

# Information for Applicants

## Undergraduate Admissions to Asian and Middle Eastern Studies 2023/24

### Admissions Statistics

**Table 1:** Number of applicants, shortlisted candidates, and the proportion of applicants made offers for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) single and joint honours Bachelor of Arts degrees

Course of Application	Applicants	Shortlisted	Applicants with offers for course of application	Applicants with offers for any course	% Total applicants with offers for course of application	% Total applicants with offers for any course
All AMES single honours degrees <sup>1</sup>	106	88	40	40	37.7%	37.7%
<i>Arabic</i>	17	12	5	5	29.4%	29.4%
<i>Chinese</i>	41	34	17	17	41.5%	41.5%
<i>Japanese</i>	31	28	9	9	32.1%	32.1%
<i>Jewish Studies</i>	*	*	*	*	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Persian</i>	*	*	*	*	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Sanskrit</i>	4	3	3	3	75.0%	75.0%
<i>Turkish</i>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Classics and AMES <sup>2</sup>	15	15	7	9	46.7%	60.0%
European and Middle Eastern Languages	34	32	15	19	44.1%	55.9%
Religion and AMES	15	4	3	3	20.0%	20.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>41.8%</b>

#### Notes on Table 1:

- The total number of applicants includes all submitted applications, including any withdrawn before shortlisting.
- The shortlisting figures include all shortlisted applications, including any withdrawn after shortlisting.
- A small number of applicants to joint schools were made an offer for a course other than that to which they applied.
- Numbers below 3 have been omitted to protect the privacy of individuals.

<sup>1</sup> Admissions for the degree in Hebrew were suspended for 2024 entry.

<sup>2</sup> This includes both Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics and Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies applicants.

## Applicants by Gender

**Table 2:** *Percent of applicants to Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) single and joint honours degrees by gender*

Course of Application	Proportion of Women	Proportion of Men	Proportion of Other
All AMES	48%	47%	5%
All Joint Schools	56%	39%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>5%</b>

### Notes on Table 2:

- Gender data derives from UCAS applications, where the options available were “Man”, “Woman”, “I use another term”, and “Prefer not to say”.
- Individuals who chose “I use another term” and “Prefer not to say” have been grouped together as “Other”.
- Precise numbers are not provided to protect the privacy of individuals in smaller cohorts.

## Applicants by Domicile

**Table 3:** *Number of applicants to Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) single and joint honours degrees by domicile, and their proportion as a percent of the whole*

Course of Application	UK Applicants		EU Applicants		Overseas Applicants	
AMES	73	69%	7	7%	26	25%
All Joint Schools	48	75%	5	8%	11	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22%</b>

## Applicants by Year of Entry

Five (5) applicants across all Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) single and joint honours Bachelor of Arts degrees wished to defer their entry to 2025. The remaining 165 applied for 2024 entry. Four (4) deferred offers were made.

## GCSE Statistics

**Table 4:** Average number of GCSEs at grades 9/8/A\* at each principal stage of the admissions process, for applicants with 5 or more GCSEs

Course	Applicants		Shortlisted		Offers	
	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
AMES	7.21	0 to 11	7.46	0 to 11	8.15	3 to 11
Classics and AMES	7.60	2 to 12	7.60	2 to 12	7.17	2 to 12
European and Middle Eastern Languages	8.66	3 to 12	8.68	3 to 12	8.61	3 to 12
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.82</b>	<b>0 to 12</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>0 to 12</b>	<b>7.98</b>	<b>2 to 12</b>

### Notes on Table 4:

- This table only includes data on applicants with 5 or more GCSEs.
- GCSE data relating to Religion and AMES applicants is not included to protect the privacy of the small cohort.

## A-Levels

A-Level subject data has not been compiled formally for this report. No particular subject is required at A-Level for admissions to AMES single-honours degrees or to the AMES side of our joint schools, and the range of subjects taken at A-Level by successful applicants is very wide.

# Admissions Process

## *Selection criteria*

The following criteria are applied in the assessment of candidates for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, available on the Faculty's website:

<https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/article/applying-undergraduate>

In the case of candidates for the joint schools with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, these criteria are applied in assessment for the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies side of each school.

- Intellectual curiosity
- Conceptual clarity
- Flexibility - the capacity to engage with alternative perspectives and/or new information
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Critical engagement
- Capacity for hard work
- Enthusiasm for their chosen subject

At various points of the admissions process candidates will be assessed against these criteria on the basis of information derived from a variety of sources:

- UCAS forms, including, in particular, personal statements, school reports, qualifications achieved and qualifications predicted
- Performance in interviews
- Comparison, in all these areas, with other candidates

## *Shortlisting*

Once applications have been received, candidates are evaluated against the following criteria:

- Examination scores, achieved and predicted (GCSE, AS, A-Level, Scottish Highers, IB, etc.)
- Referees' reports
- Evidence from the personal statement relating to academic potential in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Applicants who fail to meet the published selection criteria above to a high standard are not called for interview. The standard offer for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is AAA at A-level (or equivalent qualifications). A list of equivalent qualifications can be found at [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate\\_courses/international\\_applicants/international\\_qualifications/index.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/international_applicants/international_qualifications/index.html). College and Faculty tutors work together to reallocate strong candidates from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

## *The Interview Process*

Shortlisted candidates are invited to an interview conducted by Faculty academics, where they are scored out of ten against the selection criteria. Candidates are also interviewed by tutors at the college that they applied to, or to which they may have been re-allocated. Where strong candidates outnumber the number of places at a particular college, college and Faculty Interviewers work together to find another college where such candidates may be given an additional interview. The decision to offer a place to a candidate is made by colleges on the basis of all sources of evidence listed above including the advice of Faculty tutors.