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Oxbridge Applications





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What should you consider before you apply for Oxbridge?

Oxford and Cambridge are world renowned universities, continually producing top-class graduates who are responsible for some of the greatest advances in science and technology, the most influential literature and crucial political and economic decisions.

Oxford and Cambridge are notoriously competitive. Even if you are predicted the grades that you are required, you need to have excellent GCSE results as well. On average, applicants have 9 x 8/9 grades.

It's not just about the grades. It's also about the supra-curricular that you engage in. Supra-curricular activities differ from extra-curricular activities in that they are things that you do to deepen and broaden your knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. They include further reading and attending courses and conferences on the subjects you're interested in.

<https://lifemoreextraordinary.com/oxbridge/getting-into-oxbridge/>



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If you have the GCSE grades, think you will be predicted A*AA minimum at A Level, and are prepared for the supra-curricular investment necessary, then now is the time to start thinking about applying.

We will provide a bespoke programme for you, including help with personal statements, interviews and the additional tests, where required by the universities.

To start your journey, the best place to begin is by looking at the virtual tours provided. Sadly this year, all visits will be virtual due to Covid 19.

<https://www.virtualtour.study.cam.ac.uk/>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/colleges/college-virtual-tours>



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The Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences (15th to 26th March)

What do they offer?

- Webinars on applying to Oxford and Cambridge (including Student Experience)
- Opportunities to chat live with course academics and current undergraduate students
- Videos of current undergraduate students from your region talking about their experiences of applying, settling into life at both universities and their course of study
- Students have the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into what living and studying at Oxford and Cambridge is like, an understanding of how both universities assess applications and the opportunity to ask any questions

[View the full schedule](#) for the Student Conferences, including timings for the live sessions.

Admission is FREE but by ticket only and all bookings should be made online.

To book your place, please [complete the online booking form](#).

Shortly after submitting your booking, you will receive a confirmation email containing your e-ticket. If this has not happened, you may have mistyped your email address or there may be an error with the booking form. If your e-ticket has not arrived 24 hours after you made your booking, please contact the Student Conferences Team on studentconferences@admin.cam.ac.uk.



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APTITUDE TESTING

Some colleges and faculties at both Oxford and Cambridge will ask that candidates sit additional tests. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have enrolled for all necessary aptitude tests (see Ms Jackson and Ms Hames) Examples of tests include:

- BioMedical Aptitude Test (BMAT)
- Classics Aptitude Test (CAT)
- English Literature Test (ELAT)
- History Aptitude Test (HAT)
- Oriental Language Aptitude Test (OLAT)
- Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)
- Thinking Skills Assessment (Oxford) (TSA)
- Modern Languages Aptitude Test (MLAT)
- Maths Aptitude Test (MAT)

More information can be found by visiting www.admissionstestingservice.org. Candidates must register themselves for the UKCAT (Dentistry and Medicine), LNAT (Law) and TSA (Cambridge).



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EXAMPLE OXBRIDGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- **Talk about a light bulb** (Engineering, Oxford)
- **Would you rather be a novel or a poem?** (English, Oxford)
- **How would you market a rock band?** (Economics & Management, Oxford)
- **How does Geography relate to A Midsummer Night's Dream?** (Geography, Oxford)
- **How many of these pebbles would fit in that car?** (Natural Sciences, Cambridge)
- **Can History stop the next war?** (History, Cambridge)
- **Would you say that greed is good or bad?** (Land Economy, Cambridge)
- **Why are birds eggs speckled?** (Biology, Oxford)

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests>



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Medical Applications



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Medicine is ferociously competitive.

Out of around 130 total universities in the UK, there are currently 37 medical schools. There are on average 20 applicants per place. The most competitive is UCL.

Every medical school requires a minimum of AAA at A Level, which must always include Chemistry and often Biology. You also need to have excellent GCSE results as well. On average, applicants have 8 x 8/9 grades.

With the rising competition facing UK medical students, it has been said that 4 A-Levels is the new benchmark for applicants. Having 3 A to A* A-Levels at A2 including Chemistry and Biology will secure you an interview in many circumstances, though.

These websites will provide you with a wealth of information and guidance.



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If you have the GCSE grades, think you will be predicted AAA minimum at A Level, and are prepared for the work experience necessary, then now is the time to start thinking about applying.

We will provide a bespoke programme for you, including help with personal statements, interviews and the additional tests, where required by the universities. The Science department will help you enormously too.

To start your journey, the best place to begin is by looking at the virtual tours which medical schools provide. Again, all visits will be virtual due to Covid 19.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day>



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Medical Work Experience

Gaining medical work experience prior to your applications is an excellent way of getting a hands-on feel of whether a career in medicine is right for you as well as an invaluable addition to your CV that is required by all universities. However, getting relevant medical work experience can be one of the hardest tasks facing a prospective medical student as hospitals and GP surgeries are overwhelmed with requests. Some things to try:

- Volunteering in care homes, youth groups and charities
- <https://mailchi.mp/9723a815d623/stem-summer-internships-998371?e=25ebacc7d0>
- <https://educationprojects.co.uk/medical-projects/virtual-work-experience-week/>
- <https://www.premedprojects.co.uk/>



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The UCAT and the BMAT

The UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) and BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test) are two standardised tests that are common requirements for the UK's entry criteria onto a medical qualification.

Both exams take different forms, with the UCAT being a digital test that focuses on candidates answering questions of varying difficulty in short spaces of time over topics ranging from verbal reasoning, to quantitatively, to abstract reasoning, to situational judgement and so on. The BMAT, however, is a written examination with an emphasis on mathematics, science and logical thinking.

The tests can only be taken once, and are only valid for one registration period, meaning that you couldn't sit a UCAT exam in the summer of 2021 and use it to enrol into medical school starting in 2023 for example.

The best advice is to practise, practise and practise again. Here are the links to both tests:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/preparing-for-bmat/practice-papers/>

<http://questions.ukcat.ac.uk/pages/menu.aspx?pack=736eea8d-ff06-4777-adcb-95c8f2f42c04>