

## English Admissions 2020

Thank you for applying for a place on BA (Hons) in English Language and Literature at University of Oxford. This year has presented us all with many challenges and difficulties and we appreciate the time and effort you put into making an application under the exceptional circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic. We had a high number of applicants for English Language and Literature, and many of them made very good applications. Every year we have to make many difficult decisions. These figures might help you understand this year's process. (The figures are preliminary.)

Total number of applicants		935
Not invited to interview (or withdrew)		326
Interviewed		609
Places offered (including 8 Open Offers)		231
Approx. ratio of applicants to offers		4:1

We cannot interview all applicants, so we have to make decisions on whom to shortlist, based on the information on your UCAS form (past and predicted exam results, academic reference and personal statement), your submitted written work, and your result in the ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test). For UK candidates we also use contextual data, such as school performance and postcode data, as outlined on the Oxford Admissions website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>

The ELAT is a 90-minute test requiring an essay which responds to passages of literary material on a given theme. Results will be released to candidates on 11 January 2020 and you can find more information about this at:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/elat/scoring-and-results/>

Applicants who are most likely to be invited for an interview score well in the ELAT, and have good exam results, written work, and references. Applicants with low scores in some aspects of their application will only have been invited for interview with special consideration of other factors.

The number of applicants to individual colleges varies from year to year, so a number of shortlisted candidates are redistributed from the most oversubscribed colleges to those with a lower ratio of candidates to places. Those applicants who make open applications are similarly allocated to the less oversubscribed colleges. After first college interviews, around 100 candidates had additional interviews at a second college, to give them the best chance of receiving an offer. We also made 8 Open Offers. Candidates who receive an Open Offer will be told which college they will go to after examination results are released in August 2021.

We know how disappointing it is for applicants, their families, and their schools when despite being well-qualified and submitting a strong application, you don't receive an offer from us. As you can see, the standard is very high, and each year we are conscious that we do not have room for all applicants with exceptional academic records, and who have excellent potential as students of English Literature. We thank you for your patience with our application process, and wish you well for the future. .