History 2026

ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

History		Applicants	Shortlisted	Offers
History applicants		943	616	212
Joint school applicants	Shortlisted for History	-	39	11
	Shortlisted for JS but made History Offers	-	-	26
Total		943	655	249
Gender	Man	441	299	106
	Woman	494	350	140
	Use different term	5	4	2
	Prefer not to say	4	2	1
Domicile	UK	746	557	222
	EU	41	21	7
	Overseas	157	77	20
Average scores	Number of 8/9/A* GCSEs	-	8	8
	History written work	-	6.6	7.0
	Interview	-	6.5	7.8
Interviews	1st interviews (History)	-	653	197
	2nd interviews (History)	-	96	30
	1st interview (JS)	-	-	18
	2nd interviews (JS)	-	-	4
Total				249

SHORTLISTING PROCESS

Selection criteria:

- Enthusiasm for history
- Evidence of historical imagination and understanding, particularly the ability to speculate and compare
- The possession of appropriate historical knowledge and the capacity to deploy it
- Intellectual curiosity
- The capacity to engage with alternative perspectives and/or new information
- Capacity for hard work
- Accuracy and attention to detail

Weighting of selection scores:

100% contextualised GCSE

Shortlisting procedure:

For candidates with GCSEs, the Faculty produced a spreadsheet of candidates, ordered by selection score, with the threshold cut-off score indicated. The threshold is determined by the desired places to interview ratio of 2.5:1, but modified to take into account the number of candidates without GCSEs.

Candidates below the cut-off were recommended for deselection (no interview) unless there were strong grounds for retaining particular candidates on the basis of:

- contextual data pertaining to school and/or socio-economic background

- relevant information from the UCAS forms, for example illness or difficult family circumstances.
- A-level and predicted A-level results (neither used in calculating the de-selection score).

College admissions tutors could 'rescue' candidates from below the cut off line, but all rescued had to be approved by the History Admissions Co-ordinator, and interviewed by the rescuing college. Candidates without GCSEs were not ranked and selection decisions made on the basis of available evidence.
College admissions tutors could also decide to select candidates who had applied to a Joint School for an interview in History at this stage in cases where the selection score was above the cut-off score for History.
After candidates were selected for interview, there was a redistribution process to ensure an even ratio of candidates to places across all colleges.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

Interviews:

All interviews were conducted over Microsoft Teams. After their interview, each candidate was given a score based on:

- Clarity of thought and expression
- Analytical ability
- Flexibility
- Enthusiasm and commitment
- Historical imagination
- Use of appropriate historical knowledge: candidates must demonstrate that they have understood well what they have studied, and demonstrate their ability to deploy historical evidence in support of an interpretation.

The Faculty ranked all candidates after all 1st interviews are complete, using the weighting below:
50% contextualised GCSE
10% Written work score (Written work was marked after shortlisting)
40% History interview

Decisions after 1st interview:

After the scores are available, college admissions tutors make a decision for each candidate:
Place for History
Recommend for 2nd interview
Reject

Allocation of second interviews:

High-scoring candidates who were not offered a place after the first interview, were allocated a second interview at a college that had not filled all their places.

Decisions after 2nd interview:

Further decisions are made by college admissions tutors after 2nd interview. When all decisions have been entered and the list of Open Offers to be made agreed, they are finalised by the Faculty.