

**Summary of “International Recruitment Section”
University of Oxford
Dr. Maria Misra and Dr. Barbara Kennedy
4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

We were told that on the whole, applications from the U.S. are “very impressive.”

Students applying for a **second Bachelors degree** (not very common anymore) have the same deadline as all other undergraduates. This is a change from before, when students applying for a second Bachelors could not apply until January. Now the ordinary application deadline for all applicants is October 15.

For students requesting an interview in Vancouver or New York, the deadline is September 20. If students submit their applications by September 20, they’re guaranteed an interview. If they submit later, it’s unlikely they’ll get an interview. If students opt for an interview in England, they must wait to “be called,” and about 65-70% are called.

The interviews last 30 minutes and are similar to the interviews held at Oxford. The interviews are based around a field-specific passage, which has been set up by the interviewers prior to the interview. The applicant arrives half an hour before their interview to see the passage and prepare. The interview focuses exclusively on this passage – unless the applicant sails so smoothly through it that it’s good for the interviewers to move on to something else. Interviews are then marked: each field has its own form. Interviewees are marked based on their analytic abilities, critical thinking, and imagination. Interviewers complete the form and also provide a write-up of the interview. These then become part of the applicant’s dossier. The interview “stays live” because colleges are free to, and often do, call interviewers for more information.

Interviews are definitely important and worthwhile. Since students are taught in their colleges, which is intense and personal, it’s important for Oxford admissions personnel to know what the applicant is like as a person. Overseas candidates who have been interviewed now have advocates here at Oxford. This has been successful in bringing on overseas candidates: the percentage of overseas students has increased in the past five years.

Admission rates of various constituents:

- UK citizen: 1 in 3.2
- Student from UK school but not UK citizen: 1 in 3.8
- Overseas student WITH interview: 1 in 5.2
- Overseas student WITHOUT interview: 1 in 15

There is now a higher application fee of £30. If students apply online (through the UCAS website), they pay £30 for the interview option, or £10 for the non-interview option. Students (only those applying for a second Bachelors) can also apply to both Oxford AND Cambridge at the same time.

A tip to applicants for second Bachelors: leave the college choice blank, and allow the computer to allocate a college.

For graduate study: Oxford has six staged deadlines, based on gathered fields. Different subjects operate with different gathered fields. Students should submit their completed applications as early as possible. Incomplete applications will be rolled over into the next gathered field deadline, until the last gathered field deadline for that subject area (except for some departments that give students only one shot at admission-make sure to check websites!). In other words, applying early helps! Students will hear back regarding offer in the university and a college within three weeks of applying.

Students applying for scholarships (Clarendon, ORS) must submit their completed applications in the first three gathered fields. The Clarendon scholarship is partial and must be supplemented with more. Many students supplement the Clarendon with the ORS.

Graduate study applicants **must** select a college. Their application will be sent back if they do not select a college. But applicants really shouldn't lose sleep over college selection. If they are accepted into their department, they're guaranteed a college place.

The admissions office goal is to notify applicants of scholarships by mid-February.