FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL & MODERN LANGUAGES

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Modern Languages Admissions Feedback Information for Applicants – 2025-6

1. ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

This year, 684 candidates applied for courses with Modern Languages.

Total number of applications: 684
Candidates who withdrew or were not invited for interview: 43
Candidates shortlisted for interview: 641
Places offered for 2026: 324
Places offered for 2027: 4
Places offered for 2028: 1
Opportunity Oxford Offers: 18
Open Offers: 20
Ratio of applications to offers: 2.07 applications per offer

Applications in 2025 2024 figures in parentheses. M/W/UAT/PNTS = Man/Woman/Use another term/Prefer not to say			
Languages		**Joint Schools**	
Czech	4 (4) 2M/2W	Classics and ML	24 (18) 7 M/ 15 W/ 2 PNTS
French	323 (331) 85 M/ 231 W/ 2 UAT/5 PNTS	European and Middle Eastern Languages	38 (30) 15 M/ 23 W
Beginners' German	39 (37) 15 M/ 22 W/ 1 UAT/1 PNTS	English and ML	135 (119) 25 M/ 107 W/ 1 UAT/2 PNTS
German	113 (130) 71 M/ 37 W/ 5 PNTS	History and ML	95 (78) 34 M/ 58 W/ 1 UAT/ 2 PNTS
Italian	83 (91) 23 M/ 58 W/ 2 UAT	ML and Linguistics	92 (112) 26 M/ 61 W/ 1 PNTS/ 4 UAT
Modern Greek	13 (9) 6 M/7 W	Philosophy and ML	64 (57) 28 M/ 35 W/ 1 PNTS
Polish	0 (2)		
Portuguese	20 (25) 8 M/12 W		

Beginners' Russian	25 (30) 9 M/ 15 W/ 1 PNTS		
Russian	28 (23) 18 M/ 10 W		
Spanish	212 (226) 51 M/ 156 W/ 2 PNTS/ 3 UAT		

2. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

2.0. General Admissions Criteria

Successful candidates for admission displayed the qualities listed below. The admissions process as a whole is designed to identify which candidates possess them in the greatest measure:

- Motivation and commitment along with capacity for sustained study of language and literature.
- Communication: willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and orally; ability to listen and to give considered responses.
- Proven competence in the language(s) as established by examination results (achieved or predicted), by the language test and (in some cases) by oral competence at interview. In the case of beginners, clear evidence of aptitude and potential for language study.
- While there is no requirement that candidates will have read any literature in the language(s), successful candidates will demonstrate an aptitude and commitment to the study of literature by evidence of their readiness to discuss their reading in English or in the relevant language(s) or by their response to a reading-passage at interview. Assessors will look for evidence of intellectual curiosity and critical engagement.

Selection is competitive and it may well be that a candidate is able to demonstrate these qualities and nonetheless is edged out of contention by a candidate with stronger all-round claims. In applying these criteria, the main concern is to identify proven competence in the language(s) along with future promise and aptitude in literary and cultural studies.

Selection criteria are displayed in the faculty's admissions pages here: FAQs | Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

2.1. Shortlisting

A decision not to shortlist a candidate conforms to current ML guidelines, according to which candidates will normally be invited to interview unless they display at least one of the following shortcomings:

- results in official examinations, especially GCSE, are not at a sufficiently high level (note that the university assesses GCSE results by looking both at your performance and at the context of how it compares to others at your school);
- results predicted for A-level or other impending official examination suggest that the candidate:
    1. is unlikely to succeed in meeting a conditional offer;

2. the school report contains clear negative aspects relevant to the general admissions criteria;

- test results are a) in the bottom quintile for each of two languages, or
  b) a test result in the bottom quintile means an application in a single language or joint school or a language with a beginners' language (except for any language where a LAT score is available) is not viable.

Candidates who display one or more of the above shortcomings may nonetheless be invited for interview if the paper application reveals a clear justification for, or explanation of, the shortcomings and clear alternative evidence of the candidate's potential.

Reallocation:
The purpose of reallocation is to give worthwhile candidates the chance of interview. Colleges with a higher ratio of candidates to places than the average across all Colleges will automatically be invited to reallocate candidates. Colleges with a lower ratio than the average will be asked to receive candidates.

Number of reallocated candidates: 68

Rescue:
Colleges are invited to consider the list of candidates who are not being shortlisted for their original course choice at their application college in order to decide whether they wish to rescue any candidate(s); such a candidate may be shortlisted for their original course choice by another college or for an alternative combination by their application college or another college.

Number of rescued candidates: 41

2.2 Interview Process
Interviews took place on MS Teams in the second and third weeks 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 against the published criteria 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.

Candidates normally receive at least two interviews from the College that shortlisted them. All information about candidates is shared across colleges via the University's Admissions Decision Support System database, and admitting tutors from other colleges can arrange additional interviews. Around 130 additional interviews were held.

Guide Score:
ADSS calculates each candidate's Guide Score by double-weighting the Interview Score and single-weighting all other factors. GCSE score (or its contextualised equivalent) and contextual information (see https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-

oxford/decisions/contextual-data) are also taken into account. Admitting tutors make a final decision based on a holistic assessment of all available information.

The Mark Scheme (for interviews) is as follows:

Strong:	10 exceptional
	9 excellent
	8 very good
Competitive:	7 good
	6 quite good
Not Competitive:	5 adequate
	4 inadequate
	3 weak
	2 very weak
	1 exceptionally weak

All decisions to offer places to ML candidates (Joint School included) were confirmed at the ML Admissions Final Decisions meeting on Friday 19th December 2025. All colleges involved were represented by a lead ML admitting tutor together with the Co-ordinators for the Joint Schools and for the Opportunity Oxford and Open Offer schemes. We are grateful to colleges for their help in making the selection process run so smoothly.

3. PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TESTS

The written language tests each last half-an-hour and were taken in test centres on 24 October 2025. Language tests consist of 20 multiple-choice questions filling gaps in target-language sentences (section marked out of 40), and 10 questions translating from the target language into English (section marked out of 60). The total mark out of 100 is divided by 10 for entry into ADSS. The test is designed to test knowledge of basic structures of the foreign language. It is not primarily a test of vocabulary. Candidates applying for a Beginners' language are not required to take a test in that language. The LAT (Language Aptitude Test) remains part of the suite of MLAT tests, but is now used only for Russian Single Honours, courses with Polish and courses with Beginners' Russian.

Test results are made available to candidates in January alongside their application outcome. They receive their numerical mark for the relevant test, together with the average (mean) for all applicants, shortlisted candidates, and offer-holders.