

## English Admissions 2021

### Faculty Summary

Thank you for applying for a place on BA (Hons) in English Language and Literature at University of Oxford. We appreciate the time and effort you put into making an application under the exceptional circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic. We had a high number of applicants for English Language and Literature, with many very good applications, which means that we had to make many difficult decisions. These preliminary figures might help you understand this year's process.

Total number of applicants		917
Number of applicants interviewed		609
Places offered		227
Approx. ratio of applicants to offers		4:1

As you can see, we cannot interview all applicants, so we have to make decisions on whom to shortlist, based on the information on your UCAS form (past and predicted exam results, academic reference and personal statement), your submitted written work, and your result in the ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test). We're always looking for students with the highest academic potential, from different backgrounds so for UK candidates we also use contextual data, such as school performance and postcode data, as outlined on the Oxford Admissions website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data>

You can read more about how we shortlist applicants on the English Faculty's website:

<https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/what-we-look-for-undergraduate>

The ELAT is a 90-minute test in which you wrote an essay responding to passages of literary material on a given theme. The results were released on 11 January 2022 and you can find more information about this at:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/elat/scoring-and-results/>

Applicants who score well in the ELAT, and have good exam results, written work, and references are most likely to be invited for an interview. Special consideration of other factors may mean that those with lower scores in some aspects of their application are invited for interview.

The number of applicants to individual colleges varies from year to year, so some shortlisted candidates are redistributed from the most oversubscribed colleges to those with a lower ratio of candidates to places. Those applicants who make open applications are similarly allocated to the less oversubscribed colleges. After first college interviews, around 60 candidates had additional interviews at a second college, to give them the best chance of receiving an offer.

We know how disappointing it is for applicants, their families, and their schools when despite being well-qualified and submitting a strong application, you don't receive an offer from us. As you can see, the standard is very high, and each year we are conscious that we do not have room for all applicants with exceptional academic records, and who have excellent potential as students of English Literature.

### College Summary

At Queen's this year we saw 21 candidates for English and its joint schools in the first round of interviews and, in the second, five more who had had first interviews in other colleges. We made nine offers; three of our offers were to students seen in the second round. Three candidates for single honours English who were first interviewed at Queen's were also interviewed by other colleges.

All candidates for single honours English were given two interviews at Queen's, each with two tutors. For the first interview, candidates were given 20 minutes to prepare a literary text for discussion. In this interview, which is designed to resemble tutorial teaching, we were looking for analytical ability, capacity to exchange and build on ideas, clarity of thought and expression, and flexibility of thought. The second interview took the form of a general discussion about candidates' reading and literary interests. This interview evaluated evidence of candidates' independent reading, evidence of independent thinking about literature, and candidates' readiness and commitment to read widely with discrimination. Further information about the selection criteria can be seen on the Faculty website: <https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply-undergraduate#collapse1-4>

Candidates in the first round for joint degrees with English were given two interviews at Queen's: one with two English tutors, which involved both discussion of an unseen text and discussion of general reading as above; and one with two tutors in their other subject.

We thank you for your patience with our application process, and wish you well for the future.