

Durham Johnston Sixth Form

Guidance for Oxbridge Applicants

Oxbridge 2021-22

Preparation	Resource	Guidance
<p data-bbox="143 212 371 459">University research</p> <p data-bbox="143 467 371 778">Admissions criteria</p> <p data-bbox="143 786 371 1034">College research</p> <p data-bbox="143 1042 371 1422">Course research</p>	<p data-bbox="383 212 835 459">http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions</p> <p data-bbox="383 467 835 778">https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying</p> <p data-bbox="383 786 835 1034">http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/admission-requirements</p> <p data-bbox="383 1042 835 1422">https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements</p> <p data-bbox="383 826 835 906">http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/colleges</p> <p data-bbox="383 930 835 1010">https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges</p> <p data-bbox="383 1074 835 1153">http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses</p> <p data-bbox="383 1185 835 1422">https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses?uca_m-ref=global-header</p>	<p data-bbox="846 212 2094 459">To apply for Oxbridge you must be excited by the prospect of learning in an intense and academically-focused environment. The hard work required to complete an Oxbridge undergraduate degree is for the most part, unique in its challenge and intensity of study.</p> <p data-bbox="846 467 2094 778">Therefore, don't apply for Oxbridge because you want an 'Oxbridge degree' – apply because you are passionate about your chosen subject and feel capable of being challenged by world class experts in the field.</p> <ul data-bbox="846 786 2094 1034" style="list-style-type: none"> - Nearly all who apply to Oxbridge have outstanding academic credentials with the highest grades at GCSE. You will not be unique in that regard: you are competing against the best students. What makes you stand out? - Oxbridge has a rigorous application process with pre-admissions written tests and interviews that prove especially challenging for prospective undergraduates. Therefore, don't feel entitled to an offer: focus on what you can do in your written tests and interviews that show you stand out in your love for your subject and your academic potential in the discipline. Be humble, positive and enthusiastic. <p data-bbox="846 1042 2094 1422">Nevertheless, if you are passionate about your chosen subject, read and research about it constantly, have a genuine love for the discipline as shown by how much you do in relation to furthering your knowledge and deepening your experiences in relation to it, and have achieved excellent grades so far, especially at GCSE, then consider applying.</p> <p data-bbox="846 1441 2094 1581">Use the links to the left to conduct research on the similarities and differences between Oxford and Cambridge, what A-Level grades are required to gain entry to specific courses, the range of colleges to which you can apply (Oxbridge is collegiate: the college is where most supervisions and tutorials will happen so it does matter which college you choose, beyond where you sleep, eat, play sport and socialise). The college is the learning and living environment: select the right college for you. An open application where you don't pick a college is perfectly acceptable and does not disadvantage your application.</p>

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		The courses of offer at one or both universities should also be researched thoroughly to ensure you select the correct focus of study, for you.
Widening participation	https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/opportunity-oxford https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/widening-participation	You may well qualify for extra support on offer for those from less advantaged backgrounds.
Application preparation	http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying	Be focused on being able to commit to paper why you want to study a chosen course, why that subject truly 'floats your boat' and how your 'relationship' and fascination with it go way beyond your A-level lessons. Practising being able to articulate why you've chosen the course you have, why it's the right course for you and why you think the subject is best of all is a good starting point for personal statement drafting.
Pre - Admissions tests	http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admission-assessments	Previous pre-admissions tests are available on the websites of both universities. Research what pre-admissions written assessment applies to your course and do as many practices as you can. Ask relevant subject staff at school to talk to you about this and look at what you produce. We can't always mark to an Oxbridge mark scheme but we can offer you support as experienced educators who've already graduated (at least once) in our chosen field.
Interview preparation	http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/interviews	Durham Johnston students are consistently very successful in this process because they show their passion for their subject, their intellectual humility (they are teachable and tutors like this) and intellectual flexibility. The best students like a challenge and respond well to questioning and guidance when they meet tutors.

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	<p>https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/interviews</p> <p>https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/interviews/what-do-interviews-involve</p>	
<p>Subject preparation</p>	<p>https://www.edx.org/course?utm_campaign=Mooc.org&utm_source=Mooc.org&utm_medium=Mooc.org-Banner&utm_content=CTA</p> <p>http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/preparing-for-study</p> <p>https://www.futurelearn.com/</p> <p>https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses</p> <p>https://myheplus.com/</p> <p>https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/explore-your-subject/</p> <p>https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publicatio</p>	<p>Read, read, read! Be voracious in your reading. (Do it all the time and never be satisfied – have the desire to always want to know more and go further).</p> <p>Utilise your time to go above and beyond, showing your inquisitive nature, your passion for the subject and your academic capability.</p> <p>Subject masterclasses: research and sign up!</p> <p>Super-curricular suggestions. It's really important you engage with this content, fully and promptly. Keep a learning/research/reading journal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What have you read? 2. Why? 3. What have you learned? 4. What has it led you to do further as follow-up/development?

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	ns/super-curricular_suggestions.pdf	
Deadlines	https://www.undergraduate.studycam.ac.uk/applying/dates-and-deadlines https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/admissions-timeline?wssl=1	See 2022 dates in links. Subject to change/confirmation due to unprecedented circumstances. Keep your eye on Oxbridge and UCAS websites. We'll react accordingly and do our best to support your application.
Durham Johnston support	<p>Open Days and residential visits/remote Open Days Summer'21</p> <p>(Potential) Residential visits to Oxbridge '21 September '21</p> <p>Lunch time meetings September-December '21</p> <p>Extended after school sessions September-December '21</p> <p>Oxford university application masterclass Autumn '21</p> <p>Oxford university interview masterclass Autumn '21</p> <p>Durham university mock interview masterclasses November '21</p>	<p>Our very successful programme supports Durham Johnston students with the full process from application (October) to decisions made on offers by Oxbridge in the following January. Use the support on offer. The more research you conduct and advice from experienced, informed staff that you heed, the more competitive applicant you will be.</p> <p>You must focus on being able to show your love for and capability in the chosen course for which you have applied. The subject increasingly has to become your life. You can do this!</p> <p>Good luck! JW</p>

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	<p>Mock interviews November '21</p> <p>Interview preparation support December '21</p> <p>Feedback and decision support January '22</p>	
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