

CAAH admissions feedback document January 2023

Section 1: Admission Statistics for 2022/3

1. *Number of applicants*

152

2. *Number of applicants per place awarded*

4.75

3. *Breakdown:*

a) Breakdown of applicants by domicile

Home	133
EU	4
Overseas	15

b) Breakdown of applicants by gender

Female	108
Male	44

c) Breakdown of applicants by entry year

Applications for 2023	151
Applications for 2024 (deferred)	1

4. *Number of applicants shortlisted*

140

5. *Number of applicants offered places*

32

Section 2: Admissions Processes

1. *Procedure for shortlisting*

2.1.1. Selection criteria: Candidates were assessed against the selection criteria published on the Classics Faculty website at <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/admissions-criteria-classical-archaeology-ancient-history>.

2.1.2. Selection process: Candidates could be recommended for de-summoning if their first-choice college believed beyond reasonable doubt that candidates are not qualified

to undertake a course in Oxford on the basis of one or more of the following specific grounds: poor results in official examinations; poor results predicted for A level or other impending examinations; negative school report; poor quality of written work; failure to demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. In the light of the problems with the assignment of GCSE grades in 2021, and ongoing uncertainty about the ‘rebalancing’ of A-level grade boundaries in 2023, colleagues were advised to be more than usually cautious about desummoning on the basis of ‘poor results in official examinations, especially GCSEs’ or ‘poor results predicted for A level’. All proposals for not summoning to the interview had to be agreed by the first-choice college with the admissions coordinator and the second choice college and notified to the admissions mailing list. If there were no objections to the first-choice college’s decision not to shortlist the candidate, any other college could ‘rescue’ the candidate.

2.1.3. Reallocation: In order to maintain the even ration of candidates per place, 15 candidates were reallocated from over-subscribed to under-subscribed colleges prior to the interview stage.

2.1.4. Statistics:

i) Written work averages

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
58.17	63.15	67

ii) Interview score averages

Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
6.05	7.95

2. *Interview process*

2.2.1. Summoning for interview: All candidates summoned for interview were notified by their colleges by Thursday 25 November. Interviews were conducted remotely via Teams on 5 and 6 December for 1st-choice colleges, and on 9 and 13 December by the faculty interview panels for the second round of interviews.

2.2.2. Interviews at 1st college: all candidates received two independent interviews of 20 to 25 minutes with separate pairs of interviewers at their first-choice college; at least one of the four interviewers had to be a historian and at least one an archaeologist. Colleges were allowed to enter into consortia (i.e. have the same two pairs of interviewers interviewing for more than one college).

2.2.3. Procedure for 2nd interviews: All second interviews were organised centrally by the Faculty of Classics; candidates flagged for second interview were assigned to one of the seven faculty interviewing panels, each of which had a historian and an archaeologist on it, who conducted a single interview with the candidate.

2.2.4. Interview criteria: Interviews were intended to inform the admitting tutors about the following qualities of the candidate: candidate's potential for independent thinking, ability to follow an argument, skill in communication, and adaptability for tutorial teaching

2.2.5. Final Declarations Meeting procedure: All offers, including Opportunity Oxford offers, were confirmed by college representatives at the Final Declarations Meeting, which reviewed them against the candidates' mid-interview ranking. The meeting agreed the number of Open Offers and identified the Open Offer candidates. It also conducted a preliminary review of the admissions process.