

Breakout Session 2

Supporting Applicants to Oxford or Cambridge

- Sam Twells, Regional Manager (Europe)



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Supporting applicants to Oxford or Cambridge

Sam Twells

Cambridge Admissions Office

Information correct as of 20 June 2023. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website.



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Similarities and differences



Similarities

- Structure – both collegiate universities
- Same subject, same approach – e.g. Law, Medicine, Maths, Engineering
- Small-group tuition – tutorials (Oxford) / supervisions (Cambridge)
- Extensive academic and pastoral support
- Limited and mostly partial financial support for international students
- Most aspects of the application process



Differences

- Same subject, different approach – e.g. Natural Sciences (Cambridge) vs single Science courses (Oxford)
- Unique courses – e.g. Land Economy (Cambridge), PPE (Oxford)
- Dual degrees
- Entry requirements
- Limited aspects of the application process
- The cities of Oxford and Cambridge





What we're
looking for in
applicants

What information do we use to assess applicants?

Every application is considered individually and holistically. All available information is looked at together before decisions are made.

- Academic record
- Personal statement
- School reference
- Submitted written work
- Performance in any written assessment
- Performance at interview (if interviewed)



Entry requirements



A Level

Cambridge: A*AA / A*A*A, depending on the chosen course

Oxford: AAA—A*A*A, depending on the chosen course

IB Diploma

Cambridge: 40-42 points overall, including core points, with 776 in three Higher Level subjects

Oxford: 38-40 points overall, including core points, with 6s and 7s in the Higher Level subjects

English language requirements

As a condition of any offer, applicants may be asked to provide an English language test result (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL).

Both universities accept many other national and international qualifications – please check our websites for specific information and guidance.



What are we looking for?

Important



Not relevant

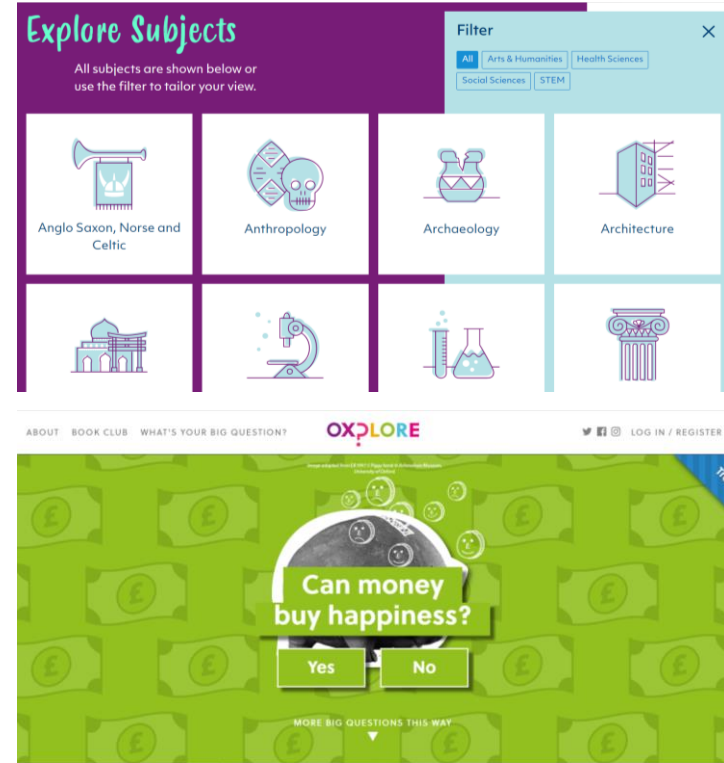
- Personal or family background
- School type
- Extra-curricular activities

Cambridge is looking for the brightest and best students, irrespective of social, religious or school background.

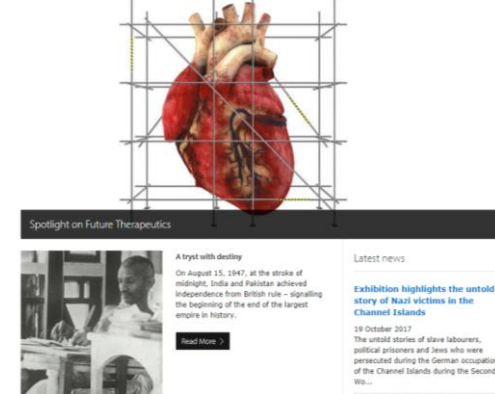
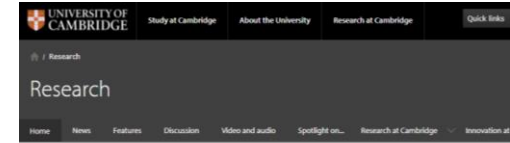


Super-curricular resources

- [Cambridge: Super-curricular suggestions](#)
Undergraduate Study website > Applying > Your application > Super-curricular suggestions
- [Cambridge: HE+ \(myheplus.com\)](#)
Super-curricular resource bank, created and updated by Cambridge students and academics
- [Cambridge: Isaac Physics \(isaacphysics.org\)](#)
Problem-solving activities and revision aids
- [Oxford: Oxplore \(oxplore.org\)](#)
The 'Home of Big Questions', for students aged 11-18



Super-curricular resources



A wide-angle photograph of a large, historic stone building with multiple spires and arched windows, likely a part of the University of Cambridge. The building is set against a dramatic sky with soft orange and pink hues from a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained green lawn. A large, semi-circular red graphic element is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Making an application'.

Making an application

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

1 Choose your course



2 Choose a College or make an open application



3 Check admissions test arrangements



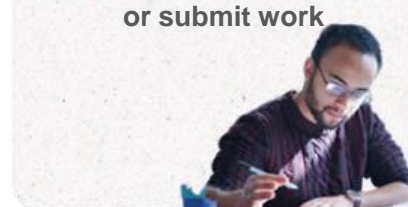
4 UCAS application
(16 October 2023)

*Remember
Application
deadline*

5 Additional application forms



6 Take admissions assessment and / or submit work



7 Interviews



8 Decision





Changes to admissions in 2023

UCAS personal statements



- Ongoing consultation about changes to the UCAS personal statement, but there are no changes for the 2023 or 2024 admissions cycles
- Any changes will be implemented from the 2025 admissions cycle at the earliest, but may come later



UCAS school references



UCAS references will be split into three sections, which cover the same information but are structured differently.

Recommended character limits per section:

- Section 1 – up to 1,000 characters
- Section 2 – up to 500 characters
- Section 3 – minimum of 2,000 characters
- Remaining 500 characters can be used to provide additional detail as appropriate for specific students.

Format:

If needed, please feel free to use short statements.



Admissions assessments



Cambridge

For applicants applying in 2023, admissions testing arrangements will be similar to those in previous years.

For applicants applying from 2024 onwards, changes to testing arrangements will be confirmed later in 2023.

Oxford

For applicants applying in 2023, the BMAT and the TSA will continue to be delivered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing (CAAT) as paper-based tests.

CAAT will no longer deliver Oxford's own admissions tests. These will now be handled by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).



My Cambridge Application



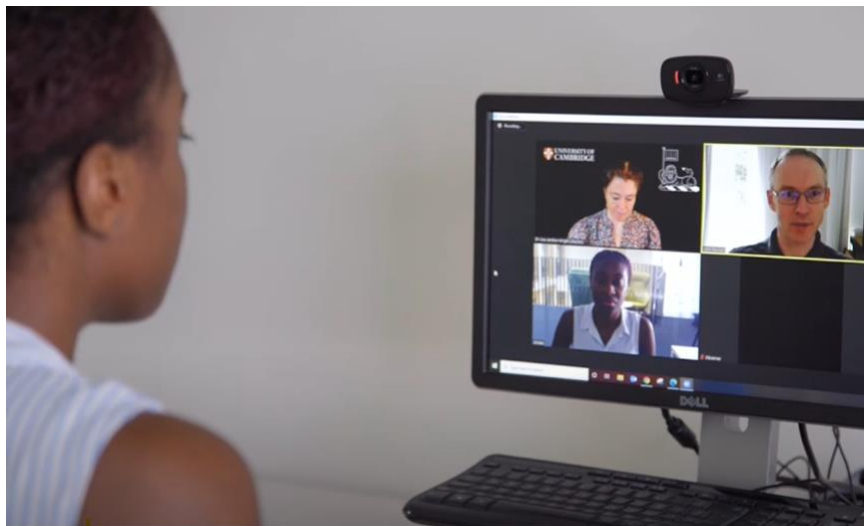
Subject to final testing, My Cambridge Application (MyCApp) will have a new applicant interface this year.

The information requested will be similar to previous versions and we'll update the website shortly with more details.

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/mycamapp



Interviews



Cambridge

For the 2023 admissions cycle, most Cambridge Colleges will interview applicants online.

Six Colleges (Gonville & Caius, King's, Pembroke, Peterhouse, Selwyn and Trinity) will interview UK-based applicants in person and international applicants online.

Our admissions tutors have extensive experience of interviewing both online and in person. Please visit www.cam.ac.uk/interviews for further details.

Oxford

For the 2023 admissions cycle, all Oxford Colleges will interview applicants online.



How Cambridge communicates decisions

This year the Cambridge Colleges coordinated their communication of admissions decisions, ensuring that all candidates received a response on the same day via UCAS Track.

In 2024:

- We will again release all admissions outcomes on the same day (exact date TBC).
- Applicants will hear via UCAS Track and the College they applied to / were allocated to / have been made an offer by.

Please note:

- Applicants may be made an offer by a College which is different to the one they applied to. In UCAS, this will show as a different campus code, which they can check on our website.
- In a small number of cases, applicants may be made an offer for deferred entry, so should double-check the year of entry.





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Thank you for listening

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate

InternationalAdmissions@admin.cam.ac.uk
uni-of-oxford.custhelp.com

