Chemistry Admissions Feedback 2019-20

This year the University of Oxford had a high number of applicants for Chemistry. Many of the candidates who applied made very good applications and, as every year, many difficult decisions had to be made.

Throughout the process, contextual data for UK candidates, including school performance and postcode data, were used when assessing applications. You can find more information about contextual data on the [Oxford University website here](http://www.ox.ac.uk).

Unfortunately, not every applicant can be interviewed. Decisions about which candidates to shortlist were based on exam results and predictions, and the UCAS academic reference and personal statement. UCAS applications were graded by Chemistry tutors based on previous examination results, qualifications predicted, the school or other institutional reference, and the personal statement. There was a substantial increase in applications this year, which meant that some applicants who might have been shortlisted in previous years were not shortlisted this year. The TSA test was run as a pilot for the third time this year and was only used to add applicants who would otherwise not have been invited for interview to the shortlist.

Given the number of shortlisted applicants and their uneven distribution between colleges, a number of shortlisted candidates are reallocated from oversubscribed colleges to colleges with a lower ratio of candidates to places. All shortlisted candidates were invited for interviews in Oxford. After first-college interviews, many second-college interviews were arranged, to give each candidate the best chance of receiving a place.

Interviews were assessed on the basis of the selection criteria, which can be found at: [http://admissions.chem.ox.ac.uk/admissions-criteria.aspx](http://admissions.chem.ox.ac.uk/admissions-criteria.aspx).

The breakdown of the school background and gender of the 230 applicants made offers this year is as follows:

School background:
- State school: 135 (59%)
- Independent school: 57 (25%)
- Other (including unknown): 38 (17%)

Gender (according to binary option selected on UCAS form):
- Female: 90 (39%)
- Male: 140 (61%)

The competition for places was very high this year. 80% of applicants were invited for interview and only 30% of applicants were offered places.