

Undergraduate Admissions for EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY and PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & LINGUISTICS ~ University of Oxford ~ 2023/24

Pre-interview Admissions Tests

All applicants are expected to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). Of the 647 applications received, 613 applicants successfully registered for and sat the TSA. We took into consideration all special circumstances surrounding TSA test sitting where these were reported to us via Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing (CAAT), the central university admissions team and college communications. TSA Section 1 results were emailed out to applicants on 11th January 2024.

Admissions processes – shortlisting procedure

The selection criteria used can be found [here](#). The department provides shortlisting recommendations to colleges for all candidates. Colleges then review these recommendations and make their decisions, raising any special cases with the department. All special cases raised by College Tutors are considered at this stage. The decision is based on the exam grades obtained and the grades predicted, together with the recommendation from the school or college, performance on our pre-interview admissions test and other relevant information. Once shortlisting decisions are made, a centralised reallocation process ensures that a consistent number of candidates per place are interviewed at each college. We invite approximately 3 applicants for interview per place we offer.

Admissions processes – interview process

The interview is aimed at assessing a candidate's potential for future development and how well they will cope with the academic course. All shortlisted applicants are interviewed at two separate colleges, i.e., their "college of preference" and a second college. This is to ensure that we have two independent interview assessments for every candidate we have interviewed.

Tutors are looking for the following qualities at interview: Clarity of analysis and presentation of ideas; ability to generate own ideas and proposals; ability to listen and respond to ideas put forward during discussion, and to draw inferences from them; ability to put forward coherent and well thought out proposals and responses.

Final decisions

An overall assessment of all candidates is made at a meeting in the Department of Experimental Psychology. All College Tutors are asked to rank the candidates that they have seen, using the full range of indicators. These are: 1) GCSEs or equivalent; 2) predicted or obtained A-levels or equivalent; 3) the reference from the school; 4) the admissions test; 5) the interviews; 6) and other relevant information. Final offers are based upon all these factors.

Admissions Statistics

		All applicants	Shortlisted applicants	Offer holders
Application numbers	Overall	647	246	112
	EP	402	148	69
	Psy+Phil	119	40	15
	Psy+Ling	90	37	16
	Phil+Ling	36	21	12
	Deferred entry	12	6	1
	Open college ¹	126	44	15
	W ²	488	175	81
	M ²	137	60	25
	Home	398	163	77
	EU	37	6	4
	Non-EU	212	77	31
TSA overall score	Mean	56	61	63
	Range (IQR ³)	51 - 61	58 - 65	59 - 68
GCSE 9/8/A*	Mean	7.1	8.6	8.9
	Range (IQR ³)	5 - 9	8 - 10	8 - 10
EP: A-level subjects (% of applicants)	Psychology	63%	70%	71%
	Biology	35%	42%	43%
	Maths	33%	47%	48%
	Chemistry	17%	24%	23%
PPL: A-level subjects (% of applicants)	Psychology	41%	30%	28%
	English Lit.	19%	18%	16%
	Maths	18%	18%	26%
	Biology	12%	14%	16%

Note: 1. Open college applications are ones for which the applicant does not specify a college preference. For these applications, a college is assigned centrally and admitting tutors are not informed which applications are direct to the college and which are assigned in this way. 2. Data only for applicants who specify gender as Woman or Man, because small numbers in other categories pose a risk to the privacy of individuals. 3. Range values are for the inter-quartile range (IQR).