

CAAH admissions feedback document January 2024

Section 1: Admission Statistics for 2022/3

1. Number of applicants

169

(this and the following does not take into account 2 applications withdrawn before the shortlisting stage)

2. Number of applicants per place offered

4.57

3. Breakdown:

a) Breakdown of applicants by domicile

Home	141
EU	7
Overseas	21

b) Breakdown of applicants by gender

Female	113
Male	39
I use another term/Prefer not to say	17

c) Breakdown of applicants by entry year

Applications for 2024	167
Applications for 2025 (deferred)	2

4. Number of applicants shortlisted

142

5. Number of applicants offered places

37 (including 3 Open Offers)

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 ongoing uncertainty about the ‘rebalancing’ of A-level grade boundaries back to the pre-pandemic levels, and disparities between parts of the UK, particularly in availability of cGCSE data, 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, 8 candidates were reallocated from over-subscribed to under-subscribed colleges prior to the interview stage.

2.1.4. Statistics:

i) UCAS personal statement score averages (out of 5)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
3.84	4.05	4.41

ii) UCAS reference score averages (out of 5)

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
4.17	4.37	4.65

iii) Written work averages

All candidates	Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
5.67	5.92	6.33

iv) Archaeology Interview score averages (out of 10)

Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
6.16	7.73

v) Ancient History Interview score averages (out of 10)

Shortlisted candidates	Placed candidates
5.96	7.81

2. *Interview process*

2.2.1. Summoning for interview: All candidates summoned for interview were notified by their colleges by Thursday 23 November. Interviews were conducted remotely via Teams on 4 and 5 December for 1st-choice colleges, and on 8 and 12 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 eight 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.