels and other qualifications around the world were awarded using a range of methods including centre-assessed grades in place of the usual examinations. 3,695 students were admitted to Oxford, around 400 more than usual. Almost four fifths of those places (2,950) went to students living in the UK.

Between 2016 and 2020, within the total group of UK-domiciled undergraduates admitted:

- The proportion from state schools rose from 58.0%¹ to 68.6%.
- The proportion identifying as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) rose from 15.8%² to 23.6%.
- The proportion from socio-economically disadvantaged areas rose from 8.2% to 15.9%.
- The proportion from areas of low progression to higher education rose from 11.4% to 15.6%.
- The proportion declaring a disability rose from 7.2% to 10.4%.
- The proportion of women rose from 48.6% to 54.2%.

FOOTNOTE

1. Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal place.
2. Some figures are slightly different from those presented in previous editions of this report following data corrections.

1. Overall numbers, including domicile

This section presents information on Oxford's overall numbers, as well as the domicile of Oxford's applicants, offer holders and admitted students.

OVERALL NUMBERS

- The number of students admitted in 2020 was higher than usual following the exceptional arrangements for awarding A-levels and other qualifications during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Overall application numbers have risen annually, and by 22.2% since 2016.

Table 1.1: Overall applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, all domiciles, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED
2020	23,414	3,932	3,695
2019	23,026	3,895	3,286
2018	21,516	3,841	3,310
2017	19,953	3,786	3,285
2016	19,164	3,771	3,282

Table 1.2: Courses with the highest number of applicants per place (all domiciles, three-year total 2018–2020)³

COURSE	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER PLACE	COURSE	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER PLACE
Economics & Management	16.9	PPE*	9.2
Computer Science	16.1	History & Politics	9.2
Medicine	11.0	Mathematics	9.1
Maths & Computer Science	10.6	Physics	8.0
Biomedical Sciences	10.1	Law**	8.0

*Philosophy, Politics and Economics **Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe

Note: This table contains aggregated figures for the period 2018–2020. Aggregated figures for this period will appear throughout the report, most often where tables refer to data by course or by college.

A-level grade profile of UK-domiciled students applying to, receiving offers from and being admitted to Oxford (2020 UK intake)[^]

- While three A grades is Oxford's minimum standard offer for candidates taking A-levels, many courses – particularly in the sciences – require at least one A* grade.
- More than 70% of applicants and over 90% of admitted students were awarded A*AA or better at A-level.
- 58.4% of admitted students achieved three A* grades or better at A-level.

	OTHER	AAA	A*AA	A*A'A	A*A'A' OR BETTER
Applications	19.4%	8.4%	17.4%	21.5%	33.4%
Offers	5.7%	4.3%	11.7%	20.9%	57.4%
Students admitted	4.6%	4.4%	11.8%	20.8%	58.4%

[^]A-level bands are based on results data obtained from UCAS and include results from the 2020 and 2019 examination rounds. Excludes General Studies and Critical Thinking, and candidates with fewer than three A-level results.

FOOTNOTE

3. Table based on 25 largest courses.

BREAKDOWN BY DOMICILE

- Applications from UK students and non-EU students have risen, and applications from EU students have fallen.
- UK-domiciled applicants are substantially more likely to receive an offer of a place to study at Oxford than students from outside the UK.
- The proportion of students admitted who are from the UK has risen to 79.8%.
- Oxford does not operate quotas or targets around the nationality or domicile of students admitted to the University. The exception is Medicine, which is subject to a government restriction on the number of students with international fee status who can be admitted each year.
- The highest number of overseas applications and admitted students was from the People's Republic of China

Table 1.3: Overall applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by area of domicile, 2016–2020

UK STUDENTS	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL APPLICANTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS ADMITTED
2020	14,102	3,059	2,950	60.2%	79.8%
2019	13,881	3,059	2,590	60.3%	78.8%
2018	13,013	2,960	2,570	60.5%	77.6%
2017	12,596	2,941	2,560	63.1%	77.9%
2016	12,209	3,005	2,646	63.7%	80.6%

EU STUDENTS	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL APPLICANTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS ADMITTED
2020	2,746	292	266	11.7%	7.2%
2019	2,773	266	234	12.0%	7.1%
2018	2,687	307	273	12.5%	8.2%
2017	2,431	302	273	12.2%	8.3%
2016	2,417	263	234	12.6%	7.1%

NON-EU STUDENTS	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL APPLICANTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS ADMITTED
2020	6,566	581	479	28.0%	13.0%
2019	6,372	570	462	27.7%	14.1%
2018	5,816	574	467	27.0%	14.1%
2017	4,926	543	452	24.7%	13.8%
2016	4,538	503	402	23.7%	12.2%

Table 1.4: Countries/regions with the highest number of applications and students admitted to Oxford, three-year total 2018–2020

COUNTRY/REGION OF DOMICILE	APPLICATIONS	COUNTRY/REGION OF DOMICILE	STUDENTS ADMITTED
UK	40,996	UK	8,110
P R China	4,900	P R China	425
United States of America	2,376	Singapore	187
Singapore	1,515	United States of America	184
Hong Kong (SAR)	1,345	Hong Kong (SAR)	152
India	1,345	Poland	127
Germany	1,220	Romania	123
Poland	1,011	Germany	102
France	815	Korea (South)	54
Malaysia	772	Australia	49
Canada	724	India	47

CONTEXT

UK universities by domicile of students

	UK	EU	NON-EU
All UK universities (2018 intake*)	83.1%	5.8%	11.1%
Russell Group (2018 intake*)	74.2%	7.0%	18.8%
Oxford University (2020 intake)	79.8%	7.2%	13.0%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. Excludes those of unknown domicile. See page 39 for full citation.

2. Nation and region

This section breaks down Oxford's UK-domiciled undergraduate student total to show the regional distribution of the University's applicants, offer holders and admitted students.

- The regional distribution of admissions to Oxford reflects population size, achievement in school and application numbers.
- London and the South East made up 47.2% of UK applications between 2018 and 2020, and 48.3% of students admitted; the rest of the UK made up 52.8% of applications and 51.7% of students admitted.

Table 2.1: Applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by UK nation and region, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK APPLICANTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED	REGION'S SHARE OF AAA+ STUDENTS*
North East	816	193	170	2.0%	2.1%	2.6%
North West	3,314	749	656	8.1%	8.1%	9.4%
Yorkshire & the Humber	2,012	446	396	4.9%	4.9%	6.5%
East Midlands	1,929	416	368	4.7%	4.5%	5.8%
West Midlands	2,964	599	534	7.2%	6.6%	6.6%
Eastern	3,748	831	733	9.1%	9.0%	9.9%
Greater London	10,794	2,455	2,204	26.3%	27.2%	19.0%
South East	8,550	1,902	1,717	20.9%	21.2%	18.7%
South West	4,259	968	856	10.4%	10.6%	8.4%
Wales	1,362	266	241	3.3%	3.0%	3.6%
Northern Ireland	403	78	71	1.0%	0.9%	4.3%
Scotland	811	141	130	2.0%	1.6%	5.2%
TOTAL	40,996	9,078	8,110			

Applications to Oxford by UK nation and region, 2016–2020

NATION AND REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
North East	244	264	242	297	277
North West	972	1001	1006	1126	1182
Yorkshire and the Humber	560	600	600	704	708
East Midlands	558	542	591	664	674
West Midlands	905	859	941	962	1061
Eastern	1152	1231	1204	1271	1273
Greater London	3118	3252	3331	3693	3770
South East	2575	2723	2832	2869	2849
South West	1271	1290	1389	1425	1445
Wales	426	421	440	454	468
Northern Ireland	143	120	131	148	124
Scotland	269	280	298	257	256

FOOTNOTES

4. See page 8

CONTEXT

Students admitted to Oxford by UK nation and region, 2016–2020

NATION AND REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
North East	49	59	51	52	67
North West	200	194	207	220	229
Yorkshire and the Humber	117	109	109	149	138
East Midlands	107	124	91	129	148
West Midlands	169	151	177	151	206
Eastern	287	272	251	217	265
Greater London	652	656	694	720	790
South East	608	576	578	540	599
South West	283	274	266	268	322
Wales	86	65	66	85	90
Northern Ireland	24	22	20	17	34
Scotland	48	45	52	31	47

Number of students achieving AAA or better at A-level, broken down by UK nation and region*

NATION AND REGION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING AAA OR BETTER AT A-LEVEL, BROKEN DOWN BY UK NATION AND REGION*
North East	895
North West	3,250
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,250
East Midlands	2,000
West Midlands	2,270
East of England	3,420
London	6,535
South East	6,430
South West	2,880
Wales	1,240
Northern Ireland	1,465
Scotland	1,775

*First-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. Includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

What proportion of students achieves AAA or better at A-level in UK nations and regions?*

NATION AND REGION	WHAT PROPORTION OF STUDENTS ACHIEVES AAA OR BETTER AT A-LEVEL IN UK NATIONS AND REGIONS?*
North East	5.3%
North West	6.7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	6.7%
East Midlands	6.6%
West Midlands	5.3%
East of England	8.4%
London	7.8%
South East	10.2%
South West	8.5%
Wales	5.4%
Northern Ireland	9.9%
Scotland	4.5%

*First-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. Includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

3. Disadvantage

This section focuses on the backgrounds of UK-domiciled students who apply to Oxford, are made offers, and are admitted. The figures relate to differing levels of socio-economic advantage and progression to higher education across the UK, and are derived from the ACORN and POLAR⁵ demographic systems.

ACORN is a postcode-based tool that categorises the UK's population by level of socio-economic advantage. POLAR is a similar tool that measures how likely young people are to participate in higher education based on where they live. The ACORN and POLAR systems are widely recognised measures used by the regulator to set admissions targets for universities including Oxford.

These systems are explained in more detail in the glossary to this report.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL DATA

The tables below show the number of applications, offers and students admitted from the two most socio-economically disadvantaged groups (ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶) and the two groups of young people least likely to progress to higher education (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2).

- In 2020, 15.9% of UK students admitted to Oxford came from the two most socioeconomically disadvantaged groups (ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶). This is an increase of 7.7 percentage points from 2016.

Table 3.1: Socio-economic disadvantage: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	ACORN 4 AND 5 PROPORTION OF STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
2020	2,316	495	467	15.9%
2019	2,097	418	313	12.2%
2018	1,872	379	289	11.3%
2017	1,660	349	269	10.6%
2016	1,351	272	216	8.2%

- In 2020, 15.6% of UK students admitted to Oxford were from the two groups with lowest progression to higher education (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2). This is an increase of 4.2 percentage points from 2016.

Table 3.2: Areas of low progression to higher education: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from POLAR quintiles 1 and 2, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	POLAR 1 AND 2 PROPORTION OF STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
2020	2,123	478	454	15.6%
2019	2,079	471	355	14.0%
2018	1,853	404	330	13.1%
2017	1,702	405	324	12.9%
2016	1,499	352	299	11.4%

FOOTNOTES

5. POLAR classification is periodically reviewed. See page 37 for classifications used in this report.

6. This data includes ACORN Category 4 – Financially Stretched (excluding Type 34 – Student flats and halls of residence) and ACORN Category 5 – Urban Adversity.

7. Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

CONTEXT

	LIVE IN MORE ADVANTAGED AREAS (OTHER ACORN CATEGORIES)	LIVE IN LESS ADVANTAGED AREAS (ACORN CATEGORIES 4 AND 5)
Breakdown of students who achieve AAA or better at A-level by socio-economic group (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	87.5%	12.5%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake)**	84.1%	15.9%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. Excludes those whose ACORN status is not known. Excludes Type 34 from ACORN category 4 – Type 34 appears in 'other ACORN categories'. See page 39 for full citation.

	FROM AREAS WITH GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF PROGRESSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION (OTHER POLAR QUINTILES)	FROM AREAS WITH LOWER LIKELIHOOD OF PROGRESSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION (POLAR QUINTILES 1 AND 2)
Breakdown of students who achieve AAA or better at A-level, by areas with different likelihood of progression to higher education (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	85.6%	14.4%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake)**	84.4%	15.6%

*Most recent available national data covers 2017 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2017/18. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. Excludes those whose POLAR status is not known. See page 39 for full citation.

**Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

DATA BY COURSE

These tables include figures for Oxford's 25 largest courses by total number of places, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

Socio-economic disadvantage

- UK-domiciled students from less advantaged areas (ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶) made up between 5.3% and 26.5% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.

Table 3.3: Socio-economic disadvantage: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶ by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	ACORN 4 AND 5			OTHER			ACORN 4 AND 5 PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	
Biochemistry	200	50	42	883	232	214	16.4%
Biology	172	63	43	1,112	289	244	15.0%
Biomedical Sciences	133	17	13	591	96	88	12.9%
Chemistry	189	67	58	1,093	452	397	12.7%
Classics	65	35	31	659	308	286	9.8%
Computer Science	192	9	8	724	51	45	15.1%
Earth Sciences	25	11	10	229	94	85	10.5%
Economics & Management	292	39	31	1,862	180	170	15.4%
Engineering Science	248	64	51	1,229	356	311	14.1%
English	313	101	89	2,087	621	567	13.6%
Experimental Psychology	138	40	27	565	139	119	18.5%
Geography	113	34	26	932	248	214	10.8%
History	296	92	79	2,457	640	578	12.0%
History & Politics	117	32	27	604	82	75	26.5%
Law*	659	126	106	2,414	433	379	21.9%
Materials Science	23	9	5	196	83	77	6.1%
Mathematics	536	61	50	2,512	302	284	15.0%
Mathematics & Computer Science	121	9	8	490	51	51	13.6%
Medicine	725	63	58	2,608	405	384	13.1%
Modern Languages	109	52	42	1,014	452	410	9.3%
Music	34	16	11	464	234	198	5.3%
Oriental Studies	60	23	19	292	97	76	20.0%
PPE**	414	65	51	2,549	489	459	10.0%
Physics	490	48	46	2,449	305	298	13.4%
Theology and Religion	32	12	11	222	88	72	13.3%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTES

6. This data includes ACORN Category 4 – Financially Stretched (excluding Type 34 – Student flats and halls of residence) and ACORN Category 5 – Urban Adversity.

7. Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

Areas of low progression to higher education

- UK-domiciled students from areas with low progression to higher education (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2) made up between 7.9% and 24.4% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.

Table 3.4: Areas of low progression to higher education: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from POLAR quintiles 1 and 2 by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	POLAR 1 AND 2			OTHER			POLAR 1 AND 2 PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	STUDENTS ADMITTED	
Biochemistry	172	57	52	898	223	202	20.5%
Biology	172	64	43	1,097	284	241	15.1%
Biomedical Sciences	133	22	19	584	91	82	18.8%
Chemistry	201	84	75	1,065	427	375	16.7%
Classics	67	36	32	648	306	284	10.1%
Computer Science	175	11	10	729	49	43	18.9%
Earth Sciences	32	20	17	220	84	77	18.1%
Economics & Management	229	34	28	1,889	181	171	14.1%
Engineering Science	218	59	45	1,244	354	310	12.7%
English	349	111	97	2,017	603	554	14.9%
Experimental Psychology	121	35	29	576	142	115	20.1%
Geography	106	26	19	931	256	221	7.9%
History	287	76	67	2,436	652	587	10.2%
History & Politics	104	24	21	602	89	80	20.8%
Law*	655	114	94	2,366	439	385	19.6%
Materials Science	27	12	8	189	78	72	10.0%
Mathematics	519	58	52	2,490	301	278	15.8%
Mathematics & Computer Science	112	11	10	495	49	49	16.9%
Medicine	638	70	61	2,640	394	377	13.9%
Modern Languages	110	52	44	999	447	403	9.8%
Music	47	26	21	444	223	187	10.1%
Oriental Studies	39	17	12	308	103	83	12.6%
PPE**	370	74	61	2,550	476	445	12.1%
Physics	514	44	43	2,392	305	297	12.6%
Theology and Religion	41	25	20	208	74	62	24.4%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe **Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTE

7. Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

DATA BY OXFORD COLLEGE

The following tables – and similar tables throughout this report – include figures for 29 of Oxford's undergraduate-admitting colleges, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

Note: Oxford's colleges vary in size and subject provision, admitting between around 50 and 120 UK-domiciled students each year. Permanent Private Halls (which have a different status to colleges and generally admit small numbers of students for a limited range of courses) and Harris Manchester College (which admits only mature students) have been excluded. Application numbers to individual colleges vary year on year, as does the prior academic achievement of those applicants, which can lead to fluctuations in admissions figures between colleges and among particular groups of students. Applicants to a particular college may be reallocated and eventually admitted to another college as part of Oxford's admissions process. An explanation of this system appears on page 38.

Socio-economic disadvantage

- From 2018 to 2020, the proportion of admitted students from less advantaged areas (ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶) ranged by college from 5.9% to 19.2%

Table 3.5: Socio-economic disadvantage: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from ACORN categories 4 and 5⁶ by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	ACORN 4 and 5			Other			ACORN 4 & 5 PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Balliol College	239	37	34	1,311	239	222	13.3%
Brasenose College	310	46	37	2,320	261	241	13.3%
Christ Church	229	43	37	1,291	302	271	12.0%
Corpus Christi College	119	39	34	588	159	144	19.1%
Exeter College	121	38	31	1,095	238	219	12.4%
Hertford College	218	58	47	1,180	291	262	15.2%
Jesus College	181	40	35	1,028	258	234	13.0%
Keble College	319	49	41	2,145	340	300	12.0%
Lady Margaret Hall	339	61	55	1,143	278	248	18.2%
Lincoln College	152	16	13	888	228	206	5.9%
Magdalen College	239	42	37	1,276	252	224	14.2%
Mansfield College	150	50	38	647	183	160	19.2%
Merton College	159	28	23	1,049	199	185	11.1%
New College	177	40	35	1,342	313	291	10.7%
Oriel College	149	28	20	838	205	191	9.5%
Pembroke College	191	47	40	1,178	251	222	15.3%
Somerville College	206	47	35	966	308	278	11.2%
St Anne's College	177	55	45	969	303	267	14.4%
St Catherine's College	278	57	44	1,331	339	302	12.7%
St Edmund Hall	152	32	31	850	247	222	12.3%
St Hilda's College	168	35	28	688	273	248	10.1%
St Hugh's College	183	35	29	814	294	256	10.2%
St John's College	348	50	39	1,481	255	229	14.6%
St Peter's College	128	35	27	890	225	207	11.5%
The Queen's College	152	34	27	1,007	235	210	11.4%
Trinity College	165	37	28	878	207	192	12.7%
University College	230	45	36	1,073	254	236	13.2%
Wadham College	272	56	49	1,253	318	280	14.9%
Worcester College	409	63	57	2,564	285	273	17.3%
University total (2018–20)⁸	6,285	1,292	1,069	34,474	7,728	6,983	13.3%

FOOTNOTES

6. This data includes ACORN Category 4 – Financially Stretched (excluding Type 34 – Student flats and halls of residence) and ACORN Category 5 – Urban Adversity.

7. Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

Areas of low progression to higher education

- From 2018 to 2020, the proportion of admitted students from areas with low progression to higher education (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2) ranged by college from 9.6% to 21.3%

Table 3.6: Areas of low progression to higher education: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted from POLAR quintiles 1 and 2 by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	POLAR 1 AND 2			OTHER			POLAR 1 AND 2 PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁷
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Balliol College	224	47	44	1,304	228	211	17.3%
Brasenose College	395	54	45	2,209	253	233	16.2%
Christ Church	204	45	36	1,292	296	269	11.8%
Corpus Christi College	100	31	30	593	163	144	17.2%
Exeter College	126	30	24	1,074	243	225	9.6%
Hertford College	205	52	40	1,177	292	265	13.1%
Jesus College	201	47	40	993	251	229	14.9%
Keble College	353	60	48	2,076	324	289	14.2%
Lady Margaret Hall	274	52	44	1,196	283	256	14.7%
Lincoln College	141	27	22	883	214	194	10.2%
Magdalen College	239	52	44	1,256	241	216	16.9%
Mansfield College	141	52	42	646	180	155	21.3%
Merton College	180	40	37	1,009	184	168	18.0%
New College	166	48	43	1,340	302	281	13.3%
Oriel College	136	35	29	845	198	182	13.7%
Pembroke College	166	42	31	1,181	254	230	11.9%
Somerville College	165	38	30	993	314	280	9.7%
St Anne's College	196	53	48	928	303	262	15.5%
St Catherine's College	261	60	49	1,326	331	294	14.3%
St Edmund Hall	147	36	32	843	239	217	12.9%
St Hilda's College	146	43	36	694	264	239	13.1%
St Hugh's College	150	49	34	829	277	248	12.1%
St John's College	312	44	38	1,498	258	227	14.3%
St Peter's College	117	27	22	876	225	205	9.7%
The Queen's College	136	27	24	1,010	240	211	10.2%
Trinity College	158	40	32	866	199	183	14.9%
University College	235	66	56	1,044	232	215	20.7%
Wadham College	240	55	48	1,271	316	278	14.7%
Worcester College	444	59	56	2,499	287	273	17.0%
University total (2018–20)⁸	6,055	1,353	1,139	34,163	7,584	6,842	14.3%

FOOTNOTES

7. Excluding students whose ACORN/POLAR status is not known.

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

4. School type

This section shows the number of UK-domiciled students applying to, receiving offers from and admitted to Oxford by the type of school they attended: state or independent.

UK-domiciled students applying from other types of school have been excluded from the tables below. This is because the group is small, constituting only 4.2% of applications (1,736) between 2018 and 2020, and includes students from overseas or unknown schools, making it difficult to draw reliable conclusions from the numbers.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL DATA

- The proportion of students admitted to Oxford from the UK state sector has risen for the past four years, reaching 68.6% in 2020. This is the highest figure since the University began recording detailed admissions statistics.
- The proportion of UK students admitted from the independent sector has decreased in each of the past four years.

Table 4.1: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by school type, 2016–2020

	STATE			INDEPENDENT			STATE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
2020	9,411	2,021	1,937	4,060	902	886	68.6%
2019	8,914	1,908	1,557	4,403	1,050	942	62.3%
2018	8,207	1,789	1,502	4,265	1,069	981	60.5%
2017	7,765	1,683	1,431	4,242	1,148	1,029	58.2%
2016	7,454	1,718	1,483	4,213	1,188	1,075	58.0%

CONTEXT

	STATE	INDEPENDENT/OTHER
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level by school type (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	76.7%	23.3%

	STATE	INDEPENDENT/OTHER
Breakdown of students achieving A*A*A or better at A-level by school type (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	73.4%	26.6%

	STATE	INDEPENDENT/OTHER
Oxford University (2020 UK intake) ⁹	68.6%	31.4%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. Excludes unknown school type. See page 39 for full citation.

FOOTNOTE

9. Excluding students whose education cannot be classified as either state or independent.

DATA BY COURSE

This table includes figures for Oxford's 25 largest courses by total number of places, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

- State-educated UK students represented between 35.6% and 83.9% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.
- Some courses attract more applications per available place than others, and UK state students apply disproportionately for the most oversubscribed subjects.
- On average, 37.7% of state applications between 2018 and 2020 were for five of the most oversubscribed subjects at Oxford (Economics & Management, Medicine, PPE**, Law*, and Mathematics), compared with 31.0% of independent applications.
- In contrast, 18.8% of independent applications were for five of the least oversubscribed subjects (Classics, Music, Modern Languages, Chemistry, and English), compared with 13.0% of state applications.

Table 4.2: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by school type and course, three-year total 2018–2020

	STATE			INDEPENDENT			STATE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Biochemistry	732	192	168	314	85	83	66.9%
Biology	806	224	175	429	114	98	64.1%
Biomedical Sciences	502	74	64	199	37	35	64.6%
Chemistry	856	326	277	411	186	172	61.7%
Classics	240	126	108	455	203	195	35.6%
Computer Science	719	39	35	160	19	16	68.6%
Earth Sciences	178	81	71	74	24	24	74.7%
Economics & Management	1,266	132	119	823	82	77	60.7%
Engineering Science	953	252	212	493	160	143	59.7%
English	1,490	467	415	799	220	208	66.6%
Experimental Psychology	500	128	102	172	44	39	72.3%
Geography	601	188	157	431	92	82	65.7%
History	1,603	466	411	1,077	244	227	64.4%
History & Politics	500	81	74	204	29	25	74.7%
Law*	2,231	401	344	616	125	112	75.4%
Materials Science	141	66	58	77	26	24	70.7%
Mathematics	2,415	285	258	583	73	71	78.4%
Mathematics & Computer Science	488	48	47	99	9	9	83.9%
Medicine	2,310	331	312	903	134	127	71.1%
Modern Languages	582	274	237	523	221	208	53.3%
Music	271	137	111	210	105	91	55.0%
Oriental Studies	196	71	52	138	46	41	55.9%
PPE**	1,790	341	307	1,020	192	185	62.4%
Physics	2,255	248	239	623	95	95	71.6%
Theology and Religion	111	53	44	121	40	35	55.7%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe **Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTE

9. Excluding students whose education cannot be classified as either state or independent.

DATA BY OXFORD COLLEGE

This table includes figures for 29 of Oxford's undergraduate-admitting colleges, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

- Individual colleges receive varying numbers and proportions of applicants from the state and independent sectors. For some colleges, this split is close to 50:50, while others receive several times more applications from state-educated students.
- The state-educated share of UK students admitted to Oxford ranged by college from 54.0% to 94.4% from 2018 to 2020.

Table 4.3: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by school type and college, three-year total 2018–2020

	STATE			INDEPENDENT			STATE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ⁹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Balliol College	1,070	174	162	424	97	89	64.5%
Brasenose College	1,768	221	196	802	80	76	72.1%
Christ Church	896	187	163	553	152	139	54.0%
Corpus Christi College	464	113	103	219	76	67	60.6%
Exeter College	628	158	140	540	102	95	59.6%
Hertford College	991	258	225	365	83	76	74.8%
Jesus College	801	170	151	360	114	104	59.2%
Keble College	1,549	241	210	863	135	121	63.4%
Lady Margaret Hall	1,087	234	206	349	98	90	69.6%
Lincoln College	625	143	123	393	100	95	56.4%
Magdalen College	992	179	156	452	112	102	60.5%
Mansfield College	694	218	186	89	13	11	94.4%
Merton College	863	147	132	312	74	70	65.3%
New College	848	198	180	614	147	139	56.4%
Oriel College	582	141	123	371	83	79	60.9%
Pembroke College	748	174	148	581	117	107	58.0%
Somerville College	800	236	200	328	112	106	65.4%
St Anne's College	814	250	214	281	94	86	71.3%
St Catherine's College	1,117	260	221	443	131	122	64.4%
St Edmund Hall	566	168	146	381	102	99	59.6%
St Hilda's College	574	189	163	247	109	103	61.3%
St Hugh's College	627	189	162	305	135	122	57.0%
St John's College	1,290	192	161	465	101	96	62.6%
St Peter's College	567	143	127	423	112	103	55.2%
The Queen's College	645	154	132	478	107	97	57.6%
Trinity College	643	149	128	379	91	89	59.0%
University College	858	210	185	396	84	83	69.0%
Wadham College	1,156	266	227	316	100	94	70.7%
Worcester College	2,028	252	240	900	89	83	74.3%
University total (2018–20)⁸	26,532	5,718	4,996	12,728	3,021	2,809	64.0%

FOOTNOTES

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

9. Excluding students whose education cannot be classified as either state or independent.

5. Gender

This section breaks down Oxford's group of UK-domiciled applicants, offer holders and admitted students by gender declared on application¹⁰.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL DATA

- The female proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate students admitted to Oxford has risen over the past five admissions cycles.
- In 2018, 2019 and 2020 Oxford admitted more UK-domiciled female undergraduates than male.

Table 5.1: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by gender, 2016–2020

	FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
2020	7,110	1,661	1,598	6,992	1,398	1,352	54.2%
2019	7,145	1,678	1,407	6,736	1,381	1,183	54.3%
2018	6,342	1,543	1,317	6,671	1,417	1,253	51.2%
2017	6,144	1,507	1,280	6,452	1,434	1,280	50.0%
2016	6,009	1,478	1,285	6,200	1,527	1,361	48.6%

CONTEXT

Breakdown of students at UK universities by gender (2018 UK intake)*

Breakdown of students at UK universities by gender (all UK universities, 2018 intake)*	FEMALE	MALE
All UK Universities	57.0%	42.9%
Russell Group	55.1%	44.8%

Oxford University (2020 UK intake)

	FEMALE	MALE
Oxford University (2020 UK intake)	54.2%	45.8%

	FEMALE	MALE
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level by gender (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	51.5%	48.4%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

^Other gender: percentages are too small to represent in diagram.

FOOTNOTE

10. This report uses the binary male/female options from the UCAS application, which may not reflect the gender identity of all applicants.

DATA BY COURSE

This table includes figures for Oxford's 25 largest courses by total number of places, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

- The female-to-male ratio of applications varies by course. This is reflected in the wide variations by course in the proportion of UK-domiciled female students admitted.
- This proportion ranged from 13.6% to 74.3% between 2018 and 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.

Table 5.2: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by gender and course, three-year total 2018–2020

	FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Biochemistry	626	165	151	458	117	105	59.0%
Biology	792	223	179	494	129	108	62.4%
Biomedical Sciences	532	83	75	193	30	26	74.3%
Chemistry	572	217	179	715	304	278	39.2%
Classics	407	194	177	320	151	142	55.5%
Computer Science	144	11	9	773	49	44	17.0%
Earth Sciences	134	56	51	122	49	44	53.7%
Economics & Management	658	68	63	1,509	153	140	31.0%
Engineering Science	368	113	98	1,123	309	266	26.9%
English	1,882	532	483	525	191	174	73.5%
Experimental Psychology	552	130	104	154	49	42	71.2%
Geography	657	179	159	394	104	82	66.0%
History	1,456	413	371	1,314	322	289	56.2%
History & Politics	342	65	59	387	49	43	57.8%
Law*	2,022	350	306	1,068	211	181	62.8%
Materials Science	81	38	32	140	55	51	38.6%
Mathematics	967	101	91	2,101	263	244	27.2%
Mathematics & Computer Science	125	8	8	491	52	51	13.6%
Medicine	2,096	286	273	1,252	184	171	61.5%
Modern Languages	740	346	307	388	159	146	67.8%
Music	252	121	100	250	130	110	47.6%
Oriental Studies	206	71	54	149	50	42	56.3%
PPE**	1,044	222	202	1,935	332	308	39.6%
Physics	744	71	69	2,204	282	275	20.1%
Theology and Religion	152	71	60	135	61	55	52.2%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics

DATA BY OXFORD COLLEGE

This table includes figures for 29 of Oxford's undergraduate-admitting colleges, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

- From 2018 to 2020, the proportion of UK-domiciled female students admitted to Oxford ranged by college from 46.6% to 61.6%.

Table 5.3: UK applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by gender and college, three-year total 2018–2020

	FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Balliol College	715	136	126	842	141	131	49.0%
Brasenose College	1,449	165	148	1,192	142	130	53.2%
Christ Church	719	173	148	808	173	161	47.9%
Corpus Christi College	329	100	88	380	99	91	49.2%
Exeter College	692	161	145	530	115	105	58.0%
Hertford College	661	194	173	747	155	136	56.0%
Jesus College	561	144	126	655	154	143	46.8%
Keble College	1,068	183	160	1,407	208	183	46.6%
Lady Margaret Hall	970	208	184	520	131	119	60.7%
Lincoln College	545	129	116	502	115	103	53.0%
Magdalen College	829	154	137	699	143	127	51.9%
Mansfield College	401	135	112	400	99	87	56.3%
Merton College	605	128	115	608	99	93	55.3%
New College	807	181	168	716	172	158	51.5%
Oriel College	466	114	100	526	120	112	47.2%
Pembroke College	658	151	129	717	147	133	49.2%
Somerville College	613	199	176	566	158	139	55.9%
St Anne's College	547	206	181	603	152	131	58.0%
St Catherine's College	705	186	162	911	211	185	46.7%
St Edmund Hall	492	143	127	515	137	127	50.0%
St Hilda's College	476	190	169	393	120	109	60.8%
St Hugh's College	489	177	156	511	155	132	54.2%
St John's College	855	164	142	980	142	127	52.8%
St Peter's College	497	130	117	532	132	119	49.6%
The Queen's College	663	168	146	503	101	91	61.6%
Trinity College	477	119	106	572	126	115	48.0%
University College	681	171	153	629	129	120	56.0%
Wadham College	883	220	194	645	154	135	59.0%
Worcester College	1,504	209	195	1,482	140	136	58.9%
University total (2018–20)⁸	20,597	4,882	4,322	20,399	4,196	3,788	53.3%

FOOTNOTE

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

6. Ethnicity

This section sets out what is known about the ethnicity of UK-domiciled applicants to Oxford. 5.2% of UK-domiciled applicants (2,139 students between 2018 and 2020) choose not to declare their ethnicity in their UCAS application. It is therefore not possible to make any statements in relation to their ethnicity and admissions status, and for that reason they have not been included in the tables below.

UK-domiciled Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students include those who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as Black (including African, Caribbean and other Black background), Asian (including Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese and other Asian background), Mixed Heritage (including White & Asian, White & Black African, White & Black Caribbean and other Mixed background), Arab or any other ethnicity except White.

CONTEXT

The following graphics provide context for Oxford's figures, showing the BME share of the England and Wales population, the A-level achievement of BME students, and the proportion of BME students in different parts of the UK university sector.

Note: Figures for the 2018/19 academic year (2018 intake) are the most recent available from HESA and have therefore been used in these graphics. The most recent figures available for Oxford are for the 2020/21 academic year (2020 intake).

	WHITE	BME
England and Wales population now aged 18 to 24*	80.6%	19.4%

	WHITE	WHITE PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS	BME	BME PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level by ethnicity (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)**	77.4%	26,335	22.6%	7,710

	OTHER (INCLUDING MIXED)	OTHER PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS	ASIAN	ASIAN PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS	BLACK	BLACK PROPORTION OF TOTAL STUDENTS
Breakdown of BME students achieving AAA or better	6.6%	2,245	13.9%	4,730	2.2%	735

Breakdown of students at UK universities by ethnicity (2018 UK intake)**

	WHITE	BME
All UK Universities	73.1%	26.9%
Russell Group	76.3%	23.7%
Russell Group Outside London	80.9%	19.1%
Oxford	76.4%	23.6%

*2011 UK census. Source: Office for National Statistics.

**Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

***Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL DATA

BME students

- The number of UK-domiciled BME applicants to Oxford has increased since 2016, as have the numbers of students receiving offers and being admitted.
- The proportion of UK-domiciled students admitted to Oxford who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as BME has risen from 15.8% in 2016 to 23.6% in 2020.

Table 6.1: UK-domiciled BME students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, 2016–2020

	BME STUDENTS			WHITE STUDENTS			BME PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
2020	4,024	706	684	9,509	2,293	2,214	23.6%
2019	3,596	669	558	9,583	2,306	1,978	22.0%
2018	3,097	551	457	9,048	2,305	2,045	18.3%
2017	2,899	519	446	8,921	2,324	2,057	17.8%
2016	2,547	492	411	8,917	2,441	2,194	15.8%

Asian students

- Since 2016, applications from UK-domiciled Asian students have been increasing annually, as have offers received and students admitted.
- The proportion of UK-domiciled students admitted to Oxford who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as Asian has risen from 7.2% in 2016 to 9.6% in 2020.

Table 6.2: UK-domiciled Asian students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
2020	2,135	289	277	9.6%
2019	1,901	279	243	9.6%
2018	1,687	249	208	8.3%
2017	1,539	241	206	8.2%
2016	1,326	227	188	7.2%

	WHITE / OTHER BME	ASIAN
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	86.1%	13.9%
Breakdown of students at non-London Russell Group universities (2018 UK intake)*	90.2%	9.8%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake) ¹¹	90.4%	9.6%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

FOOTNOTE

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

Bangladeshi and Pakistani students

- Since 2016, the numbers of UK-domiciled Bangladeshi and Pakistani students applying to Oxford, being made offers and being admitted have risen substantially.
- The proportion of UK-domiciled students admitted to Oxford who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as Bangladeshi or Pakistani rose from 1.4% in 2016 to 2.0% in 2020.

Note: Within the British Asian group, Bangladeshi and Pakistani students are considered under-represented at highly selective universities, hence their inclusion as a separate group at University level in this report.

Table 6.3: UK-domiciled Bangladeshi and Pakistani students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
2020	618	66	59	2.0%
2019	532	67	53	2.0%
2018	443	52	41	1.6%
2017	384	55	43	1.7%
2016	299	48	36	1.4%

	WHITE / OTHER BME	BANGLADESHI/PAKISTANI
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	96.3%	3.7%
Breakdown of students at non-London Russell Group universities (2018 UK intake)*	96.8%	3.2%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake) ¹¹	98.0%	2.0%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

Students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage¹²

- The numbers of UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage applying to Oxford, receiving offers and being admitted have increased from 2016 to 2020.
- The proportion of UK-domiciled students admitted to Oxford who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as Black has risen from 1.3% in 2016 to 3.7% in 2020.

Table 6.4: UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
2020	564	109	106	3.7%
2019	498	107	80	3.2%
2018	424	86	65	2.6%
2017	396	65	48	1.9%
2016	328	54	34	1.3%

	WHITE / OTHER BME	BLACK
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)**	97.8%	2.2%
Breakdown of students at non-London Russell Group universities (2018 UK intake)**	96.8%	3.2%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake) ¹¹	96.3%	3.7%

**Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

footnotes

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

12. This includes students who indicated on their UCAS application that they identified as Black – Caribbean, Black – African or Black – other background.

Mixed Heritage students

- The number of UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage applicants to Oxford has risen since 2016, as have the numbers of students receiving offers and being admitted.
- The proportion of UK-domiciled students admitted to Oxford who indicate in their UCAS application that they identify as Mixed Heritage rose from 6.4% in 2016 to 8.8% in 2020.

Table 6.5: UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted, 2016–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
2020	1,053	262	256	8.8%
2019	969	247	206	8.1%
2018	816	191	162	6.5%
2017	768	180	164	6.6%
2016	733	186	167	6.4%

	WHITE / OTHER BME	MIXED
Breakdown of students achieving AAA or better at A-level (all UK universities, 2018 UK intake)*	94.8%	5.2%
Breakdown of students at non-London Russell Group universities (2018 UK intake)*	95.0%	5.0%
Oxford University (2020 UK intake) ¹¹	91.2%	8.8%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

FOOTNOTE

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

DATA BY COURSE

The following tables include figures for Oxford's 25 largest courses by total number of places, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

BME students

- In general, students from BME backgrounds are more likely to apply for the most competitive courses than White students.
- For example, between 2018 and 2020 34.0% of applications from UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage¹² and 26.1% of total UK-domiciled BME applications were for two courses: Medicine and Law*.
- By comparison, these courses attracted 12.0% of applications from UK-domiciled White students.
- UK-domiciled BME students made up between 12.5% and 36.5% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.
- Application numbers vary widely between courses, both in the broad BME group and within individual ethnic groups.
- Applications from UK-domiciled BME students ranged from 43 to 1,740 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.

Table 6.6: UK-domiciled BME students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	BME STUDENTS			WHITE STUDENTS			BME PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Biochemistry	261	52	48	785	225	206	18.9%
Biology	211	55	46	1,010	287	235	16.4%
Biomedical Sciences	189	16	13	506	96	87	13.0%
Chemistry	286	105	88	958	409	362	19.6%
Classics	120	63	57	553	271	253	18.4%
Computer Science	325	12	11	552	47	41	21.2%
Earth Sciences	45	14	13	206	89	80	14.0%
Economics & Management	828	74	66	1,219	138	131	33.5%
Engineering Science	484	112	100	940	299	258	27.9%
English	366	117	105	1,886	584	536	16.4%
Experimental Psychology	165	39	28	514	138	117	19.3%
Geography	170	47	40	838	231	198	16.8%
History	431	137	119	2,163	575	526	18.4%
History & Politics	136	30	27	547	82	73	27.0%
Law*	1,058	170	147	1,899	379	333	30.6%
Materials Science	74	27	23	139	65	59	28.0%
Mathematics	798	84	75	2,152	272	256	22.7%
Mathematics & Computer Science	202	16	16	377	42	41	28.1%
Medicine	1,740	172	159	1,490	290	277	36.5%
Modern Languages	169	87	72	904	405	369	16.3%
Music	64	35	27	404	207	178	13.2%
Oriental Studies	105	38	31	226	78	64	32.6%
PPE**	870	125	116	1,868	402	376	23.6%
Physics	619	63	62	2,213	281	274	18.5%
Theology and Religion	43	16	14	221	111	98	12.5%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTES

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

12. This includes students who indicated on their UCAS application that they identified as Black – Caribbean, Black – African or Black – other background.

Asian students

- UK-domiciled Asian students made up between 3.2% and 20.8% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.
- 46.5% of applications from UK-domiciled Asian students from 2018 to 2020 were for four highly competitive courses: Medicine, Law*, Economics & Management, and Mathematics.

Table 6.7: UK-domiciled Asian students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Biochemistry	132	20	17	6.7%
Biology	93	24	18	6.4%
Biomedical Sciences	109	6	5	5.0%
Chemistry	162	52	45	10.0%
Classics	44	25	24	7.7%
Computer Science	198	5	5	9.6%
Earth Sciences	27	8	7	7.5%
Economics & Management	562	45	41	20.8%
Engineering Science	292	53	49	13.7%
English	133	32	29	4.5%
Experimental Psychology	77	15	12	8.3%
Geography	82	19	14	5.9%
History	168	46	38	5.9%
History & Politics	55	11	11	11.0%
Law*	514	90	78	16.3%
Materials Science	49	15	13	15.9%
Mathematics	507	47	43	13.0%
Mathematics & Computer Science	126	7	7	12.3%
Medicine	1,080	93	83	19.0%
Modern Languages	39	16	14	3.2%
Music	16	9	8	3.9%
Oriental Studies	43	12	10	10.5%
PPE**	434	50	49	10.0%
Physics	359	33	32	9.5%
Theology and Religion	16	6	6	5.4%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe **Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTE

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

Students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage¹²

- UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage comprised up to 6.0% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.
- 34.0% of applications from UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage from 2018 to 2020 were for two highly competitive courses: Medicine and Law*. By comparison, these courses attracted 12.0% of applications from UK-domiciled White students.
- Six of Oxford's 25 largest courses each received ten applications or fewer from students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage from 2018 to 2020, and as a result admitted only very small numbers.

Table 6.8: UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Biochemistry	36	9	9	3.5%
Biology	14	2	1	0.4%
Biomedical Sciences	21	2	1	1.0%
Chemistry	31	12	10	2.2%
Classics	15	11	9	2.9%
Computer Science	47	3	3	5.8%
Earth Sciences	3	1	1	1.1%
Economics & Management	107	14	11	5.6%
Engineering Science	60	20	17	4.7%
English	50	19	14	2.2%
Experimental Psychology	27	10	6	4.1%
Geography	9	2	1	0.4%
History	64	25	21	3.3%
History & Politics	23	5	4	4.0%
Law*	215	31	25	5.2%
Materials Science	8	6	4	4.9%
Mathematics	70	6	5	1.5%
Mathematics & Computer Science	27	1	1	1.8%
Medicine	290	27	26	6.0%
Modern Languages	19	15	11	2.5%
Music	6	4	2	1.0%
Oriental Studies	9	4	3	3.2%
PPE**	149	26	23	4.7%
Physics	47	3	3	0.9%
Theology and Religion	10	5	4	3.6%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTES

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

12. This includes students who indicated on their UCAS application that they identified as Black – Caribbean, Black – African or Black – other background.

Mixed Heritage students

- UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage students made up between 3.6% and 16.8% of UK intakes from 2018 to 2020 for Oxford's 25 largest courses.

Table 6.9: UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by course, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Biochemistry	69	20	19	7.5%
Biology	91	27	25	8.9%
Biomedical Sciences	51	7	6	6.0%
Chemistry	75	32	27	6.0%
Classics	59	25	22	7.1%
Computer Science	64	4	3	5.8%
Earth Sciences	13	5	5	5.4%
Economics & Management	123	14	13	6.6%
Engineering Science	110	33	29	8.1%
English	155	58	54	8.4%
Experimental Psychology	56	12	9	6.2%
Geography	70	21	20	8.4%
History	166	53	49	7.6%
History & Politics	47	12	11	11.0%
Law*	242	42	37	7.7%
Materials Science	15	5	5	6.1%
Mathematics	185	28	25	7.6%
Mathematics & Computer Science	37	6	6	10.5%
Medicine	254	41	39	8.9%
Modern Languages	102	53	44	10.0%
Music	39	21	16	7.8%
Oriental Studies	49	20	16	16.8%
PPE**	216	39	35	7.1%
Physics	177	24	24	7.1%
Theology and Religion	15	5	4	3.6%

*Including Law/Law with Studies in Europe **Philosophy, Politics and Economics

FOOTNOTE

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

DATA BY OXFORD COLLEGE

The following tables include figures for 29 of Oxford's undergraduate-admitting colleges, aggregated from 2018 to 2020.

BME students

- UK-domiciled BME students made up between 17.0% and 30.1% of colleges' UK intakes from 2018 to 2020.

Table 6.10: UK-domiciled BME students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	BME STUDENTS			WHITE STUDENTS			BME PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
Balliol College	411	64	57	1,062	204	193	22.8%
Brasenose College	548	52	49	1,962	246	225	17.9%
Christ Church	428	79	71	1,010	258	234	23.3%
Corpus Christi College	177	42	39	497	148	134	22.5%
Exeter College	237	56	49	921	212	195	20.1%
Hertford College	348	80	69	1,006	265	237	22.5%
Jesus College	317	66	60	840	226	204	22.7%
Keble College	717	90	82	1,638	290	254	24.4%
Lady Margaret Hall	474	83	74	950	250	227	24.6%
Lincoln College	244	42	36	730	194	176	17.0%
Magdalen College	347	58	52	1,103	227	203	20.4%
Mansfield College	201	58	50	561	173	148	25.3%
Merton College	238	38	36	903	185	170	17.5%
New College	355	68	60	1,073	275	257	18.9%
Oriel College	266	51	44	666	176	161	21.5%
Pembroke College	388	66	54	909	227	205	20.8%
Somerville College	324	60	52	792	285	253	17.0%
St Anne's College	331	89	73	779	266	237	23.5%
St Catherine's College	495	88	78	1,045	301	265	22.7%
St Edmund Hall	265	56	50	684	216	200	20.0%
St Hilda's College	266	57	48	564	243	222	17.8%
St Hugh's College	306	62	54	650	260	225	19.4%
St John's College	520	63	55	1,220	231	204	21.2%
St Peter's College	288	77	69	680	178	160	30.1%
The Queen's College	306	55	46	801	206	186	19.8%
Trinity College	289	50	41	701	187	175	19.0%
University College	353	57	56	879	235	212	20.9%
Wadham College	446	92	79	1,010	271	244	24.5%
Worcester College	685	73	71	2,149	268	252	22.0%
University total (2018–20)⁸	10,717	1,926	1,699	28,140	6,904	6,237	21.4%

FOOTNOTES

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

Asian students

- UK-domiciled Asian students made up between 6.6% and 13.5% of colleges' UK intakes from 2018 to 2020.

Table 6.11: UK-domiciled Asian students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Balliol College	237	24	21	8.4%
Brasenose College	276	23	22	8.0%
Christ Church	220	37	34	11.1%
Corpus Christi College	87	18	16	9.2%
Exeter College	108	20	16	6.6%
Hertford College	189	41	34	11.1%
Jesus College	159	30	28	10.6%
Keble College	412	48	43	12.8%
Lady Margaret Hall	256	33	30	10.0%
Lincoln College	148	19	18	8.5%
Magdalen College	178	25	23	9.0%
Mansfield College	102	27	24	12.1%
Merton College	129	20	19	9.2%
New College	200	24	22	6.9%
Oriel College	155	22	18	8.8%
Pembroke College	218	32	27	10.4%
Somerville College	184	24	20	6.6%
St Anne's College	172	37	28	9.0%
St Catherine's College	259	33	30	8.7%
St Edmund Hall	152	25	25	10.0%
St Hilda's College	148	23	20	7.4%
St Hugh's College	183	29	27	9.7%
St John's College	246	21	20	7.7%
St Peter's College	146	32	31	13.5%
The Queen's College	184	24	18	7.8%
Trinity College	165	26	21	9.7%
University College	189	20	19	7.1%
Wadham College	202	37	33	10.2%
Worcester College	353	27	26	8.0%
University total (2018–20)⁸	5,723	817	728	9.2%

FOOTNOTES

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

Students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage¹²

- UK-domiciled students with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage made up between 1.5% and 5.6% of colleges' UK intakes from 2018 to 2020.

Table 6.12: UK-domiciled Black students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Balliol College	48	13	9	3.6%
Brasenose College	67	8	7	2.6%
Christ Church	55	8	8	2.6%
Corpus Christi College	25	7	7	4.0%
Exeter College	28	14	11	4.5%
Hertford College	44	7	6	2.0%
Jesus College	49	6	6	2.3%
Keble College	105	15	13	3.9%
Lady Margaret Hall	95	21	17	5.6%
Lincoln College	29	6	4	1.9%
Magdalen College	37	10	9	3.5%
Mansfield College	28	9	7	3.5%
Merton College	18	4	4	1.9%
New College	31	10	8	2.5%
Oriel College	30	10	8	3.9%
Pembroke College	53	9	8	3.1%
Somerville College	42	9	9	3.0%
St Anne's College	59	13	11	3.5%
St Catherine's College	89	15	12	3.5%
St Edmund Hall	40	7	6	2.4%
St Hilda's College	38	5	4	1.5%
St Hugh's College	47	9	8	2.9%
St John's College	82	8	7	2.7%
St Peter's College	41	14	11	4.8%
The Queen's College	23	5	5	2.2%
Trinity College	31	6	4	1.9%
University College	44	12	12	4.5%
Wadham College	81	16	10	3.1%
Worcester College	99	12	11	3.4%
University total (2018–20)⁸	1,486	302	251	3.2%

FOOTNOTES

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

12. This includes students who indicated on their UCAS application that they identified as Black – Caribbean, Black – African or Black – other background.

Mixed Heritage students

- UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage students made up between 5.3% and 10.9% of colleges' UK intakes from 2018 to 2020.

Table 6.13: UK-domiciled Mixed Heritage students: applications to Oxford, offers made and students admitted by college, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED ¹¹
Balliol College	101	23	23	9.2%
Brasenose College	169	20	19	6.9%
Christ Church	122	28	24	7.9%
Corpus Christi College	55	16	15	8.7%
Exeter College	84	19	19	7.8%
Hertford College	103	30	27	8.8%
Jesus College	89	26	22	8.3%
Keble College	164	22	22	6.5%
Lady Margaret Hall	93	22	20	6.6%
Lincoln College	51	17	14	6.6%
Magdalen College	99	19	17	6.7%
Mansfield College	53	18	15	7.6%
Merton College	80	12	11	5.3%
New College	98	29	26	8.2%
Oriel College	68	18	17	8.3%
Pembroke College	98	21	15	5.8%
Somerville College	77	22	19	6.2%
St Anne's College	81	37	32	10.3%
St Catherine's College	123	37	33	9.6%
St Edmund Hall	55	20	15	6.0%
St Hilda's College	60	25	21	7.8%
St Hugh's College	61	21	16	5.7%
St John's College	145	29	25	9.7%
St Peter's College	75	28	25	10.9%
The Queen's College	82	21	19	8.2%
Trinity College	78	17	15	6.9%
University College	93	20	20	7.5%
Wadham College	144	33	31	9.6%
Worcester College	199	29	29	9.0%
University total (2018–20)⁸	2,838	700	624	7.9%

FOOTNOTES

8. Total includes Permanent Private Halls and Harris Manchester College.

11. Excluding students whose ethnicity status is not declared.

7. Disability

This section sets out the number and proportion of UK-domiciled students who declare a disability on application to Oxford.

- The number of students declaring a disability on application, the number of those students receiving offers and the number being admitted, has been increasing year on year since 2016.
- In 2020, 10.4% of admitted students had declared a disability on application, 3.2 percentage points higher than in 2016.

Table 7.1: UK-domiciled students declaring a disability, 2016–2020

	DISABILITY			NO KNOWN DISABILITY			PROPORTION DECLARING A DISABILITY OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED
	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	
2020	1,519	325	307	12,583	2,734	2,643	10.4%
2019	1,349	303	245	12,532	2,756	2,345	9.5%
2018	1,202	291	238	11,811	2,669	2,332	9.3%
2017	1,083	241	199	11,513	2,700	2,361	7.8%
2016	931	226	191	11,278	2,779	2,455	7.2%

Table 7.2: UK-domiciled students declaring a disability by category of disability, three-year total 2018–2020

	APPLICATIONS	OFFERS	ADMITTED	PROPORTION OF TOTAL UK STUDENTS ADMITTED
Autistic spectrum disorder	436	107	95	1.2%
Blind/partial sight	59	21	19	0.2%
Deaf/partial hearing	76	18	18	0.2%
Learning difficulty*	1,370	280	240	3.0%
Longstanding illness	319	74	66	0.8%
Mental health	898	202	167	2.1%
Multiple disabilities	306	81	65	0.8%
Other disability	503	108	93	1.1%
Wheelchair/mobility	103	28	27	0.3%
Total with declared disability	4,070	919	790	9.7%
No declared disability	36,926	8,159	7,320	90.3%
Total	40,996	9,078	8,110	100.0%

*including dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADHD

CONTEXT

Breakdown of students at UK universities by disability status

	NO KNOWN DISABILITY	DISABILITY
All UK Universities	84.0%	16.0%
Russell Group	86.0%	14.0%

	NO KNOWN DISABILITY	DISABILITY
Oxford University (2020 UK intake)	89.6%	10.4%

*Most recent available national data covers 2018 intake: defined as first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. AAA+ pool includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

Glossary

ACORN

ACORN is a postcode-based tool that categorises the UK's population by level of socio-economic advantage. ACORN uses a range of data – such as accommodation type, household income, population density and lifestyle habits – to produce estimates of the characteristics of each individual household and postcode. Category 4 is described as 'financially stretched'; category 5 as 'urban adversity'. Both groups are characterised by lower-than-average household incomes. ACORN categories 4 and 5 represent around 12.5% of UK students achieving three A grades or better at A-level at UK universities*.

Admitted

'Students admitted' refers to students who have been made an offer of a place at Oxford, met any conditions of that offer, and indicated that they intend to take up their place.

Applications

'Applications' refers to students who submit a UCAS application by the 15 October deadline for an undergraduate course at Oxford.

Applications by college

In tables that feature application numbers by college, the figures include those applicants who indicated a college of preference on their application, and anyone who made an open application who was then allocated to that college. Applicants considered by one college may still receive an offer from another college.

Colleges

Oxford University is made up of over 30 colleges and halls. It is these colleges that admit undergraduate students to the University. All colleges have signed up to a Common Framework for Admissions which means the same application process for each course at every college. The colleges work together during the admissions process to ensure that the best applicants are successful, regardless of the college that initially considers their application.

Most colleges offer most courses but the exact mix – and the number of places on each course – does vary between colleges. For more information about colleges, please see ox.ac.uk/ugcolls.

Courses

'Courses' refers to Oxford's undergraduate degree programmes. Students apply for these courses through UCAS. Some of these courses are in single subjects (eg History or Geography), while others are joint courses combining two or more subjects (eg Mathematics and Computer Science). Most courses are three or four years long and lead to a BA Honours degree or a Master's degree (eg MEarthSci or MMath). For more information, please see ox.ac.uk/courses.

Disability

Data in this report refer to disabilities that students have declared on their UCAS application. Students may also declare disabilities at later stages of the application process, or at any point during their course. For more information about the support available to disabled students, please see ox.ac.uk/disability.

*First-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. Includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

Disadvantage

Oxford uses various measures of disadvantage when considering applications, from various sources of available data. The main measures are:

- Educational disadvantage, which looks at the average performance of schools at GCSE and A-level.
- Socio-economic disadvantage, which looks at ACORN and POLAR data for the applicant's home postcode.

Oxford is also aware of students who have been in care, based on information provided in the UCAS application. For more information, please see ox.ac.uk/context.

Domicile

A student's domicile refers to their country of permanent residence, as provided on their UCAS application. This is not necessarily their nationality, but it is the country where they usually live.

For example, 'UK-domiciled students' includes students with non-British nationality who are permanently resident in the UK (not just here for the purposes of education). It does not include UK students who live permanently outside the UK.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity refers to the ethnic origin of UK students, as declared on the UCAS application. Our data includes only those applicants who have indicated their ethnicity, so it does not include those who choose not to say (5.2% of applicants in the three years 2018-2020). Ethnicity data is not available to universities during the admissions process: UCAS shares this data after all the admissions decisions have been made.

Gender

This report uses the binary female/male options from the UCAS application, which may not reflect the gender identity of all applicants. The University welcomes students who wish to take, or have taken, steps to change the gender identity they were assigned at birth, and those who do not identify with a permanent binary gender identity. For more information, please see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/transgender>.

Offers

Applications to Oxford are all considered together, and then shortlisted applicants are invited to interview. Around a third of those who are interviewed are then made an offer of a place. Most offers have conditions attached, such as achieving a particular set of grades at A-level, as specified for an applicant's chosen course. 'Offers' in this report includes all those students who receive an offer.

The number of offers for any particular college may be higher than their application numbers as students may be moved between colleges during the application process. This is to ensure that the best applicants are successful, regardless of the college that initially considers their application.

Open application

Applicants can indicate a college of preference when they complete their UCAS application or they can make an open application. Open applicants are then allocated to a college. After this allocation, colleges review all their applications in exactly the same way: they make no distinction between direct and open applicants.

POLAR

POLAR is a postcode-based tool that measures how likely young people are to participate in higher education based on where they live. POLAR quintiles are calculated by dividing the number of young people in local areas who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 by the overall young population in those areas. POLAR quintiles 1 and 2 represent 14.4% of UK students achieving three A grades or better at A-level at UK universities.* The POLAR classification is continuously developed and updated. 2020 data in this report are from POLAR4. Previous years' data are from POLAR3.

School type

Data on school type use the standard UCAS school type categories, as declared by schools and colleges. These school types are grouped as follows:

SCHOOL GROUP	SCHOOL SUB-GROUP	NOTES
State	Academy	
	Comprehensive	
	FE institutions	Tertiary colleges and all types of further education college
	Grammar	
	Sixth form college	
Independent	Independent	Other secondary schools, special schools and city technology colleges.
Other	Individual/ Unknown	Those applicants who applied online through UCAS without applying via a UCAS apply base (usually their school or college), or those where their apply base's school type is unknown
	Other UK institutions	Mainly comprises language schools and HE institutions, but also includes a few other UK institutions that are not classified as either state or independent
	Overseas schools	

UCAS cycle

When tables or text in this report refer to an individual year, that year relates to a UCAS 'cycle'.

For example, data labelled '2020' refers to the UCAS cycle in which applications to Oxford were made by 15 October 2019, mostly for entry in October 2020 (a minority of applicants in this cycle will have deferred entry to October 2021).

*First-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students, academic year 2018/19. Includes equivalent Scottish qualifications. See page 39 for full citation.

Guide to the Oxford admissions process

- Candidates apply to Oxford through UCAS. The Oxford deadline is 15 October.
- As part of their application, students can specify a college, but nearly a fifth of candidates make an 'open' application. Open applications are automatically allocated to a college with a lower number of direct applicants for the course, ensuring that candidates are distributed as equally as possible.
- Typically, Oxford aims to interview three candidates for every place. Shortlisting for interview is done to a centrally agreed set of criteria for each course and takes into account all the information from the UCAS form, including any factors that might provide context to past or predicted grades.
- During shortlisting, many courses reallocate candidates from one college to another. This ensures that the best candidates University-wide are selected for interview by an Oxford college, even if it is not the college to which they originally applied.
- Shortlisted candidates are interviewed in early December by the college to which they applied, or the one to which they were reallocated. Some courses, for example Medicine, only consider college preferences once the shortlisted candidates have been chosen.
- Candidates' interview performance adds to the information already gathered, and decisions are then made as to who should receive an offer. Again, this is discussed at course level to ensure the overall best candidates are selected. As a result of open applications and reallocations, around a third of successful candidates get an offer from a college they didn't initially select.
- Offers go out to candidates in January. The number of offers exceeds the number of places available, to allow for candidates who decline their offer, withdraw, or fail to meet their offer conditions.
- Competition for places is high for all Oxford undergraduate courses, but some courses have many more applicants per available place than others. This is one reason why offer and admission rates vary noticeably between courses.
- Success rates are also influenced by the fixed number of undergraduates admitted annually by each college, and by the courses offered at any given college. As some colleges receive far more direct applications than others, the reallocation process described above is used to move candidates between colleges and ensure fair chances regardless of where candidates originally applied.

Further information on this process and how to apply is available at www.ox.ac.uk/study.

Note on HESA data

Data

The data presented in Section 1 ('Overall numbers, including domicile') have been restricted to all first-year, first-degree undergraduate students in academic year 2018/19 in the UK. In all other sections, the data comprise all first-year, first-degree, UK-domiciled undergraduate students in academic year 2018/19 in the UK. NB: This includes students domiciled in Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man.

The AAA+ A-level pool comprises students who achieved at least AAA at GCE/VCE A-level (excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking), or at least AA at Scottish Advanced Higher and at least AAAAB at Scottish Higher. Students with equivalent qualifications, eg equivalent in IB points, are removed from this pool. When the AAA+ A-level pool is broken down into its constituent categories (A*AA, A*A*A, A*A*A*), candidates obtaining at least AA at Scottish Advanced Higher and at least AAAAB at Scottish Higher are included in every category.

ACORN categories 4 and 5 presented here do not include Type 34 ('Student flats and halls of residence'), which falls within category 4. This type is included within the remaining ACORN categories.

The information available for school type is: state school, other school, unknown. It is assumed that 'other school' comprises predominantly independent schools.

The data provided for gender records the sex of the student, as opposed to the gender with which they identify. 'Other' is included for students whose sex aligns with terms such as intersex, androgyne, intergender, ambigender, gender fluid, polygender and gender queer. Further details are available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/students>.

Students with unknown ACORN, POLAR, school type, domicile, region and ethnicity status are excluded from the relevant analyses.

'Russell Group excluding London universities' comprises the following subset of the Russell Group:

University of Birmingham	University of Glasgow	Queen's University Belfast
University of Bristol	University of Leeds	University of Sheffield
University of Cambridge	University of Liverpool	University of Southampton
Cardiff University	University of Manchester	University of Warwick
Durham University	Newcastle University	University of York
University of Edinburgh	University of Nottingham	
University of Exeter	University of Oxford	

Rounding Policy

The data presented adhere to HESA's rounding methodology:

- 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0.
- All other numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.
- Percentages based on fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed.
- Averages based on 7 or fewer individuals are suppressed.

Source

HESA Student Record 2018/19.

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ox.ac.uk/adstats