

Summary of the 2020/21 University of Oxford Admissions Process for Biology

In the 2021/2022 admissions round there were 684 applications for Biology. This included 7 deferred applications for 2023 entry to the course. There were 137 open applications for Biology, which means that 20% of applicants did not choose a college when they applied. There were 109 places available for 2022 entry to the course, meaning there were 6.3 applications per available place.

After shortlisting, 321 applicants were invited to interview and after interview, 123 applicants received an offer for 2022 course entry. This included 10 Open Offers, where a place is guaranteed if the offer conditions are achieved but the college place will be allocated before the course commences. In addition to this, 1 candidate received a deferred offer for 2023 entry to the course. In total 18% of applicants to Biology received an offer.

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

Total applications	Female Applicants		Male Applicants		Home Applicants		EU Applicants		Overseas Applicants	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
684	455	66.5	229	33.5	352	51.5	44	6.5	288	42

Total Applications	Total Shortlisted Applicants		Total Offers (2022 course entry)	
	No.	%	No.	%
684	321	47	123	18

[The standard offer for Biology](#) is A*AA, at A level, including Biology plus Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics and with the A* in a Science or a Mathematics (or equivalent). There was variation in the remaining A level subject(s) taken by A level applicants – some shortlisted applicants held Biology plus two or more of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. For other candidates, the third subject included Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, Geology, History, Philosophy, Physical Education, Psychology 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 the various measures and indicators on the UCAS forms were taken into account. The first choice application college also assessed all applications to their college and made recommendations. All recommendations were then taken to a meeting attended by representatives from all colleges that admit Biologists, and shortlisting decisions were discussed and agreed.

After shortlisting had taken place, some applicants were redistributed to a new college 1 so that all colleges had approximately 3 candidates per available place. All shortlisted candidates were then allocated a second college and 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, all interviewers asked detailed questions about subjects, objects, data or written/graphic material that the interviewees are not expected to recognise or have studied before. Questions arising from the candidate's Personal Statement were also often posed.

After Biology interviews finished, Biology representatives for all colleges met as a group – at this meeting all decisions relating to interview candidates were agreed and confirmed, including which candidates would receive a Biology Open Offer.

The average number of GCSEs taken by Biology applicants was 9.8, and the average of those shortlisted was 10.0. 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 8.8, and for those receiving an offer it was 8.9. All of these numbers include only applicants taking more than 5 GCSEs. The graph below shows the distribution of 9s, 8s and A*s achieved by applicants.

