

Faculty of Music Admissions – Information for Applicants 2023

Section 1: Admissions Statistics

Applications

	December gathered field (excluding organ award data)	Sept organ award gathered field	Combined fields
Number of Applicants	204	23	227
Number of college quota places (excluding 'open offers')	74	11	85
Applicants per place	2.8	2.1	2.7
Open College Applications	23	0	23
Deferred Entry applicants	8	3	11

Shortlisting

	December gathered field (excluding organ award data)	Sept organ award gathered field	Combined fields
Applicants shortlisted	189	22	211
% of candidates shortlisted	92.6%	95.70%	93%
Gender of shortlisted candidates: (% of shortlisted applicants)			
Prefer not to say/use another term	5 (2.6%)	0	5 (2.4%)
Women	99 (52.4%)	2 (9.1%)	101 (47.9%)
Men	85 (45.0%)	20 (90.9%)	105 (49.8%)
Domicile of shortlisted candidates (% of shortlisted candidates):			
Home	162 (85.7%)	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
EU	5 (2.6%)	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
Overseas	22 (11.6%)	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>

Schooltype of shortlisted candidates (% of shortlisted candidates):			
State	92 (48.7%)	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
Other (including independent school)	97 (51.3%)	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>

Offers

	December gathered field (excluding organ award data)	Sept organ award gathered field	Combined fields
Number of applicants offered places for Oct 24 (including 'open offers')	83	8	91
Gender of applicants with offers (% of offers):			
Prefer not to say/use another term	4 (4.8%)	0 (0%)	4 (4.4%)
Women	38 (45.8)	0 (0%)	38 (41.8%)
Men	41 (49.4)	8 (100%)	49 (53.8%)
Domicile of applicants offered places for Oct 24 candidates (% of offers):			
Home	76 (91.2%)	8 (100%)	84 (92.3)
EU	1 (1.2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.1%)
Overseas	6 (7.2%)	0 (0%)	6 (6.6%)
Schooltype of applicants with offers (% of offers)			
State	47 (56.6%)	2 (25%)	49 (53.9%)
Other (including independent school)	36 (43.4%)	6 (75%)	42 (46.2%)

Section 2: Admissions Processes

2.1. The Music Faculty's selection criteria can be found here: [Undergraduate study | Faculty of Music \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/music/faculty)

2.2 Shortlisting

2.2.1 Procedure for Shortlisting: All candidates were carefully considered individually by the Admissions Coordinator. Candidates were called to interview (shortlisted) if they met, or were predicted to meet, the standard offer of AAA at A Level with an A in Music (or equivalent). Additional circumstances were considered such as access to music education, and educational disruption, in line with University procedures.

2.2.2 Reallocation: After shortlisting, where colleges were deemed to be over-subscribed, applicants were reallocated to other colleges. This enabled a generally equal ratio of applicants to places across the colleges.

2.1.3 Weighting of test/GCSE scores/Written work. The Music Faculty does not have an admissions test. Contextualised performance at school (including GCSEs) was considered as part of the shortlisting process, especially when incongruous with sixth-form performance and predicted A level (or equivalent) grades. Written work (including composition) and recordings of performances were considered after shortlisting.

2.3 Interviews and decision-making

2.3.1 Description of the Interview process: All shortlisted candidates were called to interview by their first-choice college.¹ First-choice colleges gave at least one interview of a minimum of 20 minutes. A number of first-choice colleges gave two interviews. The majority of colleges gave material to be considered by the candidate in advance of the interview(s). This material ranged across the various types of source and music required by the course (including, for example, prose extracts from musicological texts, recordings, improvisatory or aleatoric music, notation-based musics etc).

2.3.2 All shortlisted candidates were called to an interview by a second-choice college. Second-college interviews followed the same process as first-college interviews in number and content. Second-choice colleges were mainly assigned randomly, although the level of over/under subscription of colleges was considered.

2.3.3 Descriptors of Interview Scoring used: College interviewers graded candidates using the following criteria:

CRITERIA

1. Knowledge acquired through a current or completed A-level Music course (or equivalent)
2. Powers of reasoning: ability to reason and think critically
3. Communication: ability to engage in debate and use appropriate terminology
4. Potential to engage with the undergraduate course

Each criterion was marked on the following score. The score was totalled so that a candidate with a score of 4 overall was viewed as 'excellent', whilst a candidate with a score of 12 was viewed as 'below standard'.

SCORE:

- 1 = Excellent
- 2 = Good
- 3 = Below standard

¹ 'First-choice' college here includes colleges which were assigned to 'open' applications

2.3.4 Procedure for final decision-making: Once all candidates had been interviewed by two colleges, they were discussed on an individual basis by a selection committee made up of admitting tutors from all colleges. A ranking, including a grading, of applicants was produced. Each candidate was awarded a final grade (taking into account all admissions parameters) of

A* = Taken by first-choice (or second-choice) college

A = Recommended

B = Not recommended for offer

Candidates who were highly recommended but not offered a place by either first or second-choice college (for reason of quota) were given a third, Faculty interview, in order to be considered for the Faculty's pool of open-offer places. The third interviews were led by experienced tutors who reported back to a subsequent meeting of the Faculty's selection committee, to determine a ranking of candidates for the open-offer places.

2.3.5 'Open offers': Nine offers were made as open offers. While these are offers underwritten by individual colleges, the final allocation of college is decided after results are known. Open-offer candidates were decided after all interviews had been completed and through careful consideration of written work, interview performance and data (including GCSEs and actual/predicted A-level results or equivalent).

Section 3: Pre-interview Admissions tests

The Music Faculty does not use pre-interview admissions tests.