Undergraduate Admissions for EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY and PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & LINGUISITICS ~ University of Oxford ~ 2025/26

Pre-interview Admissions Tests

All applicants are expected to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). Of the 680 applications received, 628 applicants successfully registered for and sat the TSA. We took into consideration all special circumstances surrounding TSA test sitting where these were reported to us via the test administrator, the central university admissions team, and college communications. Test scores will be distributed to all applicants after college decision letters are sent in January.

Admissions processes – shortlisting procedure

The selection criteria used can be found here. The department provides shortlisting recommendations to colleges for all candidates. Colleges then review these recommendations and make their decisions, raising any special cases with the department. All special cases raised by College Tutors are considered at this stage. The decision is based on the exam grades obtained and the grades predicted, together with the recommendation from the school or college, performance on our pre-interview admissions test and other relevant information (including any extenuating circumstances). Once shortlisting decisions are made, a centralised reallocation process ensures that a consistent number of candidates per place are interviewed at each college. We invite approximately 3 applicants for interview per place we offer.

Admissions processes – interview process

The interview is aimed at assessing a candidate's potential for future development and how well they will cope with the academic course. All shortlisted applicants are interviewed at two separate colleges, i.e., their "college of preference" and a second college. This is to ensure that we have two independent interview assessments for every candidate we have interviewed. Tutors are looking for qualities at interview as detailed in our selection criteria (see link above).

Final decisions

An overall assessment of all candidates is made at a meeting in the Department of Experimental Psychology. All College Tutors are asked to rank the candidates that they have seen, using the full range of indicators. These are: 1) GCSEs or equivalent; 2) predicted or obtained A-levels or equivalent; 3) the reference from the school; 4) the admissions test; 5) the interviews; 6) and other relevant information. Final offers are based upon all these factors.

Admissions Statistics

		All applicants	Shortlisted applicants	Offer holders
Application numbers	Overall	680	249	103
	EP	428	162	65
	Psy+Phil	135	41	17
	Psy+Ling	94	36	15
	Phil+Ling	23	10	6
	Deferred entry	7	1	1
	Open college[1]	110	33	12
	W[2]	527	190	77
	M[2]	133	51	22
	Home	405	171	73
	EU	51	10	3
	Non-EU	224	68	27
TSA overall score	Mean	46.2	53.8	57
	Range (IQR[3])	39-53	49-59	52-63
GCSE 9/8/A*	Mean	6.6	8.1	8.6
	Range (IQR[3])	4-9	7-10	7-10
EP: A-level subjects	Psychology	64%	71%	74%
(% of applicants)	Biology	31%	39%	49%
	Maths	24%	37%	49%
	Eng Lit.	14%	14%	11%
PPL: A-level subjects	Psychology	38%	33%	29%
(% of applicants)	Biology	11%	14%	16%
	Maths	21%	28%	29%
	English Lit.	22%	10%	11%

Note: 1. Open college applications are ones for which the applicant does not specify a college preference. For these applications, a college is assigned centrally and admitting tutors are not informed which applications are direct to the college and which are assigned in this way. 2. Data only for applicants who specify gender as Woman or Man, because small numbers in other categories pose a risk to the privacy of individuals. 3. Range values are for the inter-quartile range (IQR).