

This email contains the latest news for teachers from the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach team at the University of Oxford. Please add us to your contacts or safe senders list.

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## An update of key news and events about applying to Oxford University October 2017

### Open applications, admissions tests and interviews

Applications for 2018 entry at Oxford have now closed, but your students may still have questions about their applications. This issue of the newsletter tackles some of the issues that come up most regularly at this point in the admissions cycle.

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And we also have some more general information about resources and events for teachers:

- [Our outreach calendar](#)
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## Open applications, and admissions tests



### 'Which college is considering my application?'

In 2016, 19% of applicants made an open application. This means that they did not specify a college when they applied. Making an open application is a good solution if a student really can't decide which college to put on their UCAS form.

If your students have made open applications then they will learn after **27 October** which college is considering their application.

Students will get this news by email from Oxford University, and they will also be able to see this updated on their UCAS record.



### Final preparations for admissions tests

All students sitting one or more of our admissions tests this year must have already been registered.

All our tests (except the LNAT) take place on Thursday 2 November. If your students need any final guidance on taking their admissions tests please direct them to the Test pages on our website.

Here they will find sample test papers and answers to the most frequently asked questions about admissions tests.

We wish them luck on the day!



### Is written work needed?

Many of our courses require applicants to send in a sample of their written work as part of their application. Your students can check on our website whether the course they have applied for requires written work.

If their course does require it, then they will have to send one or two pieces of marked school work. Each piece of work requires a cover sheet, which can be downloaded from the written work page.

The college considering the student's application will be in touch to let them know how to send it (i.e. post

or email); to find out more, please contact the college directly.

The deadline for sending written work is **Friday 10 November**.

## Oxford interviews: what you need to know

The interview is an important part of our admissions process. It is designed to assess your students' academic abilities and, most importantly, their academic potential. Tutors are looking for students' self-motivation and enthusiasm for their subject, and we want to see whether candidates can think independently and engage with new ideas beyond the scope of their school or college syllabus.

A good deal of the teaching at Oxford takes place in small classes or tutorials, and the interviewers – who may be your students' future tutors – are assessing the candidates' ability to study, think and learn in this way. This style of highly interactive teaching doesn't suit everyone, and the interview helps us to find out who is likely to thrive in this type of learning environment.



### The interview invitation

Now the application deadline has passed, your students may be anxious to know whether they have been selected for an interview.

Due to the large numbers of applications we receive, it does take time to work through them all and make sure we've considered each application in detail. We also wait until

### 2017 interview timetable

This year's interviews will take place in Oxford between **Sunday 3 and Friday 15 December**.

More detailed timings for different courses can be found on our website.

Applied from outside the EU? See [specific guidance for international students](#).

all admissions test scores and written work have been received.

**All this means your students are likely to have only a week's notice about their interview.**

The college considering your student's application will write or email to them to let them know about their interview.

### Advice for interviewees

Students are naturally anxious when preparing for their Oxford interview. We know that there are all sorts of urban myths about Oxford interviews, which can only add to students' worries.

To try and put some of these scare stories to rest we've got a short video where current students discuss the interviews in their own words:



<https://youtu.be/CXiQtJXTZSo>

We also have lots of advice and guidance for students on our website.

### Other resources for teachers

### Any special requirements?

If your students have special requirements for their interview because of a disability or long-term health condition, then they need to **let their college know as soon as possible.**

We will make reasonable adjustments and provide support and assistance throughout the interview process.

### Sample interview questions

We've brought together some sample interview questions for many of our courses.

The questions have been written by Oxford admissions tutors who conduct our interviews and will give your students an idea of the types of things people can be asked.

See sample questions on our website.

### Some final tips...

There's lots of guidance on our website for your students but here's some general advice that they may find useful:

Your students should **bring a copy of their personal statement** to remind themselves what they wrote: the tutors may refer to this during the interview.

**Food and accommodation in college is completely free**, and there will be friendly students on hand to help interviewees settle in and enjoy their stay.

Visit the teachers' pages of the website to access more information and resources.

- outreach calendar
- link colleges
- events for teachers
- resources

**Been passed this newsletter by a colleague?** To sign up for your own copy, fill in a quick form to give us your details.

It will be December and the weather is likely to be cold and wet. **There's no dress code** to worry about; instead students should wear what they find comfortable - but they should bring something warm to put on!

## Other news from Oxford University



### Outreach calendar

Our outreach calendar lists a huge variety of events, workshops, competitions, lectures and resources for students and teachers.

Many of these activities will be arranged by colleges or academic departments, and they can be a useful addition to the University-wide Open Days.

Visit the calendar on our website.



### 2018 Open Days

The dates of the University open days for 2018 will be:

- Wednesday 27 June 2018
- Thursday 28 June 2018
- Friday 14 September 2018

More details about the Open Days will be available nearer the time.



### Teachers' events

These events aim to equip teachers with the best possible advice for their students on applying to Oxford. They cover all aspects of the admissions process from identifying candidates to writing references and preparing candidates for admissions tests and interviews.

Applications for teachers to attend these events open early next year. Please follow the links below for more details.

- Sutton Trust Teacher Summer School
- Regional Teachers' Conferences
- International Guidance Counsellors' Conference
- Student Conferences

### About the Teachers' Newsletter

This newsletter is distributed five times a year, in September, October, January, February and April.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to any interested colleagues. To sign up for their own copies, use the online form at [www.ox.ac.uk/enews](http://www.ox.ac.uk/enews)

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