

Prince Henry's Grammar School Sixth Form

Higher Education

Early Deadline Information Evening



Prince Henry's Grammar School

SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE



Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

What's the difference?

- Entry requirements
- Selection process
- The kind of student they're looking for
- Collegiate system
- Deadline (15th October 2019)
- You cannot apply to both

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

What's the difference?

Of those students accepted at Oxford in 2017:

Success rate for applicants	Best three A level results
43.6%	A*A*A*
29%	A*A*A
22.5%	A*A A
15.5%	A A A
8.9%	Not just A* or A

Oxford had 19000+ applications for 3200 places in 2017

Most over subscribed courses were: Economics, Computer Science, Medicine, Biomedical Science, History&Politics, PPE, Law, Maths, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Architecture

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

What's the difference?

- The typical offer at Cambridge is A*A A for non-science subjects and A*A*A for science subjects
- Oxford offers range between A*A*A and AAA depending on the course.
- At Oxford there may be further admissions tests taken before or at interview depending on the course – check the website for details.
- Cambridge will be using admissions tests for all subjects for 2018 entry apart from Maths and Music. Maths students will be required to sit STEP papers and Music students will audition as part of the interview. They also have a supplementary application questionnaire.
- Sample test papers can be found on the university websites
- Many courses also require examples of written work to be sent

Cambridge admissions tests

Pre-interview tests in school (November)

Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Chemical Engineering
Economics
Engineering
English
Geography
History
History and Modern Languages**
History and Politics
Human, Social, and Political Sciences

Land Economy
Medicine (BMAT)
Natural Sciences
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Veterinary Medicine (BMAT)

Tests on interview day (December)

Archaeology*
Architecture
Classics (3-year and 4-year)
Computer Science
Education
History and Modern Languages
History of Art
Law
Linguistics
Modern and Medieval Languages
Philosophy

Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion

How do you get an A*?

- In linear A-levels, the A* grade boundaries are set in the same way as the A boundary without a specific percentage. It is likely to be the top 2-5% of grades in total will be awarded A*
- More A* grades are awarded in science subjects and art than in humanities and English based subjects and offers tend to reflect this.

Applying for Medicine

What's the difference?

- Usual minimum offer is AAA (on first attempt) and most courses expect an entry exam such as UKCAT or BMAT. You need to check with the individual medical schools.
- Entry for the UCAT opens on 1st May and closes on 18th September – there are test centres in Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate and the fee is £65/87. It is your responsibility to enter for the UKCAT or other tests required by your chosen universities. There is a bursary scheme to cover the UKCAT fees for lower income families.
- The BMAT is taken in school in October or at a test centre in September (£80) if you wish to see your result before you send in your UCAS Application (Oxford do not accept Sept BMAT)
- You can only choose 4 Medicine courses on UCAS and your 5th should be Biomedical Science or an alternative course as an insurance offer.
- Medicine courses typically last for 5 years. There are different styles of teaching and you should research courses carefully to decide which would suit you best.
- You must have work experience to stand a chance of gaining an interview/offer.
- Same deadline of 15th October applies.

Applying for Veterinary Science/Medicine and Dentistry

What's the difference?

- Deadline is 15th October 2019
- AAB minimum entry requirement with most expecting AAA. Some universities also require the BMAT test.
- The BMAT test can be done in Sixth Form but you need to let the exams office know. Entries open in September and close on 15th October. You will sit the test in October.
- To be successful in gaining a place you will need significant work experience. For Veterinary Medicine this should be seeing practice both small and large animal and any other experience you can get e.g. with lambing.
- Courses typically last 5 years although some are longer.

University perspective

Dr Sue Whittle – University of Leeds

Academic pathways overview

Information used to assess applicants

- GCSE results
- school/college reference
- personal statement
- any written work submitted (or done at interview)
- performance in any tests required
- contextual data
- performance at interview (if interviewed)

Interviews

- Students will normally be required to attend interview, if called, in December (Oxbridge) or January and February (most medicine but not Edinburgh). Interviews are not designed to catch students out but to test whether or not they have the thinking skills required to be a successful student
- We provide practice interviews internally and in association with local schools and universities.
- The Academic Pathways sessions are designed to develop your skills in talking confidently about your subject as pre-preparation for interviews
- There are a number of commercial providers who run mock interview courses – the universities do not endorse most of these

The application process

- Students will register with UCAS in the summer term
- You may choose up to 5 courses (4 for medicine)
- You may choose to apply to a particular college at Oxford or Cambridge but do not have to.
- Students declare the results of all completed qualifications (i.e. GCSE and enrichment qualifications)
- A level courses are listed with results marked 'pending'. School then provides estimated grades for these courses. These are based on performance in Y12 as a whole and on Y12 exams. These are not always the same as the target grades used on progress reports.

The Personal Statement

- Can be the deciding factor
- There is a formula and there isn't
- Needs to be personal and reflect who you are and what you are genuinely interested in
- Don't leave the admissions tutor thinking "So what?"

The Reference

- Compiled by the form tutor using comments from subject staff then developed by the Sixth Form team to be specific to your chosen course and universities
- Gives an account of the student's academic ability, character and interests
- Comments on attendance and punctuality
- Gives a prediction of performance in courses yet to be completed
- Will be supportive and truthful

Offers and Acceptance

- Universities make offers (or not)
 - Unconditional
 - Conditional
 - Rejection
- Students make a first choice (Firm) and a second choice (Insurance)
- Students are not expected to decide on the offers they are accepting until all offers have been made

Money

- Tuition fees for 2017 - £9250 (Oxford offer reductions for low incomes.)
- Students apply for a Student Loan for tuition fees which they will begin to repay after leaving university and when they are earning over £25000
- Fees are paid directly to the university by the Student Loans Company (SLC)
- For the first four years of Medicine or Dentistry, the same procedure applies but after this, the NHS may pay a means tested bursary to cover tuition fees and also you may qualify for grants and reduced rate loans from the NHS.

Maintenance Loans

Household income	Maintenance loan (repayable after graduation)	Household contribution
£0 - £25,000	£8,700	Nil
£25,000 - £42,000	£8,700 - £6,470	Nil - £2,230
£42,620 - £62,215	£6,470 - £4,054	£2,230 - £4,646
£62,215 +	£4,054	£4,646

Students eligible for the higher levels of loan are likely to be able to apply for bursaries from their university, particularly if the tuition fees charged are over £6000. Figures are approximate based on this year's amounts and are liable to change next year.

Oxford Bursaries

Household income	Oxford Bursary
£16,000 or less	£3,700
£16,001 - £20,000	£2,700
£20,001 - £22,500	£2,500
£22,501 - £25,000	£2,200
£25,001 - £27,500	£1,700
£27,500 - £30,000	£1,400
£30,001 - £32,500	£1,100
£32,501 - £35,000	£1,000
£35,001 - £37,500	£800
£37,501 - £40,000	£600
£40,001 - £42,875	£200

Cambridge Bursaries

Household Income	Cambridge Bursary
£25,000 or less	£3,500
£25,001 - £30,000	£3,400-£2,635
£30,001 - £35,000	£2,380-£1,615
£35,001 - £40,000	£1,360-£595
£40,001 - £42,620	£300
Over £42,620	£0

Cost of living

Oxford University estimates

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£371	£2387	£3342
Accommodation (including utilities)	£566	£739	£5093	£6655
Personal items	£122	£271	£1098	£2435
Social activities	£42	£126	£380	£1138
Study costs	£40	£88	£359	£788
Other	£23	£48	£208	£432
Total	£1058	£1643	£9525	£14790

Maximum support available from loans and bursaries: **£12,400**

Minimum support level: **£4054**

National average student cost of living (NUS figures): **£12,660**

Repaying Loans

Interest rate:

RPI (3.3%) + up to 3%
depending on income

There are no early
repayment penalties

Your income per year	Monthly repayments
£24,995 and under	no repayments
£25,000	£26
£30,000	£67
£40,000	£142
£50,000	£217
£60,000	£292

What will your debt be?

Total amount borrowed:

- $£9250 \times 3 = £27750$
- $£8430 \times 3 = £25290$
- Total = $£53040$

Repayment = 9% of income
over threshold amount

Total amount repaid:

- Earning £24995, you never pay anything
- Earning £28000, you pay £28 per month
- Over 30 years that's **£10080**
- Earning £35000, you pay £75 per month
- Over 30 years that's **£2700**
- Earning £45000, you pay £150 per month
- Over 30 years that's **£54000**

Student Finance Calculator

It is on the government website and gives you an estimate of how much support you may be entitled to.

Universities also publish details of extra support and bursaries on their websites.

Any Questions?