

English Language and Literature: Admissions Round 2023 (for 2024 entry)

Information for Applicants

The below information relates solely to the BA in English Language and Literature.

1. Admissions Statistics

Application Numbers

No. of applications	866
Applicants per place	3.8
No. of open applications	80
No. of applications for deferred entry	12
No. of applicants shortlisted	605
No. of offers	234

Breakdown of applicants by domicile

UK	693
EU	38
Not EU	135

Breakdown of applicants by gender

Women	655
Men	179
I use another term	21
I prefer not to say	11

2.1 Shortlisting Procedure

Published Criteria

<https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/what-we-look-for-undergraduate>

Shortlisting Process

College tutors read and assess the UCAS form and written work for each candidate. Written work is double-marked in all cases, with the average of the two marks used in the shortlisting calculation.

The scores for a candidate's UCAS form and written work are combined with their contextualized GCSE score to generate their pre-interview score (see below for details of weightings). The contextualized GCSE contextualizes an applicant's GCSEs results by considering the school performance data of their GCSE school. Candidates' pre-interview scores are used to rank them and place them in deciles. Deciles 1-5 (i.e. the top 50%) are automatically shortlisted.

Tutors then shortlist candidates below decile 5 at their discretion, in accordance with Faculty guidelines, which ask that tutors consider shortlisting candidates whose profile/scores show promise in some areas, even if their overall pre-interview score was not in the top 50%. The guidelines require tutors to give especially careful consideration to applicants whose contextual data shows them to be in the most disadvantaged group of candidates.

Last year, English shortlisted 60% of candidates. This year, because it was not possible to consider candidates' ELAT performance, we shortlisted a greater proportion of candidates: 70% in total.

Reallocation Process

The reallocation process uses an algorithm that seeks to ensure that each candidate has the best possible chance of receiving an offer. It also seeks to ensure colleges have the same, or very similar, number of shortlisted candidates per place (not including any decile 6-10 candidates who have been 'rescued').

Colleges that have an above average number of shortlisted candidates per place are classed as 'exporting' colleges; colleges that have a below average number of shortlisted candidates per place are classed as 'importing' colleges. Exporting college are able to 'reserve' up to two candidates per place (e.g. if a college has 7 places for English, they can reserve up to 14 shortlisted candidates). Reserved candidates cannot be reallocated. All unreserved candidates in deciles 1-5 at exporting colleges are eligible for reallocation to an importing college.

The reallocation algorithm reallocates candidates according to a 'best chance' principle. It first ranks all eligible candidates by their pre-interview score. It then looks at each candidate in turn, beginning with the top-ranked candidate, and places that candidate at whichever importing college has the fewest number of shortlisted candidates with pre-interview scores better than or equal to their score (i.e. the college at which the candidate is likely to be most competitive, based on the pre-interview score). The algorithm will not reallocate a candidate if it determines that they stand the best chance by remaining at their original college.

Rescue Process

See 'Shortlisting Process' above.

Weighting of components for pre-interview score

Please note that these weightings were adjusted for this year to take account of the missing ELAT score. Following significant problems with the delivery of the ELAT in October 2023, the Faculty decided that the only way to ensure the fairness, equity, and integrity of its admissions process was not to mark or consider the ELAT.

	Applicants with contextualized GCSE score	Applicants without contextualized GSCE score
Contextualized GCSE score	30%	
Written work score	40%	58.8%
UCAS form score	30%	41.2%

Statistics on Shortlisted Applicants

Average no. of GCSEs	10
Average contextualized GCSE score (between -3 and +3)	0.01
Average written work score	8.39
Average UCAS form score	8.25

2.2 Interview Process

Candidates usually receive two interviews at their first college. Each interview will be around 20 minutes. At least one of these interviews, and sometimes both, will involve a candidate being asked to discuss and analyze a passage (e.g. a poem) they receive about 20 minutes prior to the interview start time. Interview panels usually consist of two tutors.

Interviews are scored between 1 and 10, with 10 high.

Second College Interviews

After all colleges have completed the first round of interviews, colleges meet in three groups to consider and allocate candidates for second college interviews. Candidates whose scores, including interview scores, indicate that they are highly competitive but who have yet to secure an offer from their first college, are considered for second college interviews. In some cases, candidates who are interviewed by another college still receive an offer from their first college.

Number of candidates who received second college interviews: 91

Procedure for Final Decision Making

College tutors make final decisions by looking carefully at each candidate's complete profile (UCAS form, contextual data, qualifications, written work, interview scores), when compared against the profiles of other shortlisted candidates.