Economics and Management Admissions Feedback 2019-20

This year the University of Oxford had a high number of applicants for Economics and Management. 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.

Unfortunately, not every applicant can be interviewed. Decisions about which candidates to shortlist were based on exam results and predictions, the UCAS academic reference and personal statement, and TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) results. The TSA, GCSEs, and predicted or achieved A Levels (or equivalent) are weighted highly; the UCAS reference is given medium weight; and the UCAS personal statement is given low weight.

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, additional interviews were arranged at second colleges, to give the strongest candidates the best chance of receiving a place.

Interviews, and all other aspects of applications, were assessed on the basis of the following selection criteria: an interest in and a motivation for studying the organisation of businesses and the economy, independence and flexibility of mind, an ability to analyse and solve problems logically and critically, a capacity to construct and critically assess arguments, and a willingness and an ability to express ideas clearly and effectively both on paper and orally. More information can be found at: https://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/b-a-hons-in-economics-management#t3.

The competition for places was very high this year. Only 20% of applicants were shortlisted for interviews and only 7% of applicants were offered places.