



Teachers' Newsletter



We hope your academic year has begun well and that your students applying to Oxford have now submitted their UCAS forms and been registered for any admissions tests. Read on for guidance on final preparations for the admissions tests and information about our interview process.



Admissions Tests

31 October 2018

Good luck to all those sitting our admissions tests at the end of this month. We know that practising past papers really helps students to do well, so please encourage them to have a go at some past or sample papers, ideally under timed conditions. They can find these on our [individual test pages](#), which also contain further information about how to prepare.

Oxford interviews

The interview is a crucial part of our admissions process. A good deal of the teaching at Oxford takes place in small interactive classes or tutorials, and the interviewers – who may be your students' future tutors – are assessing a candidate's ability to study, think and learn in this way. Tutors are looking for self-motivation, enthusiasm and academic potential. Decisions are based on an applicant's capacity for thinking independently and engaging with new ideas beyond the scope of their school or college syllabus. Coming to Oxford for an interview is also a great opportunity for candidates to experience student life here and to decide whether they would enjoy our university.



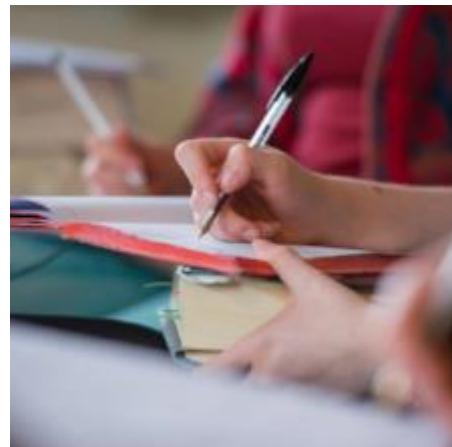
Interview Travel Bursaries

We are working hard to remove any barriers that might make it difficult for candidates to come for interview - like the cost of travel. If this is a problem for any of your students, then we may be

able to pay for the cost of travel to and from Oxford, by public transport, for UK residents who attend or have attended a UK state school or college. Candidates must also be:

- currently eligible for Free School Meals;
- and/or in local authority care;
- and/or have another reason why it would be difficult for them to pay for travel to attend interview in Oxford.

The college assessing the candidate's application will send them a letter which includes a link to an online form for them to complete. This will give us the details we need to check their eligibility. Please encourage your students to complete this form as soon as they can; there isn't much time between invitation and the interviews so it is really important that they don't delay. Once we have received and checked the details, we will contact them with details about how to make a booking.



Invitation to Interview

Mid-November

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

Due to the large number of applications we receive, it does take time to work through them all and make sure we've considered every element of an application, including admissions tests and written work. This means that most students are given only a week or two's notice about their interview. They will be sent either a letter or an email to invite them.

Candidates who made an open application will be able to find out which college is assessing their application the week ending 26 October by email and via UCAS.

Interview Preparation

Late November

There's lots of information on our [Teachers' eGuide](#) to help you prepare your students for their interviews. You may also like to look at these [samples questions](#), which could be used in a mock interview.

Our best advice is to encourage your students to immerse themselves in their chosen subject in their own time; whether that's by reading something like *National Geographic* or the *London Review of Books*, attending a public lecture or an exhibition, or by watching a relevant documentary. You can also help your students to prepare by spending time discussing their subject with them so they can learn to articulate their ideas and opinions and feel confident doing so. Students should read our [Interview Guide](#).



Access Arrangements

Mid-November

If any of your students that are offered an interview need access arrangements because of a disability or long-term health condition they should let their college know as soon as possible.

Colleges will make reasonable adjustments to support applicants at interview, for instance: by providing materials in alternative and accessible formats, arranging extra time for reading interview materials before, amending interview timings, or providing accessible accommodation.



2018 Interview Timetable

2-14 December 2018

This year's interviews will take place in Oxford between Sunday 2 and Friday 14 December.

Students should bring a copy of their personal statement and any written work they were asked to submit. Food and accommodation is completely free and there will be current students on hand to show people where to go.

There's no dress code for candidates, but they should remember to bring some warm clothes!



Admissions Interviews: What to Expect



UNIQ

UNIQ is a free access programme of residencies and digital content run by the University of Oxford for state school students in their first year of further education. This programme aims to support pupils who would do well at Oxford but may lack the confidence to apply. In 2019, we are offering an additional 500 places on our residencies for pupils to come to Oxford for 4 nights and 5 days. 1,350 pupils will have the opportunity to study their chosen subject, experience undergraduate life and receive first hand support on making a competitive application.

There is also an opportunity for students to engage with UNIQ Digital, our online platform which provides students with mentoring, activities and advice in preparation for making their applications. UNIQ Digital is a resource that is available to all participants but also a further 1000 students who miss out on a residential place.

UNIQ is extremely effective at transforming a student's chances of success. Students have a 34% chance of successfully applying to Oxford, compared to the average UK rate of about 20%. Applications open **3 December** and close **28 January**. [For more information on how to help your pupils apply please click here.](#)



This newsletter is distributed five times throughout the academic year. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to any colleagues who might be interested or they can sign up via our [online form](#). If you have any feedback or suggestions for future content, we'd love to hear from you, just send an email to study@ox.ac.uk.



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