

OXBRIDGE

Chris Broadhurst
d'Overbroeck's Oxford



Oxford Quiz



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1. How many colleges make up the University of Oxford?
a) 15 b) 31 c) 38 d) 44
 2. What is the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford?
 3. Which famous literary character and inspiring figure for British Boarding Schools has his dinner in the Great Hall at Christ Church College?
 4. The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English speaking world? True or false?
 5. How many British Prime Ministers have been educated at Oxford?
a) 15 b) 23 c) 27 d) 31
 6. Which University is currently ranked no. 1 in the world accord to the THE World University Rankings?

Oxbridge explained

- Why Oxbridge?
- Who should apply?
- The application process

Why Oxbridge?

- UK and World Rankings
- World class universities, recognised nationally and internationally
- Teaching by academics who are often world leaders in their particular areas of expertise
- Variety of teaching styles (tutorials and supervisions, seminars, lectures, laboratory work)
- College life means that all students are based in small, friendly communities
- Attractive, safe, compact and friendly cities dominated by the university
- A wealth of resources available to all students
- A vast range of extracurricular and social activities
- Excellent and varied accommodation
- Outstanding employment record for Oxbridge graduates



Routes to university for students

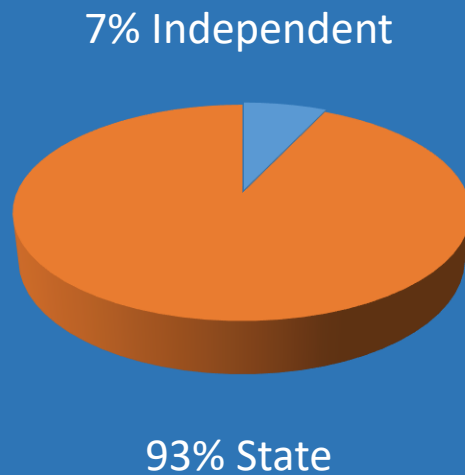
A-level
International Baccalaureate



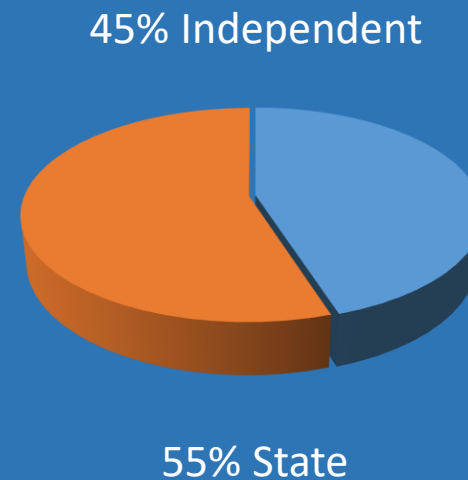


State or Independent?

State vs Independent Schools



Oxbridge places



Oxbridge applications

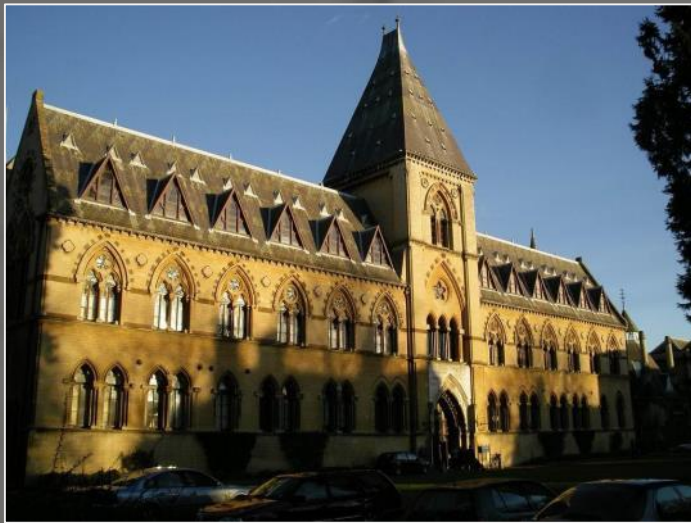
- You have to be exceptionally good
- Very good students frequently get rejected

20,000+ straight A students rejected in 2017 by Oxbridge!



Where to apply

- 69 different colleges between Oxford and Cambridge
- Entry requirements vary
- You cannot apply to both Oxford and Cambridge – you must only choose one



The route to gaining a place at an Oxbridge college

1. UCAS form
2. Entrance tests / written work
2. Interview
3. Conditional offer
4. Grades

It is, of course, not that easy

Ideally, at least 2 years of outstanding preparation is required



The application must show

- Exceptional results and predictions
- Genuine interest in chosen discipline
- Work experience where relevant & community involvement
- Personal breadth & range of interests
- Outstanding references

“The overall criteria for selection are: candidates should be able to listen effectively and present reasoned arguments orally; candidates should be able to understand and analyse written work and show they can present reasoned arguments on paper; and candidates should show motivation, interest, and creativity in the areas they have studied.”

Keble College Oxford's Admissions Department



Commitment – Super-curricular

- Work experience
 - keep a diary
 - influences & learning outcomes
 - challenges, likes and dislikes
 - Work experience is hard to get - prepare for evening and weekends
- Extended Project qualifications
 - An EPQ is greatly valued as a good educational experience
 - The EPQ can give you the chance to be engaged with new subjects, future subjects or just deepen and broaden your engagement with existing subjects in ways that can help in constructing personal statements. It can be particularly useful at the interview stage.



Admissions Assessments

AA are Required by most subjects. For both Oxford and Cambridge, most are held pre-interview with some at-interview

Cambridge

- Used to supplement information in your application and provide a gauge of your abilities
- Used, in part, as a de-selection tool for interview
- They are not pass/fail exams. Your performance in any required written assessment won't be considered in isolation

Oxford

AA are used primarily as a short-listing tool (in combination with other data) to reduce applicant pool down to approximately three per place

- Both place an increasing amount of weight on performance in these tests
- Practice tests are available on line



The interview

- Practice! practice! practice!
 - –will be less nervous
 - –may only have one chance to make a good impression
- Prepare! prepare! prepare!
 - –read widely around your discipline
 - –talk to academics and students
- Be prepared to be discursive
- Always try to establish:
 - –why you will be an outstanding student
 - –how will you contribute to the college life?
 - –what makes you stand out?

The interviews - who gets them?

- Cambridge interviews over 80% of applicants for most subjects
- Oxford reduces the field at short listing to approximately 1 in 3
- Cambridge: the decision on whether or not to interview is based on whether a student would have a chance of an offer regardless of how well the interview went. Also considered - all other grades received or predicted including Admissions Assessments results. The EC and contextual data are taken very seriously at this stage
- Oxford: Admissions Assessments are primarily used to short list, with GCSE's playing a role

How would you answer?

How many grains of sand are there on the earth? (Cambridge, Maths)





d'Overbroeck's Oxbridge Programme

- Starts in lower 6th
- Provides academic enrichment for your area of interest. This is not just for students wanting to apply for Oxford or Cambridge!
- Summer term group meetings with an Admissions Officer and alumni
- Assistance with applications and interviews
- Linked to subject tutor
- Extra sessions (typically once every 2 weeks)
- Requires additional work and research
- Attendance is taken and absences are reported to your DoS

REMEMBER!

Grades are important – dropping one A* equates to a large percentage drop in success. It is critical to get top A-level results.

Grades are not enough - even with the best grades, only 50% achieve an offer – must show super-curricular engagement and have something special:

- work experience, wider reading, independent investigation, EPQ, competitions, public lectures...
- good admissions assessment
- good interview
- the 'X' factor.



Milos, Serbia University of Oxford

A level results:

Maths: A*

Further maths: A*

Physics: A

Computer Science A*

Milos is now reading Engineering
at Keble College, The University of
Oxford

“d’Overbroeck’s is a small, yet very
successful and friendly school, I
felt like part of a big family while I
was here”

Studied at: Jovan Jovanic Zmaj
School in Serbia



Elena, Italy

University of Oxford

Elena joined us for Sixth Form. She completed an Extended Project Qualification on Natural Selection vs Genetic Engineering as well as her A levels.

Elena was also a key member of Sixth Form life getting involved in many activities such as the Winter Concerts.

She is now reading Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.



Alec, UK

University of Oxford

Joined us from Dubai when his family had been living.

Achieved A* in Economics, A* Maths, A in Philosophy and A in Politics at A level last year.

Now reading Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at University of Oxford



Anna, Russia University of Oxford

Joined us for IGCSEs at our
International Section.

She is now studying Mathematics
and Computer Science at the
University of Oxford



Questions?

























Activities: music

Students take part in performances such as this Winter Concert at the Jacqueline du Pre building at one of the Oxford University colleges



Activities: sports

Sports can be played twice a week. We have excellent coaches and use top sports facilities in Oxford such as Oxford Brookes University. Students compete against other schools.



Activities: sports and social



Studies: exploring

This was a Geography department field trip. Many departments will have trips as part of studies



Studies: experimenting

This was a Chemistry department activity to build a balloon to take photos from outer space.
We like to go beyond the syllabus!



Activities: trips

This was a school expedition to Namibia. Last year students went to Iceland. This year it was China.

