



**St Anne's
College**
University of Oxford

Supporting a Competitive Oxbridge Application

Hannah Snell and Dom Birch
Outreach Officers



Queen's University
Belfast

The Russell Group



UNIVERSITY OF
LEEDS



KING'S
College
LONDON



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



University of
BRISTOL



University
of Glasgow



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Durham
University



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



Newcastle
University



Imperial College
London

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



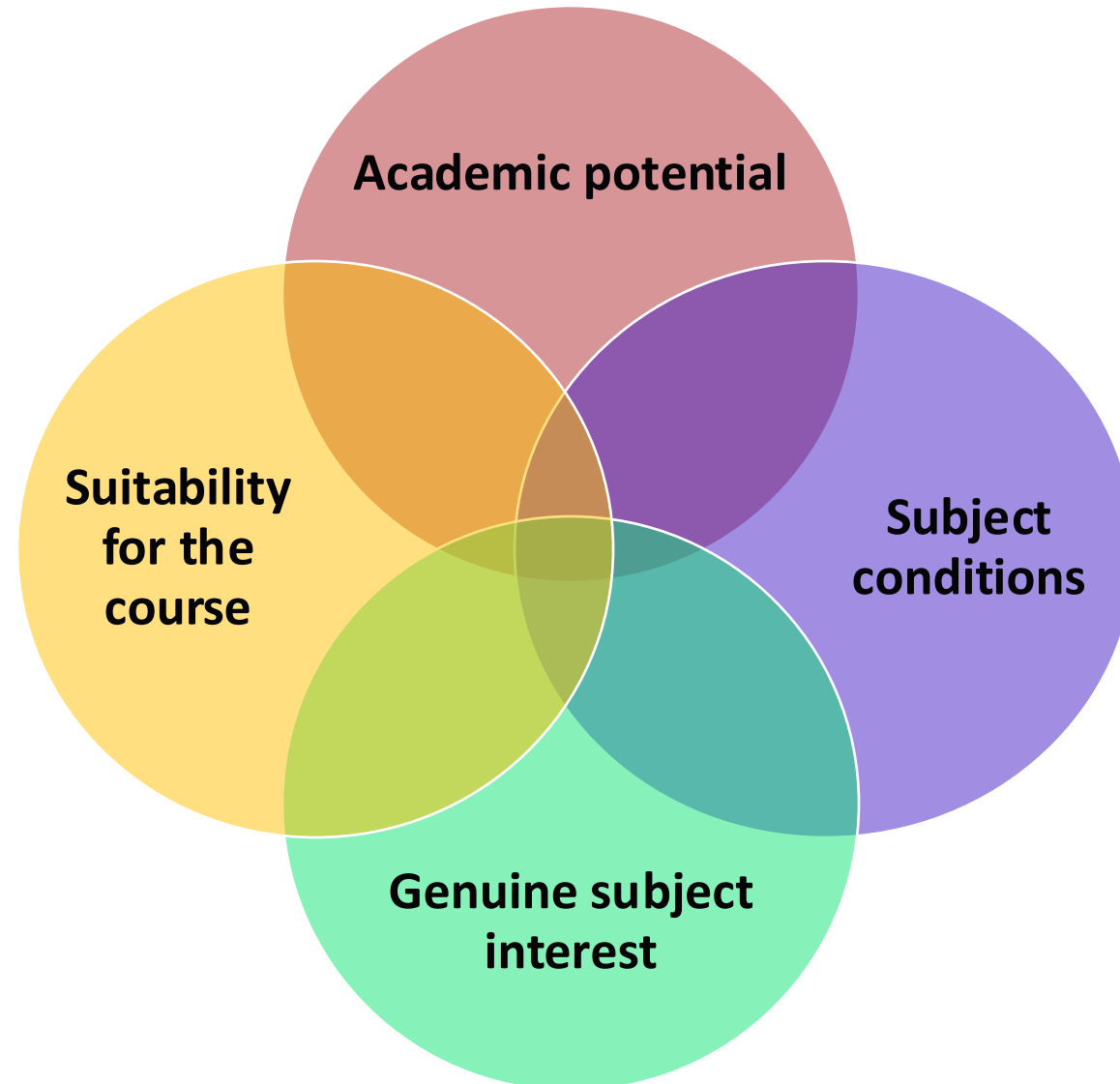
The University of
Nottingham

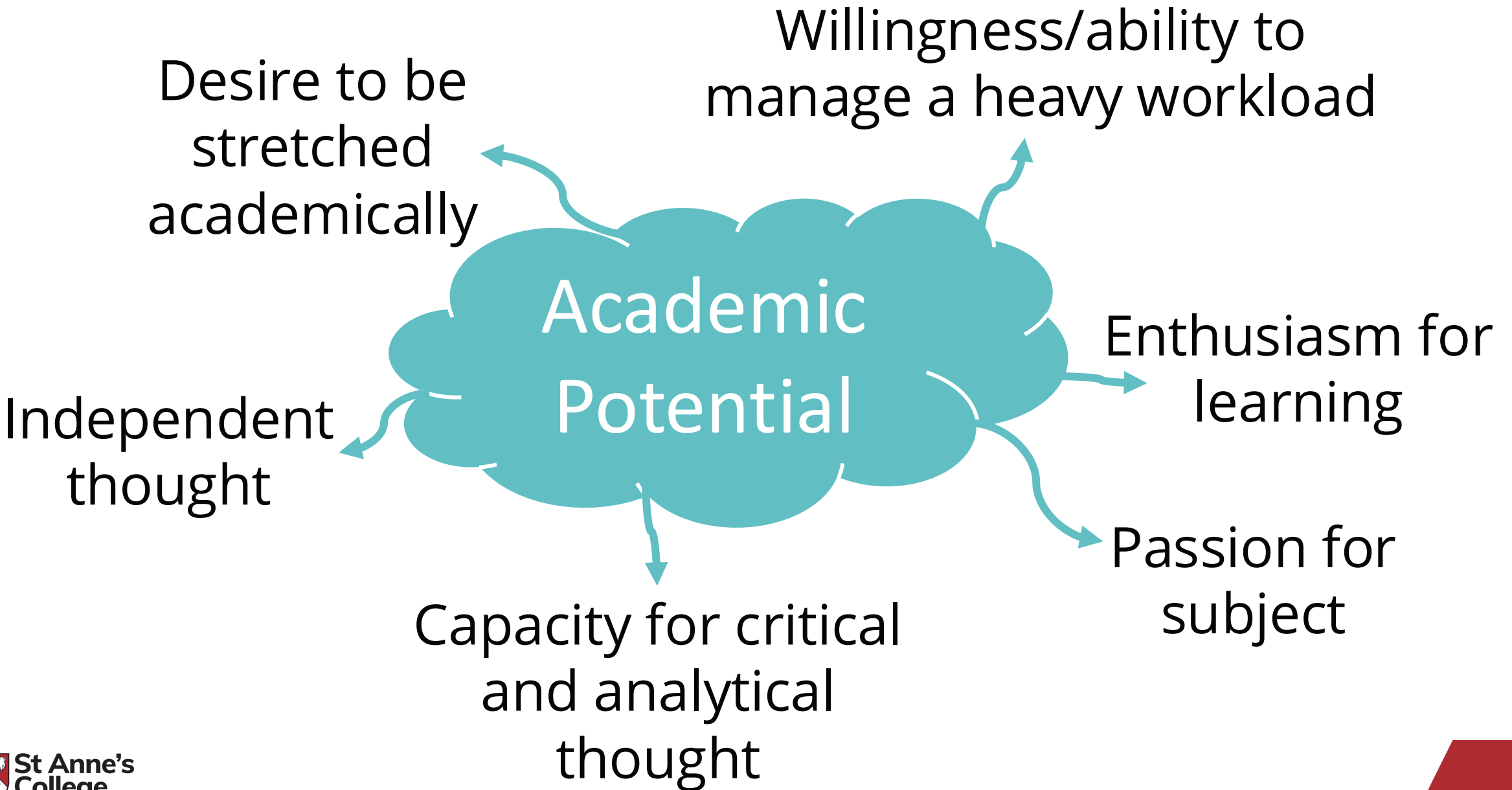


Queen Mary
University of London

UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

What do competitive universities look for?







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How to Apply?

Choosing a degree - Oxford



Archaeology and Anthropology
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Biochemistry
Biology
Biomedical Sciences
Chemistry
Classics
Classical Archaeology & Ancient
History
Computer Science
Earth Sciences
Economics and Management
Engineering Science
English Language & Literature
Experimental Psychology
Fine Art

Geography
History
History of Art
Human Sciences
Law
Materials Science
Mathematics
Medicine
Modern Languages
Music
Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Philosophy & Theology
Psychology, Philosophy &
Linguistics
Physics
Theology & Religion

Course Pages

[Home](#) › [Admissions](#) › [Undergraduate](#) › [Courses](#) › [A-Z of courses](#) › [Chemistry](#)

Chemistry

OVERVIEW


STRUCTURE

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

CAREERS

FEES AND FUNDING

STUDYING AT OXFORD

 **UCAS code**

F100



Duration

4 years (MChem)





Entrance requirements

A*A*A (with both A*s in science subjects and/or Maths)



Subject requirements

 Chemistry and Maths
 Another science or Further Maths



Admissions test(s)

None



Written work

None



Admissions statistics*

Interviewed: 89%
Successful: 29%
Intake: 193



Contact

+44 (0) 1865 272568
[Email Chemistry](#)

*3-year average 2019-21

Subject requirements:



Essential

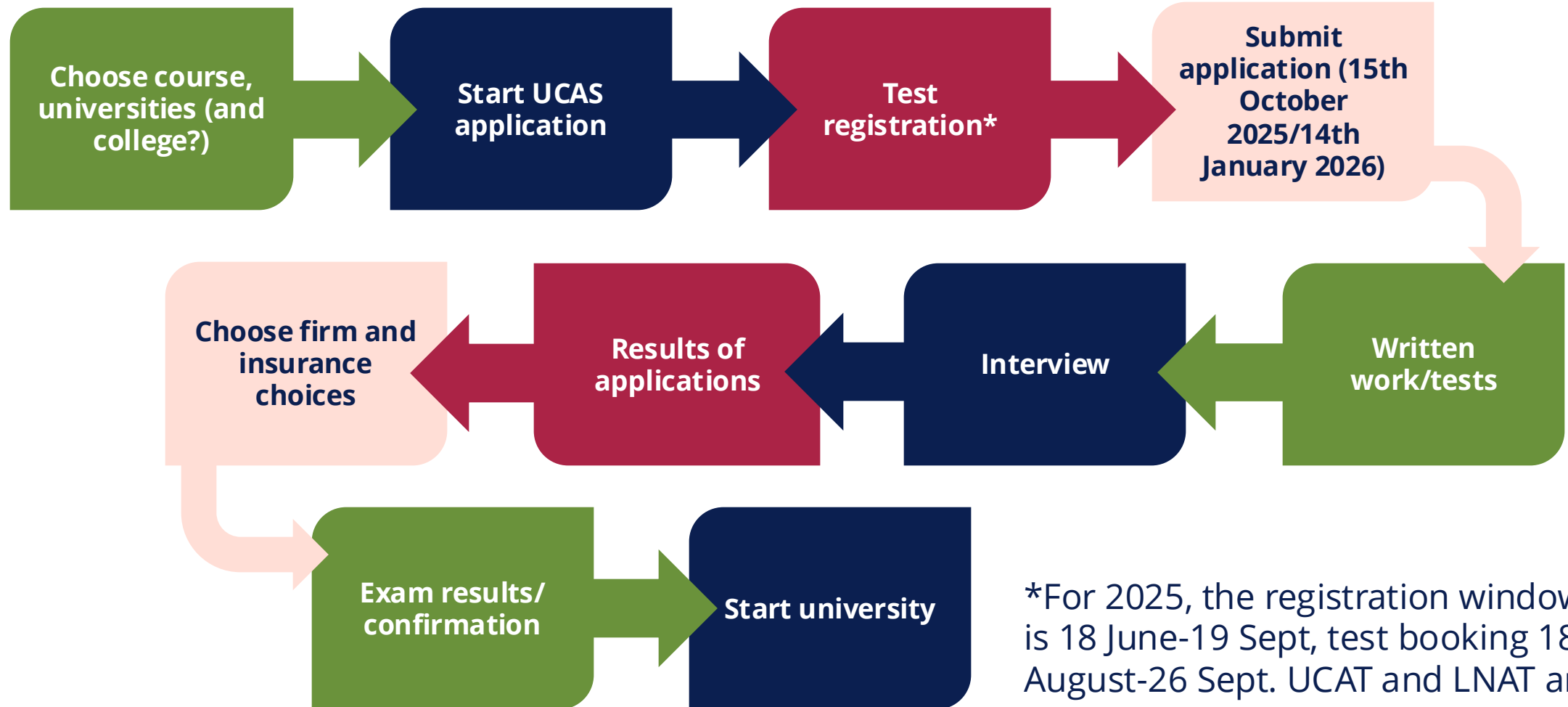


Recommended



Helpful – may be useful on course

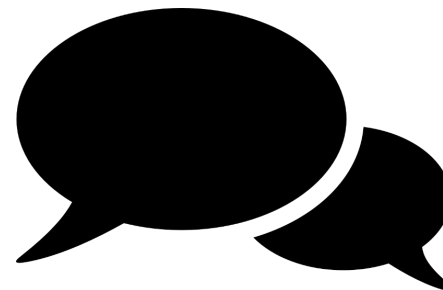
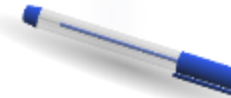
Application process



*For 2025, the registration window is 18 June-19 Sept, test booking 18 August-26 Sept. UCAT and LNAT are sat independently. All other Oxford tests are sat 21st-37th October.

Applying to university

UCAS Application	Oxbridge - additional
Previous grades (GCSE or equivalent)	Admissions Tests
Predicted grades (A level or equivalent)	Written Work
Personal Statement	Interviews
Teacher Reference	Contextual Information



Are YOU predicted the right grades?

Would YOU find our teaching style engaging?

Do we offer a course YOU would enjoy?

Are YOU ready for the academic challenge?



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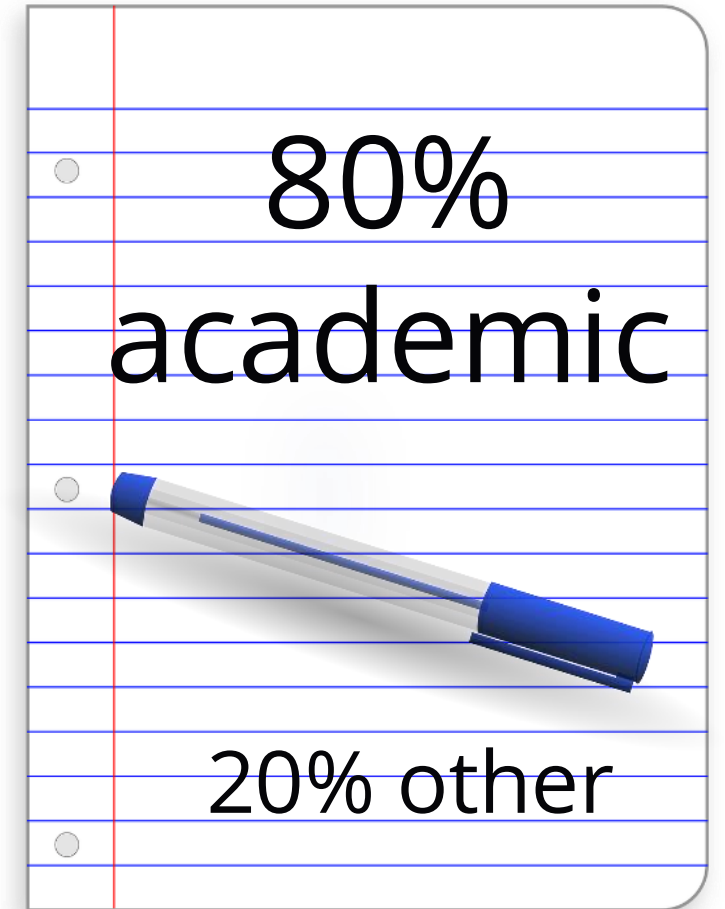
Register for admissions tests.

Make sure your young person knows what their course asks for

Have a plan for school work, personal statement prep, and admission test practice/revision.

Personal Statement

- Up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines
- Same personal statement is sent to every university you apply for
- Can only apply to EITHER Oxford or Cambridge



Personal Statement

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Paragraphs do not have to be equal – can weight these any way you choose ...

But remember: 80% academic – 20% other

Super- vs Extra-curricular

Something that you do outside of lessons that helps with your subject and develops your skills



Something that you do outside of lessons that develops skills but does *not* relate to your subject

What examples can you think of?

<https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate/outreach/for-students/super-curriculars-and-resources/>

Explore your interests

TED Ideas worth spreading

Future Learn



Home of Big Questions

EXPLORE



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Students should consider:



Their passion and interest for the course



Their knowledge and skills of the subject area

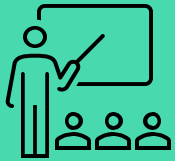


How the course links to their future

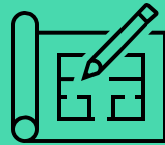
- Read the course description and identify key skills
- How and why you have an interest, not just that you have one
- Relate to a specific book, topic or event
- Career aspirations
- Connect to real-life/personal issues?

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Students should consider:



How their studies have prepared them for their course/subject



The skills and knowledge they've developed



Any independent learning or academic achievements

- Demonstrate active engagement with the subject
- Reflect on your experiences
- Show **how** you've gained a skill relating to the chosen course
- Classroom learning **and** super-curriculars

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

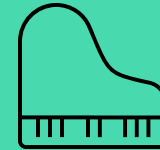
Students should consider:



Work experience,
employment or
volunteering



Personal life
experiences,
responsibilities and
achievements



Hobbies and any
extracurricular or
outreach activities

- Reflect on skills gained
- Focus on the **impact** of the experience, not over-explaining what the experience was
- Show how these link to the degree or university-level study more generally



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**Be reading/engaging with
supercurricular activities**

**Plan the personal
statement.**

**Have lots of time for
checking and editing.**

Admissions Tests

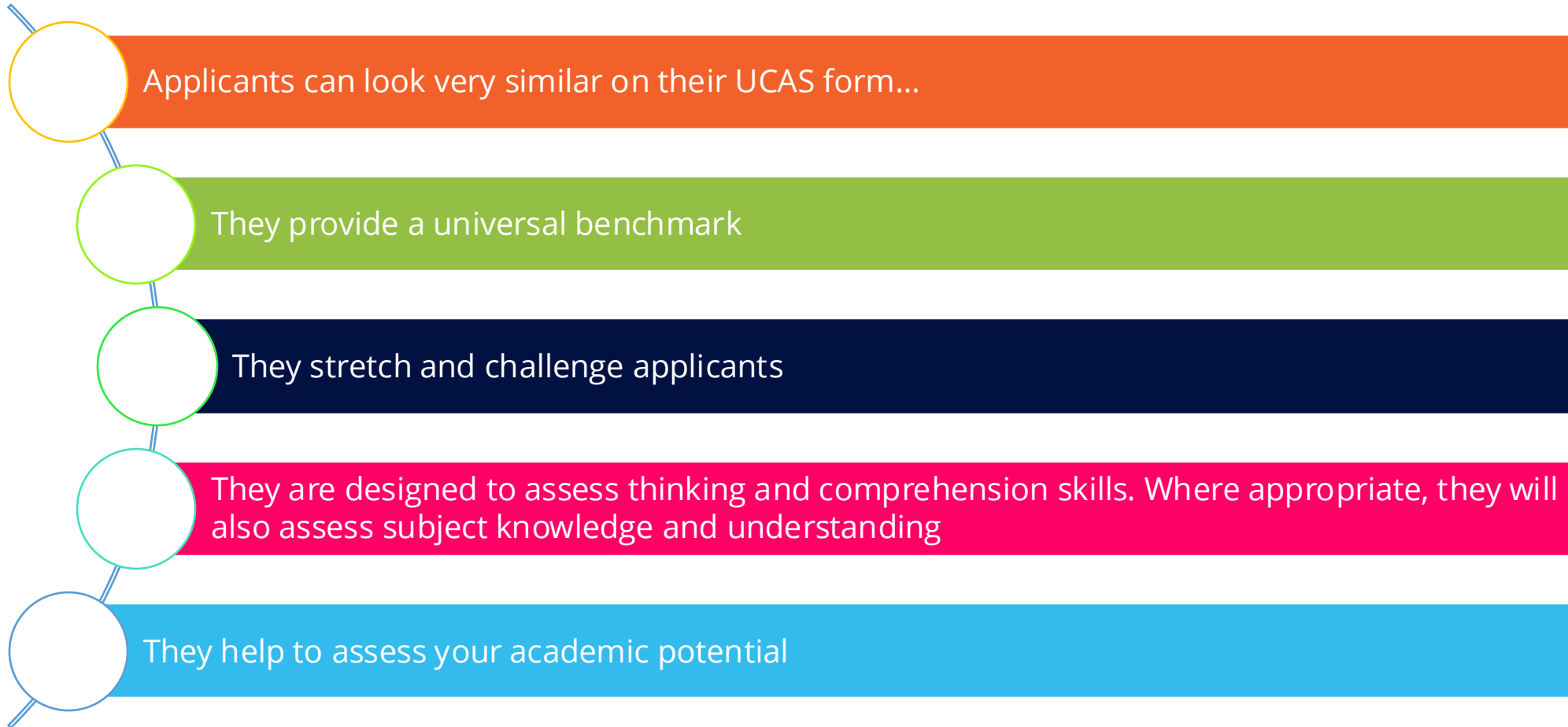
- Most Oxford and Cambridge course
- Oxford – through a Pearson VUE test centre in 2024
- Register by 4th October 2024
- Taken 21st-31st October 2024
- Cambridge – varies by college
- Test your subject knowledge and ability to apply this to new material
- All past papers and syllabi online:
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests>
- <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admission-assessments>



Logistics and Registration

- Online and administered by Pearson VUE
- No charge (LNAT and UCAT do charge, however)
- Register between August and October
- If you are normally eligible for access arrangements for public examinations, you should be able to have the same arrangements – expect to produce evidence when registering
- Dates between 21-27 October 2025

Why do we use admissions tests?



How to prepare

Revision needed

- University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)
- Biomedical Sciences Admissions Test (BMSAT)
- Maths Admissions Test (MAT)
- Physics Admissions Test (PAT)

Similar exercises may be helpful

- Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)
- Classics Admissions Test (CAT)
- Ancient History and Classical Archaeology Admissions Test (AHCAAT)
- Philosophy Test (PhilAT)

Practice required

- Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)
- Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT)

Specimen and past papers are available for all of the tests, so you can:

- familiarise yourself with the test content, level and format
- get to know the different types of questions you may be asked
- Test yourself under timed conditions
- review the answers

www.ox.ac.uk/tests

No HAT, ELAT or GAT in 2025
UCAT instead of BMAT



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**Prepare and revise over
the summer.**

**Make sure you
understand the admission
test you are taking.**

Written Work

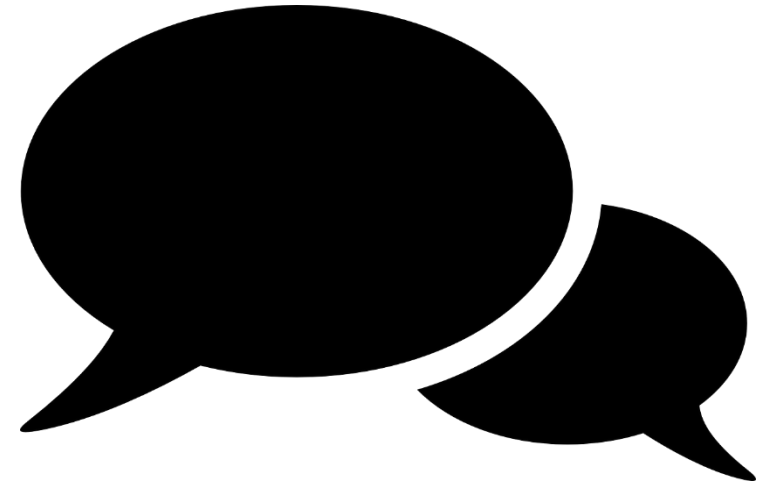
- Arts and humanities subjects
- Submit by 10th November
- c.2,000 words
- School work, marked by a teacher
- Can be handwritten or typed
- Cambridge – varies by college

<p>Yes, also, cost of living & dual income earnings burden the "sandwich generation"</p> <p>the time is not</p> <p>who need to care for both the children & elderly.</p> <p>Hence, they are overstretched</p> <p>time-wise & financially.</p>	<p>relationships, the foundation of a stable society, has manifested itself in many negative forms. In Singapore, the concept of family and <u>care taking</u> has shifted dramatically, the responsibility of care taking is generally that of grandparent or domestic helpers, at least until children's parents return from work. It is so ^{hence} the advancement of technology. In Singapore, 48% of parents from dual income households work after hours, reducing the time spent with children and family.</p> <p>The advancement of technology has made it increasingly difficult for parents to maintain a healthy work-life balance and focus on family or for working hours, many resorting to emails or taking calls long after leaving the office. As a result, that ^{teens, young adults} suicide and depression among children and the phenomenon of elderly loneliness have been linked to weakening family relationships. Furthermore, the emphasis on careers may allow families to be more financially <u>secure</u>, however, it has reduced family to a utilitarian equation, with a strong focus on budgeting and ensuring the family members can live comfortably, while sacrificing family time. Therefore, the pursuit of financial security through the advancement of careers may not always be beneficial to the family.</p>
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Interview

- Early-mid December
- Invited late November, outcome early-mid January
- Currently online
- May have multiple over a few days
- Problem-solving questions
- Tutorial-like environment

Oxbridge Interview Workshops



Who gets invited to interview?

- Tutors shortlist the candidates they feel have the strongest potential and meet their selection criteria the best
- Only those shortlisted are invited to interview
- Students receive an email, usually mid-late November
- Different courses and colleges offer invites on different days, depending on their schedule
- Students may only receive one week's notice

How will my written work be assessed?

Your work will be assessed by tutors according to the following criteria:

- Attention to the literary aspects of chosen texts
- Sensitivity to the creative use of language
- Evidence of careful and critical reading
- An analytical approach
- Coherence and structure of argument and articulation of expression
- Precision in the handling of concepts and in the evidence presented to support points
- Relevance to the question or prompt
- Independence of thought

Please keep the above criteria in mind when choosing which essay to send us.

1. UCAS Form



2. Written Work



4. Interviews



Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by at least two English tutors, and will usually have two interviews. In order to make sure that candidates' chances of gaining a place are not affected by their initial choice of college, many candidates will be interviewed at more than one college. Some candidates will also be reallocated before interview from colleges that have a very high ratio of applicants to places, in order to ensure fairness across the University. Interviews are tailored to individual candidates, and may engage with submitted written work and with wider reading interests. They are likely to include an exercise in which candidates are invited to discuss a piece of previously unseen literature. Assessment of performance at interview will be made according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of independent reading
- Capacity to exchange and build on ideas
- Clarity of thought and expression
- Analytical ability
- Flexibility of thought
- Evidence of independent thinking about literature
- Readiness and commitment to read widely with discrimination

Logistics

- All interviews have run online since 2020; and for international applicants outside the EU, for *much* longer.
- The universities and staff in applicants' schools have experience of using this tech for the last four years.

Oxford	Cambridge
All online – MS Teams	Mostly online (some college/subject exceptions) – Zoom/Whereby
You are likely to an interview with more than one College	Most likely with one College except in a few subjects
You can check your anticipated interview dates here: Interview timetable University of Oxford You may also have further interviews scheduled – you should be given at least 24 hours' notice of these.	Dates will vary for each College, but you will be informed of your date in your invitation to interview in November. Most interviews will take place in the first 3 weeks of December.
Probably take place at school but option of home (if online)	
Normally with 2 tutors/supervisors	
Typically last around 30 minutes	
Academic focused – tutorial-like environment	
Questions to challenge existing knowledge and present new material	

How to prepare ...

- Know your personal statement/written work and re-read it
- Keep reading/exploring your subject outside of school, especially anything that interests you – stay critical
- Practise talking about your subject (in context) – with friends, family etc
- Speak out loud!
- Watch Oxford and Cambridge's demonstration interview videos
- Try out your interview platform in advance
- Mock interview?
- Feel good! – you are a competitive applicant!



Home of Big Questions

EXPLORE

ox.ac.uk/interviews

undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/interviews



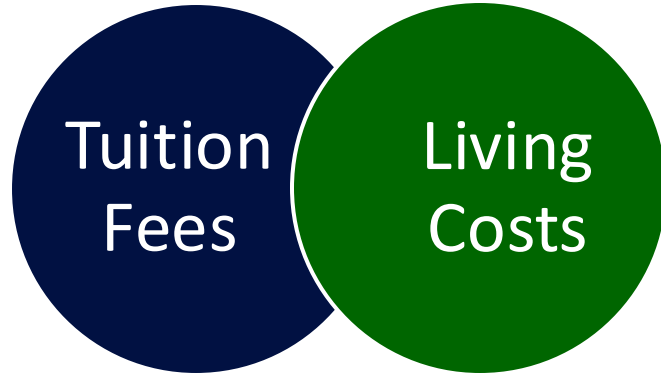
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Practise!

Watch demonstration interviews

Relax where possible.

Financial Support - Government



Tuition fee loan
£9,535 per year

Maintenance loan
Depends on parent income

- UK national or have 'settled status'
 - Your home is in England
 - You have been continuously resident in the UK for 3 or more years

	2023 to 2024 academic year	2024 to 2025 academic year
Living with your parents	Up to £8,400	Up to £8,610
Living away from your parents, outside London	Up to £9,978	Up to £10,227
Living away from your parents, in London	Up to £13,022	Up to £13,348
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £11,427	Up to £11,713
If you're 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of your course	Up to £4,221	Up to £4,327

“Loan”

- Start repaying at c.£26,000 pa income
- After 40 years the loan is cleared, even if you haven't finished paying it off!

Financial Support - University

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	YOUR NON-REPAYABLE CRANKSTART BURSARY (PER YEAR)
£7,500 or less	£6,090
£5,501-£32,500	£5,250

Oxford Travel Supplement (for Bursary holders)
£220 if 80-150 miles from Oxford.
£550 for 150 miles+

Care Leavers (with full government loan)
Additional £3,500 non-repayable bursary

- Same tuition fees as any other UK university
- Shorter terms
- Subsidised meals
- Bursaries and Scholarships



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Questions?



ASTROPHORIA FOUNDATION YEAR



For UK state school students with significant academic potential who have experienced personal disadvantage or disrupted education

Courses in Science, Humanities, Law and PPE

Students who pass at the required level can progress onto undergraduate study at the University of Oxford



 foundationyear.ox.ac.uk

 foundationyear@admin.ox.ac.uk



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Keep in Touch

email: outreach@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

insta: [St_annescollege](https://www.instagram.com/St_annescollege)

x/twitter: [@StAnnesOutreach](https://twitter.com/StAnnesOutreach)

blueskey: [@stannesoutreach](https://www.bsky.app/profile/stannesoutreach)

youtube: [St Anne's College Outreach](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStAnne'sCollegeOutreach)



Before you go ...



<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/oxford/ks3-5-online-outbound-2024-5>