

Summary of Undergraduate Admissions Process for Biology, University of Oxford in 2024/25

In the 2024/2025 admissions round there were 770 applications for Biology. This included 12 deferred applications for 2026 entry to the course; 159 applicants (21%) did not choose a college when they applied. There were 6.6 applications per available place (116 places available).

In December 2024, 349 applicants were invited to interview, and 149 applicants were awarded an MBiol offer. This included 29 Open Offers for 2025 course entry, where a place is guaranteed if the offer conditions are achieved but the college place will be allocated before the course commences, and 3 deferred offers for 2026 course entry. In total, 19% of applicants to Biology received an offer.

13 offer holders have been nominated as [Opportunity Oxford](#) candidates.

Declared Gender	Applications	
	No.	%
Woman	493	64
Man	261	34
Prefer not to say	14	2
I use another term	<3	<1
Total applications	770	

Applicant Region	Applications	
	No.	%
Home	360	47
EU	40	5
Overseas	370	48
Total applications	770	

Total Applications	Total Shortlisted Applicants		Total Offers	
	No.	%	No.	%
770	349	45	149	19

The standard entry requirements for Biology are set out on the [University of Oxford](#) website (see the Admissions Requirements tab). For A level candidates these requirements are A*AA, at A level, including Biology plus at least one of Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics and with the A* in a Science or Mathematics (or equivalent). In addition to Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics the third A level subject taken by shortlisted A level applicants with 3 A levels, included Art & Design, Computer Science, Drama & Theatre, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, French, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Geography, Geology, Government & Politics, History, Psychology, Religious Studies, Russian, Sociology and Spanish.

Prior to shortlisting, a team of Biology tutors reviewed the applications as a gathered field and made interview recommendations to all other Biology tutors involved in admissions. As part of this assessment, performance at GCSE and equivalent, or other qualifications that had already been attained were evaluated, plus school type and all other information provided in the UCAS form were taken into account. The application college also assessed all applications to their college and made preliminary decisions. All preliminary decisions were then taken to a meeting attended by representatives from all colleges that admit Biologists, and shortlisting decisions were discussed and agreed.

After shortlisting, some applicants were redistributed to a new college 1 so that all colleges had approximately three shortlisted candidates per available place. All shortlisted candidates were then

allocated a second college. Again, each college had approximately the same number of applicants to consider per available place. All shortlisted applicants were then invited to attend online interviews with each of the two colleges.

Although the content of interviews varies between interviewing panels, interviews followed a similar structure by combining questions about the candidate’s personal statement with more standard questions designed to assess the candidate’s ability to think critically and independently and their interest in Biology. All interviewers asked detailed questions about subjects, data or written/graphic material that the interviewees were not expected to recognise or have studied before. Questions arising from the candidate’s personal statement were often posed.

Following interviews, representatives from all colleges met as a group to agree and confirm all decisions, including which candidates would receive a Biology Open Offer.

The following Information relates to applicants who studied GCSEs:

- The average number of GCSEs taken by Biology applicants was 9.7, and the average of those shortlisted was 9.9.
- The average number of 9s, 8s and A*s at GCSE by Biology applicants was 8.0.
- The average number of 9/8/A*s for shortlisted applicants was 8.9, and for those receiving an offer it was 9.2.

N.B. All of these figures include only applicants taking more than 5 GCSEs.

The graph below shows the distribution of 9s, 8s and A*s achieved by applicants.

