Admissions 2018: Modern Languages

This year, there were many strong applicants for Modern Languages (and associated Joint Schools) at Oxford. The statistics look as follows:

Total number of applications: 845
Candidates who withdrew or were not invited for interview: 84
Candidates interviewed: 761
Places offered for 2019: 305
Places offered for 2020: 10
Places offered for 2021: 1

Ratio of applications to offers: 2.67

In the first stage of the selection process, written applications are assessed. Factors taken into account are GCSE results (or equivalent), results of final exams already achieved or predicted, the UCAS reference, result of language test and/or language aptitude test and the submitted written work. None of these factors per se are applied in a ‘hard’ way. Candidates who on the basis of this assessment do not meet the selection criteria are not normally invited for interview, though great attention is given to individual circumstances and contextual data.

The number of applicants to particular colleges may vary quite widely from year to year, and in order to ensure that candidates get the best possible chance of being considered, the faculty runs a sophisticated reallocation scheme. Candidates to oversubscribed colleges are reallocated to undersubscribed colleges offering the combination of languages or subjects for which they applied. This year, 60 candidates were reallocated to another college and seen for interview there.

Interviews took place in Oxford in the first week of December. During the interviews, candidates were given the opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and commitment, and their capacity for the sustained study of language and literature. They were assessed on their overall communication skills and, where appropriate, on their oral competence in the relevant language(s).

We know that it is disappointing to candidates and their schools that we are not able to offer places to all of the very able young people we see. We are grateful to colleges for their help in making the selection process run so smoothly.

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Annette Volfing,
Deputy Coordinator, Modern Languages