

Welcome to Catz!



Welcome to St Catherine's College, University of Oxford!

Today we are going to introduce the following topics:

- ✓ Why you might want to go to university
- ✓ What the University of Oxford and St Catherine's College are like
- ✓ How you apply to the University of Oxford

Please ask us any questions that you might have and make sure that you make the most out of your visit!



outreach@stcatz.ox.ac.uk

Why might someone want to go to university?



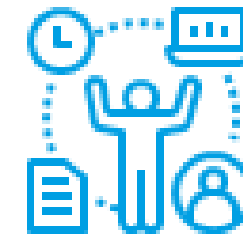
Live somewhere new

it can be a chance to see new places and to live somewhere different for a defined period of time



Study something you enjoy

There are tens of thousands of UK undergraduate degree courses



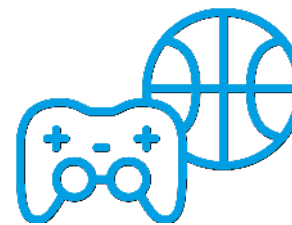
Build skills for the future

Studying for a university degree will allow you to develop transferable skills that are beneficial in work and later life



To meet new people

Oxford University has around 26,000 students



Explore interests outside of class

At Oxford, there are over 400 student-led societies covering a whole range of interests



To gain qualifications

Some jobs may require certain qualifications that you can gain at university



What are different universities like?

Size

Location

Setup

Modes of Study

*Which is
right for
you?*



Why Oxford or Cambridge?

- Broad range of academic courses
- World-class teaching – lectures, seminars/classes, practicals
- Small-group teaching – tutorials/supervisions
- Excellent facilities and resources
- Academic, pastoral and financial support
- Wide range of extra-curricular options

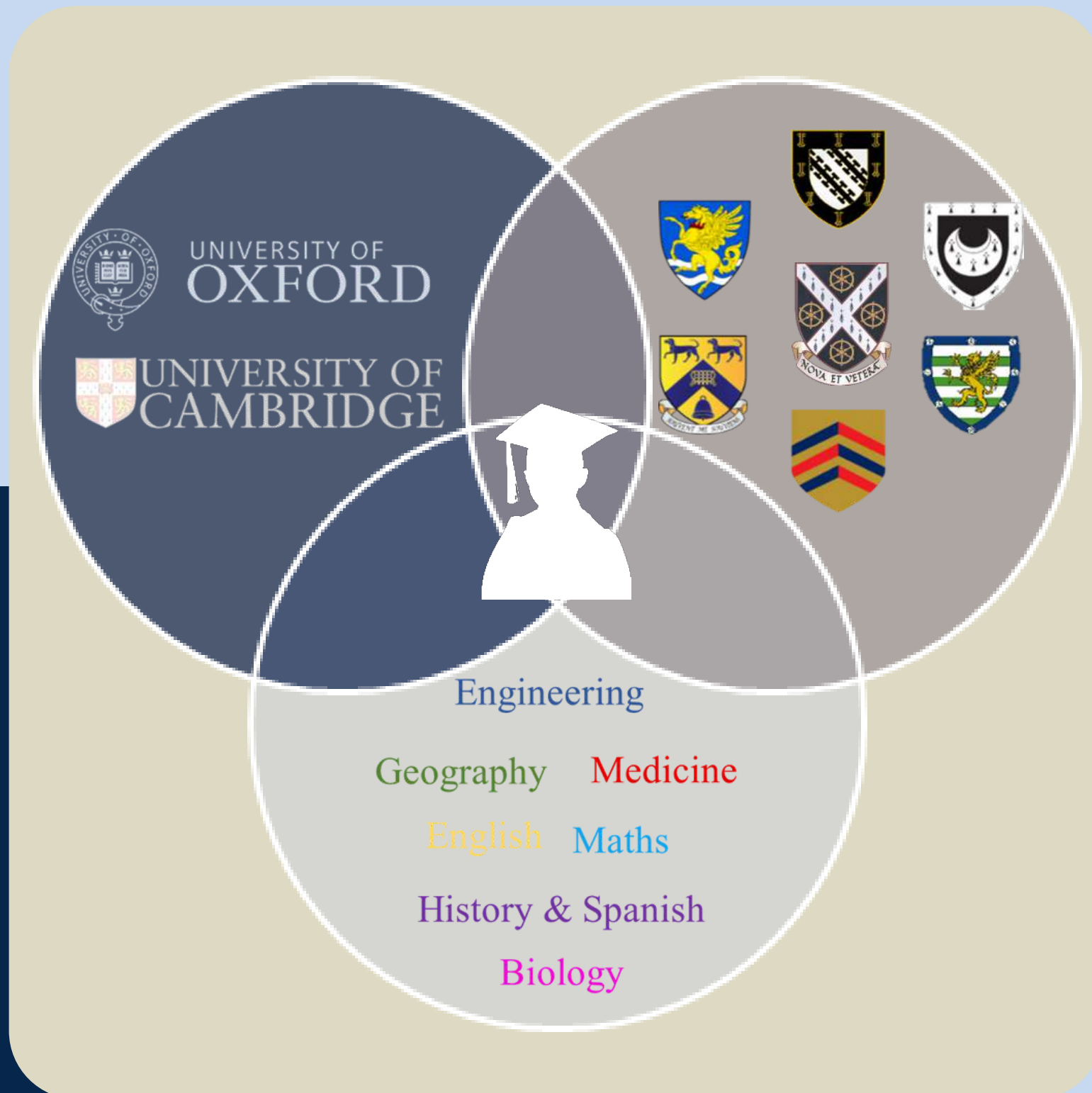
Oxford University has ranked number 1 in the world for nine years running.
(Times Higher Education World Rankings, 2025)



What do we offer?

Over 40 undergraduate degrees at the University of Oxford

Archaeology and Anthropology	English and Modern Languages	Materials Science
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	European and Middle Eastern Languages	Mathematics
Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)	Fine Art	Mathematics and Computer Science
Biology	Foundation Year (Chemistry, Engineering and Materials Science)	Mathematics and Philosophy
Biomedical Sciences	Foundation Year (Humanities)	Mathematics and Statistics
Chemistry	Foundation Year (Law)	Medicine
Classical Archaeology and Ancient History	Foundation Year (PPE)	Medicine (graduate entry)
Classics	Geography	Modern Languages
Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	History	Modern Languages and Linguistics
Classics and English	History (Ancient and Modern)	Music
Classics and Modern Languages	History and Economics	Philosophy and Modern Languages
Computer Science	History and English	Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
Computer Science and Philosophy	History and Modern Languages	Philosophy and Theology
Earth Sciences (Geology)	History and Politics	Physics
Economics and Management	History of Art	Physics and Philosophy
Engineering Science	Human Sciences	Psychology (Experimental)
English Language and Literature	Law (Jurisprudence)	Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
		Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
		Theology and Religion



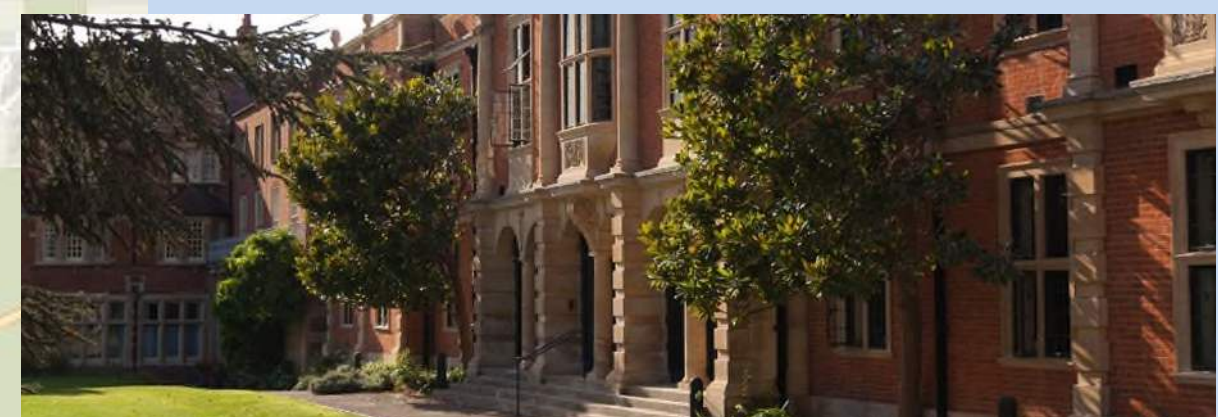
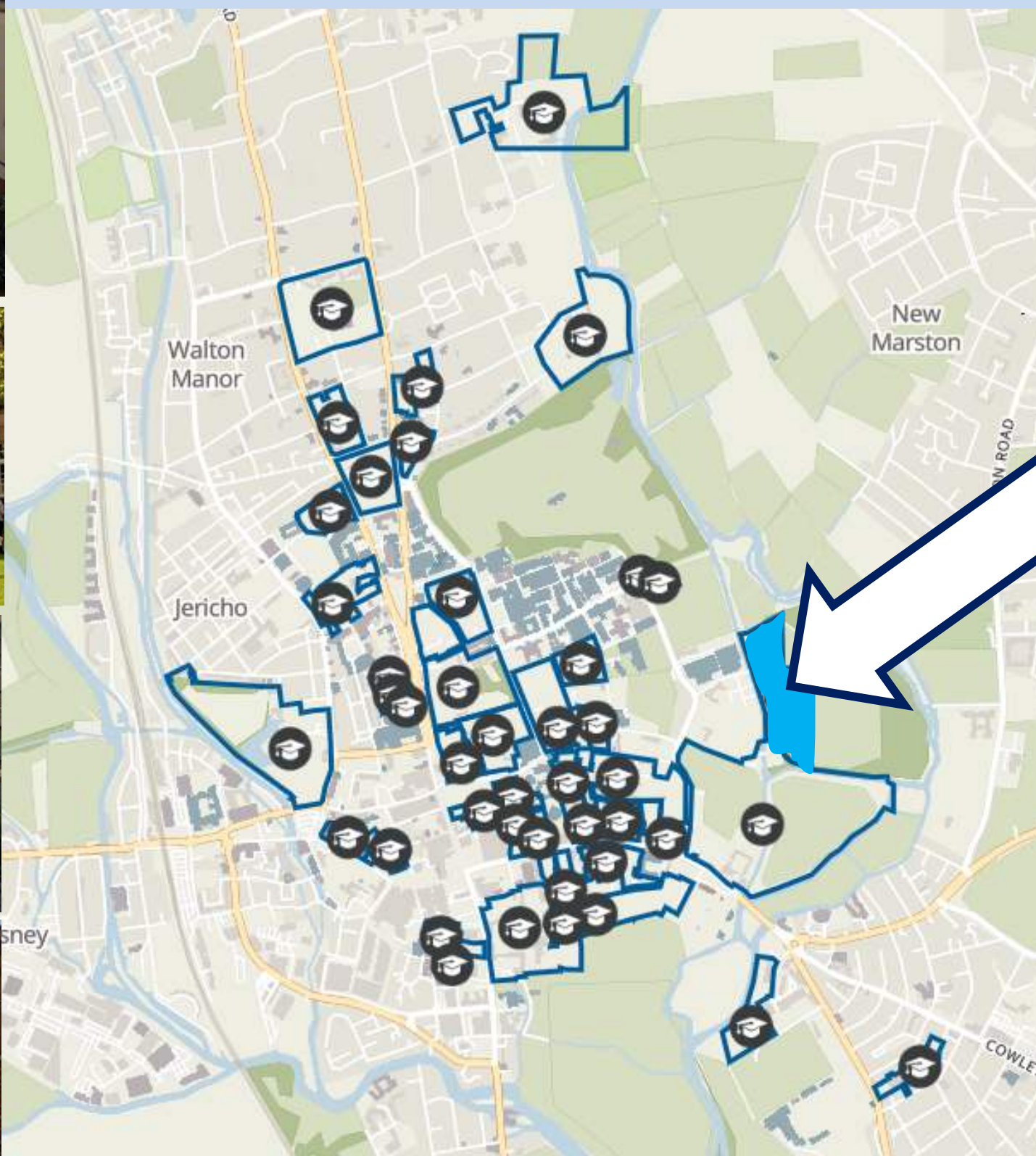
Universities and departments

As a student, you're a member of the University, a department AND a College

- ✓ Course content
- ✓ Lectures, seminars, practicals and projects
- ✓ Assessments and exams
- ✓ Award degrees
- ✓ University student services



University of Oxford Colleges





Colleges

A College is like a mini campus, providing a base for students. When considering Colleges, think about where you'd like to live – open application if you don't mind.

- ✓ Admit students
- ✓ Academic and pastoral care
- ✓ Accommodation, dining and recreation
- ✓ Organise small-group teaching
- ✓ Facilities for academic study

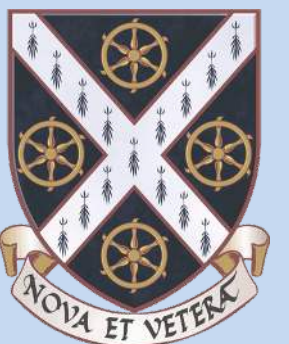


Our Facilities

“Colleges make socialising and meeting new people so unbelievably easy! You will never leave Oxford without meeting people who are just like you, and I have 100% met friends for life here.” **Angharad**



The Oxford Admissions Process





Applying to Oxbridge

Earlier UCAS deadline - **15th October**

**Academic
Record**

**Personal
Statement**

**Teacher's
Reference**

**Admissions
Test**
(where required)

Written Work
(where required)

**Contextual
Information
and data**

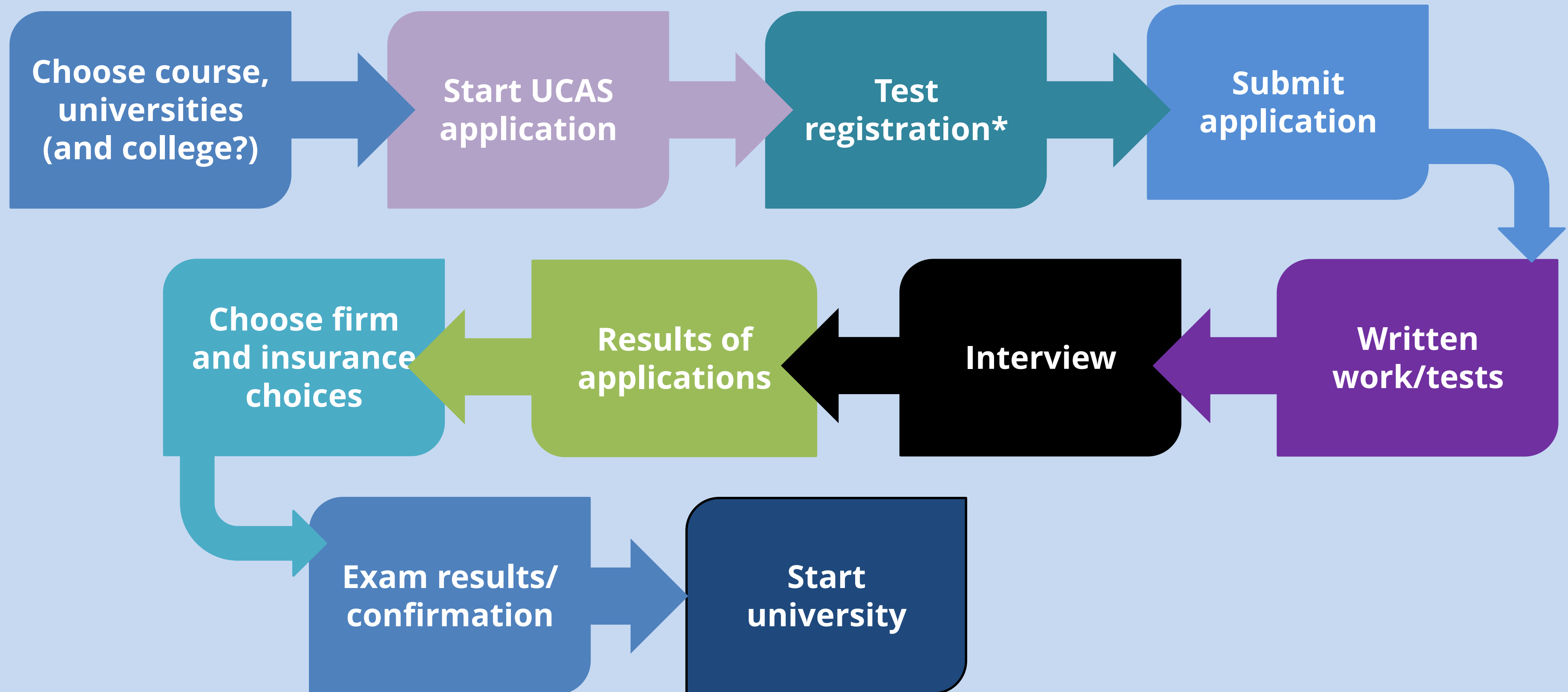
Interview
(if interviewed)

No part of an application is considered in isolation

All available information is looked at together before
decisions are made



Applying to University





UCAS application

There are several parts of the UCAS application to complete. Your personal statement will take the most thought and time. This is where you tell us about yourself and your motivation to study your course.

Plan it first
Check spelling

Check grammar
Sell yourself

Be honest
Be reflective

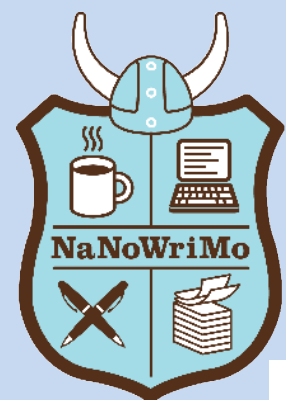
- ✓ Why you want to study the course
- ✓ Your current studies
- ✓ Outside exploration: what you have watched, listened to or visited and formed an opinion on
- ✓ Relevant work experience
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities (focused on transferable skills)

We recommend your personal statement is **80% academic** (including super-curricular) and **20% extracurricular**.



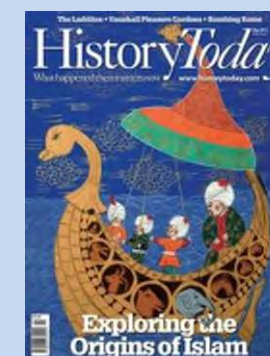
NHS

Be super-curricular...

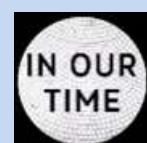


BBC iPlayer

Le Monde



FT

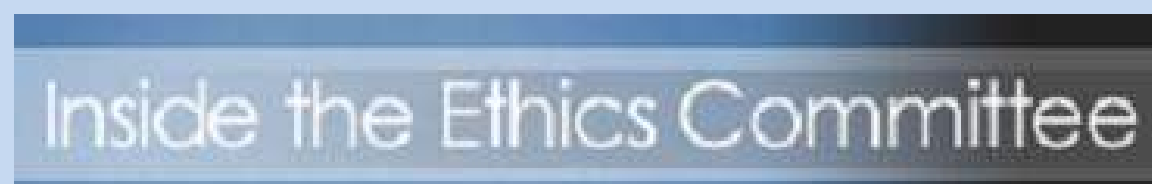
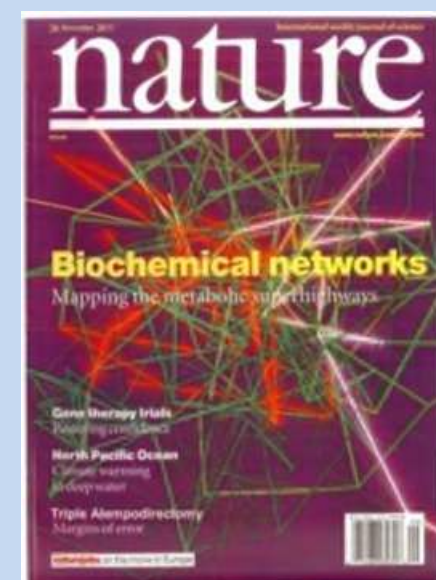
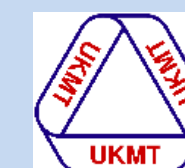


BBC RADIO
92-95 FM



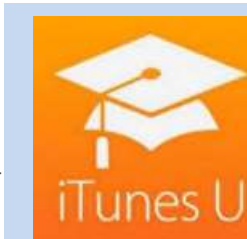
EL PAÍS

UCAS



The Economist

TED
IDEAS WORTH SPREADING



BLACKWELL'S
FOR LEARNING · FOR LIFE



IOP
Institute of Physics

theguardian

TLS



ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OX?LORE

What are the Personal Statement questions?

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

You'll want to show evidence of passion, curiosity and interest

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most recent and relevant to your subject or course(s)

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be reflective and demonstrate further suitability for your subject or course(s)

Admissions Test	Required for
LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test)	Law
UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test for Medicine)	Medicine
Music Performance Test	Music
New Tests from 2026	Biomedical Sciences - ESAT Computer Science - TMUA Computer Science and Philosophy - TMUA Economics and Management - TARA Engineering Science - ESAT History and Economics - TARA History and Politics - TARA (still tbc) Human Sciences - TARA Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics - TMUA Mathematics and Computer Science - TMUA Mathematics and Philosophy - TMUA Physics - ESAT Physics and Philosophy - ESAT Politics, Philosophy and Economics - TARA Psychology (Experimental) - TARA Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics - TARA

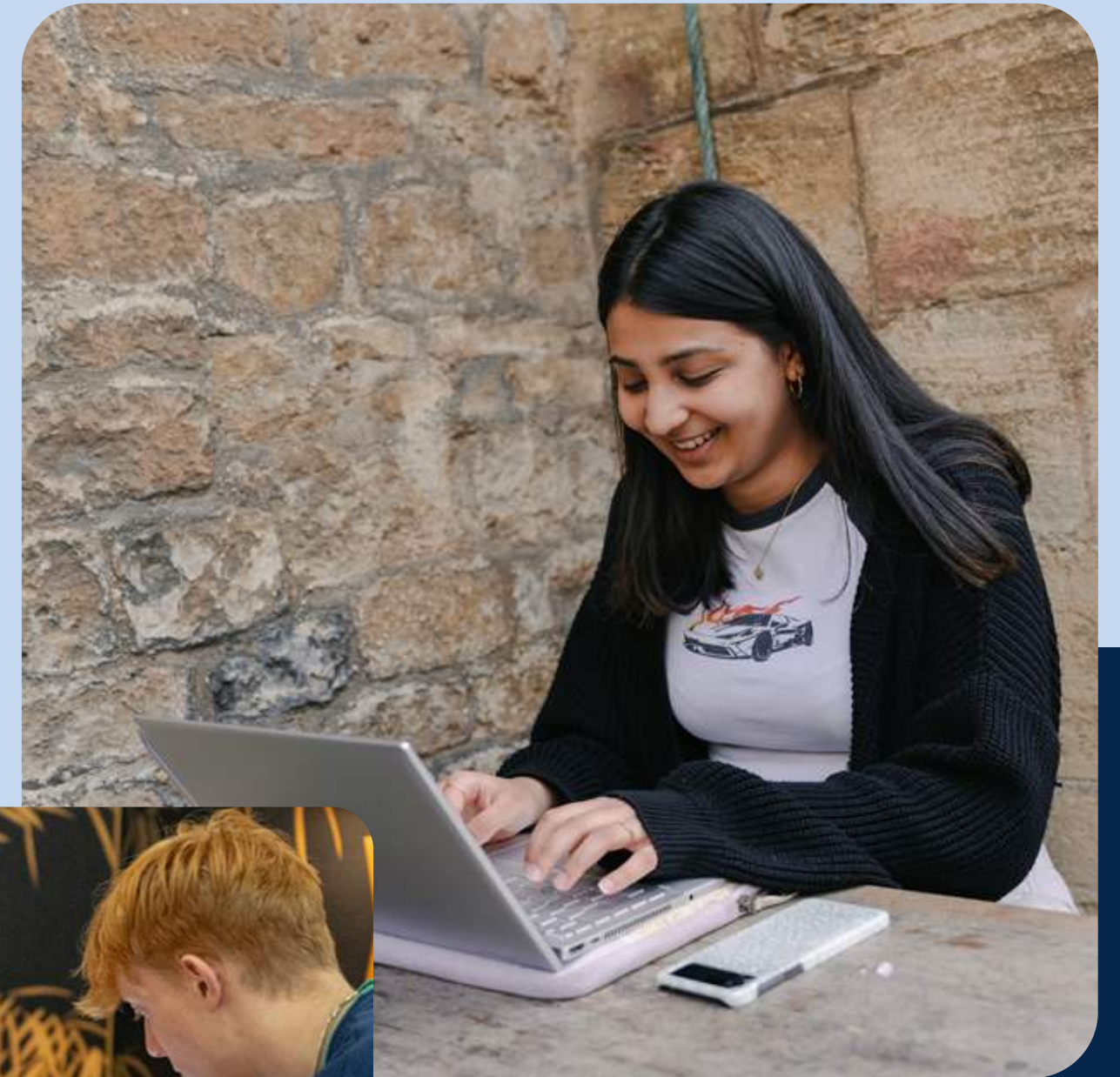


Online Interviews

There are lots of myths about interviews at Oxford, but really they're just conversations about your chosen subject – like a short tutorial – with someone who knows a lot about it.

Interviewers are looking for you to demonstrate:

- ✓ Academic ability and potential
- ✓ Self-motivation
- ✓ Ability to think independently
- ✓ Engagement with new ideas





Online Interviews ([Demos here](#))

Biological Sciences: Why do many animals have stripes?

History: Imagine we had no records about the past at all, except everything to do with sport – how much of the past could we find out about?

Law: If the punishment for parking on double yellow lines were death, and therefore nobody did it, would that be a just and effective law?

Engineering: How would you design a gravity dam for holding back water?

Geography: If I were to visit the area where you live, what would I be interested in?

Experimental Psychology: Why do human beings have two eyes?

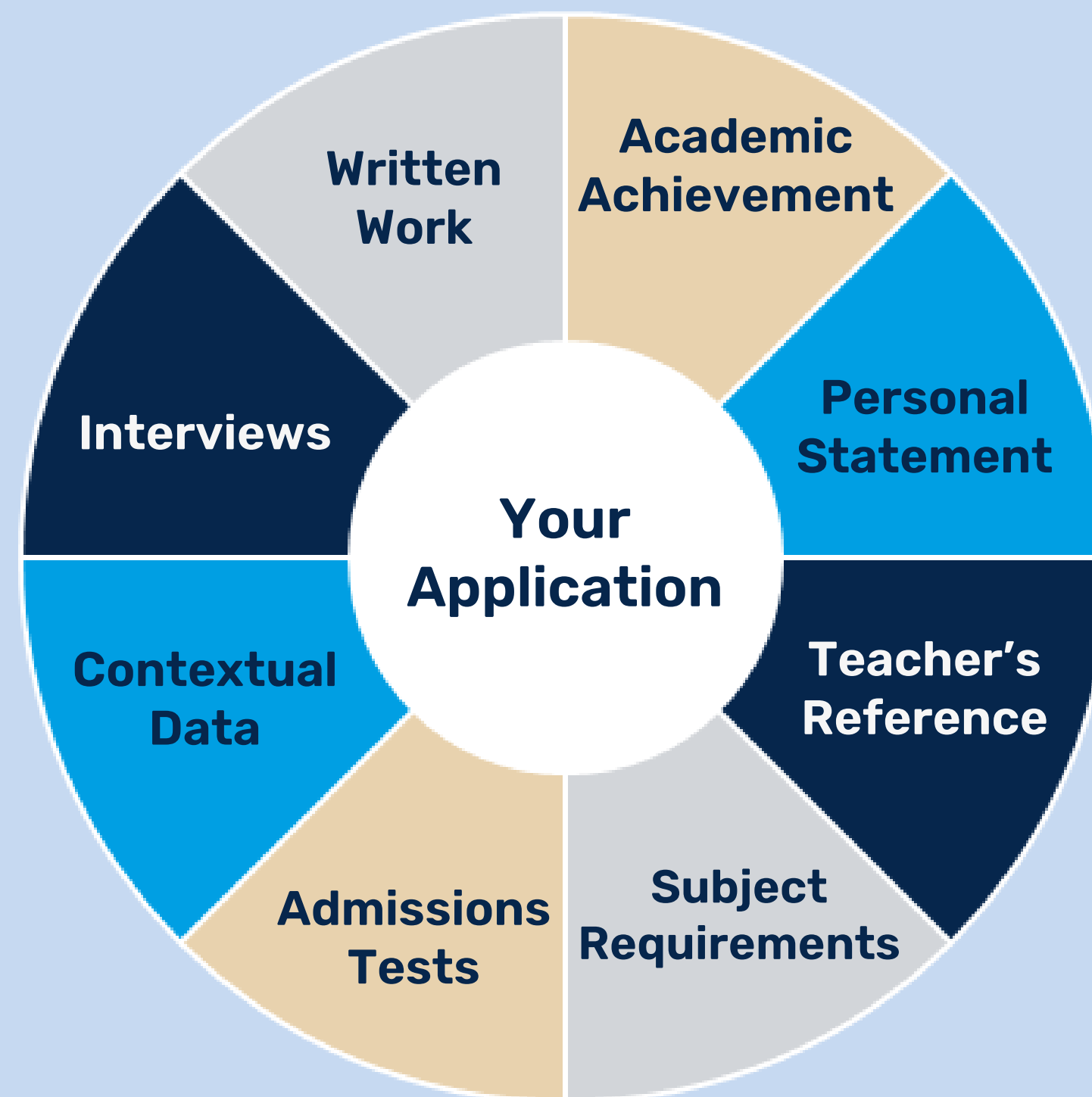
Modern Languages: Should poetry be difficult to understand?

Medicine: Why do we have red blood cells?

English: Why do you think an English student might be interested in the fact that Coronation Street has been running for 50 years?

Music: If you could invent a new musical instrument, what kind of sound would it make?





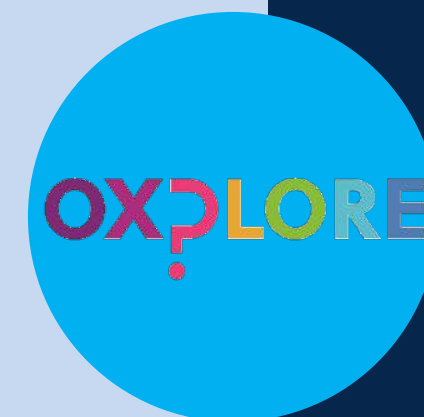
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Let us help you prepare

There is a lot you can do even at an early stage to find out more about Oxford, and begin planning or preparing your application - and we are here to help.

In addition to the information on courses and entry requirements, we provide lots of useful resources to help you strengthen your application.

- **Work hard:** Achieve the best grades you can.
- **Go beyond your schoolwork:** Search out super-curricular resources and stretch your thinking.
- **Practise for tests and interviews:** Try past papers for tests, and talking about your subject out loud for interviews.



Any Questions?

- ✓ Questions about the application
- ✓ Questions about the student finance
- ✓ Questions about outreach opportunities



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