

# **Oxbridge Explained**

## **for parents of prospective applicants**

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**Will this be right for  
my child?**



# Oxbridge



- Two of the world's oldest and most respected universities
  - Collegiate structure
  - Focus on small group teaching
  - Apply to one (not both)
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# College Choice

- Check which colleges offer your course
  - College facilities (accommodation, food etc) will be similar across the board, but research according to your priorities
  - 20% of Oxbridge students attend a college that was not their first choice
  - Open Applications
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# College FAQs

- Does college choice affect my chances of getting in?
  - Are there colleges which are better than others for my course?
  - Do colleges have reputations and are these accurate?
  - Will I be able to live in my college for my whole course?
  - How do I choose a college?
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# Course Choice

- The most important decision of any university application
  - Check for subject-specific entry requirements
  - All courses offer excellent breadth, depth, and future prospects - and are for people who want a challenge!
  - Deciding between Oxford & Cambridge
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# Course Choice

**Oxford** | Archaeology & Anthropology | Biochemistry | Biology | Biomedical Sciences | Chemistry | Classics | Computer Science | Economics & Management | Engineering Sciences | English Literature & Language | Experimental Psychology | Fine Art | Geography | History | Human Sciences | Law | Materials Sciences | Mathematics | Medicine | Modern Languages & Linguistics (100+ combinations) | Music | Philosophy, Politics & Economics | Physics | Theology | Joint Honours (2x Arts/Humanities subjects in one course)

**Cambridge** | Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic | Archaeology | Architecture | Asian & Middle Eastern Studies | Classics | Economics | Education | English | Geography | History | History of Art | Human, Social & Political Sciences | Land Economy | Law | Linguistics | Modern Languages | Music | Philosophy | Theology | Chemical Engineering | Computer Science | Engineering | Mathematics | Medicine | Natural Sciences | Psychological & Behavioural Sciences | Veterinary Medicine



# Not offered by Oxford or Cambridge

- Business Studies
- Childcare
- Dentistry
- Journalism
- Engineering  
(vocationally/practically  
focused)
- Media/Film Studies
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- PE & Sports Sciences
- Performing Arts
- Pharmacology
- Physiotherapy
- Degree apprenticeships

# Tutorial/ Supervision Teaching

- Students still receive group teaching as they would at any other university
  - Tutorials/Supervisions at least once per week, between 3:1 and 1:1
  - Highly individualised teaching, opportunity to ask questions, try out new ideas, and make mistakes
  - Not graded
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**Is Oxbridge more  
expensive than  
other  
universities?**

# Finance at a glance

- Identical Student Finance process to every other UK university
  - Greater range of non-repayable financial support (e.g. bursaries)
  - College subsidies: cheap dining hall food, cheap/free social events
  - Guaranteed college accommodation for min. 2 years, rent only payable during shorter terms
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# Finance at a glance

- Outstanding library and book grant systems
  - Travel grants
  - Hardship funds
  - Small financial rewards for academic success
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# What costs are there to consider?

- Rent (for all first years and in majority of other cases, for college accommodation)
- Food: sometimes included in college rent payment
- Travel?
- Course expenses: books etc?
- Social & extra curricular activities

**Oxbridge Offers**

**AAA-A\*A\*A**

**Russell Group Offers**

**Min. ABB**

# What else do we consider?

## UCAS Form

Prior academic achievement  
Predicted grades  
Personal statement  
Teacher's reference

**Application  
deadline:  
15th October**

## Oxbridge-Specific

Pre-interview  
test/assessment  
Written work sample  
SAQ (Cambridge  
only)

Your own passion  
& motivation

Super-curricular  
activities

## Interview

Early/mid December



# Be Super-Curricular



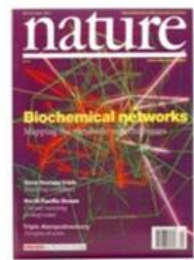
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ENGLISH HERITAGE



UCAS

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Social Mobility Foundation



Inside the Ethics Committee



in2science<sup>UK</sup>

THE SPECTATOR



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OX?LORE

# Keep in mind...

- Getting into Oxbridge, or even just being in the position to apply, is an amazing achievement... but it isn't a disaster if it doesn't work out!
- Equally, the only way of knowing whether or not you would have got a place is to be brave enough to apply.
- The universities are interested in finding the best students possible from each pool of applicants: we know that these students could come from any background.
- Students who are admitted will be supported throughout their time at university and have plenty of opportunities to make the experience unique to them.
- There is no need for the process to be lonely or confusing for anyone, including parents: **we are here to help.**

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Questions welcomed via email



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