



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Information correct as of June 2020.
Please consult www.study.cam.ac.uk
and individual College websites for the
most up to date information.

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge

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University of Cambridge



Content

- Why Oxford or Cambridge?
- What we assess and why
- Additional application elements
- How to support your students
- Q&A

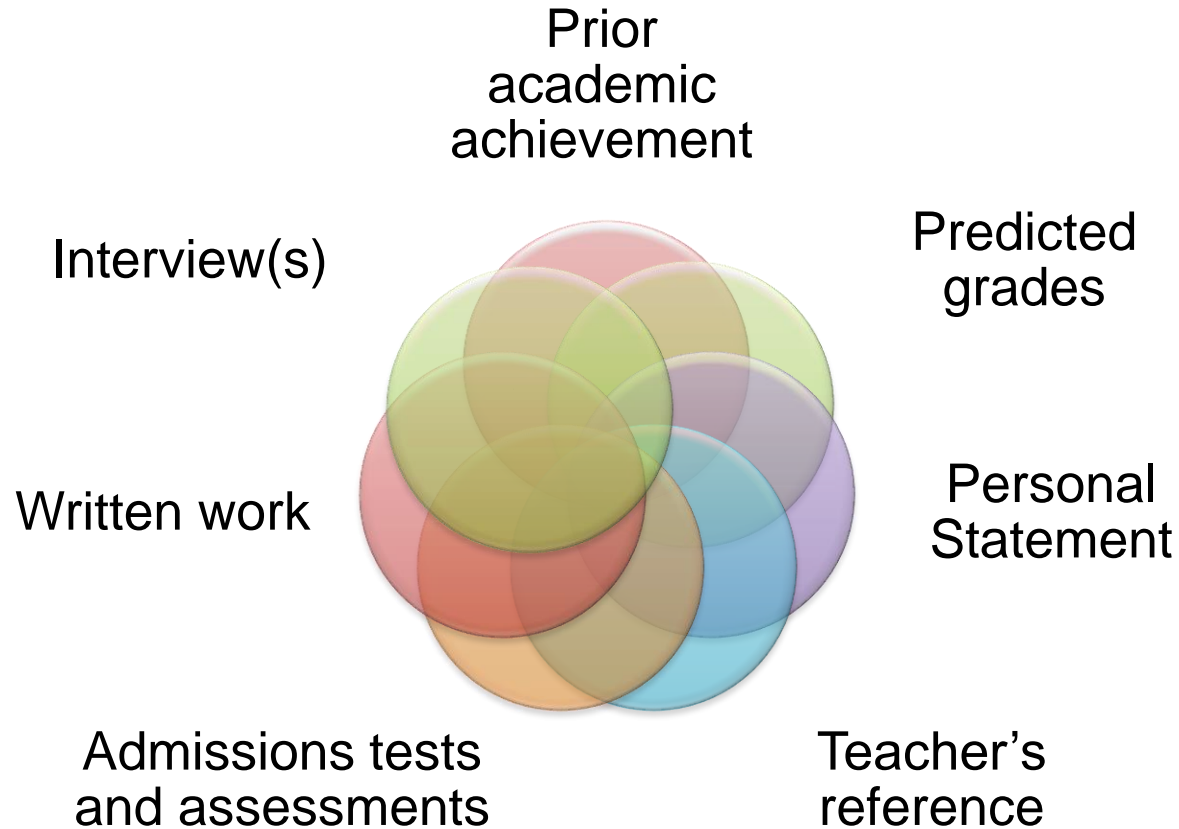


Why Oxford or Cambridge?: The Student Experience

- Challenging, stimulating courses
- Supportive teaching, through supervisions/tutorials and a Director of Studies/Tutor
- College membership
- Varied student societies
- A good work life balance is encouraged
- Excellent employment prospects

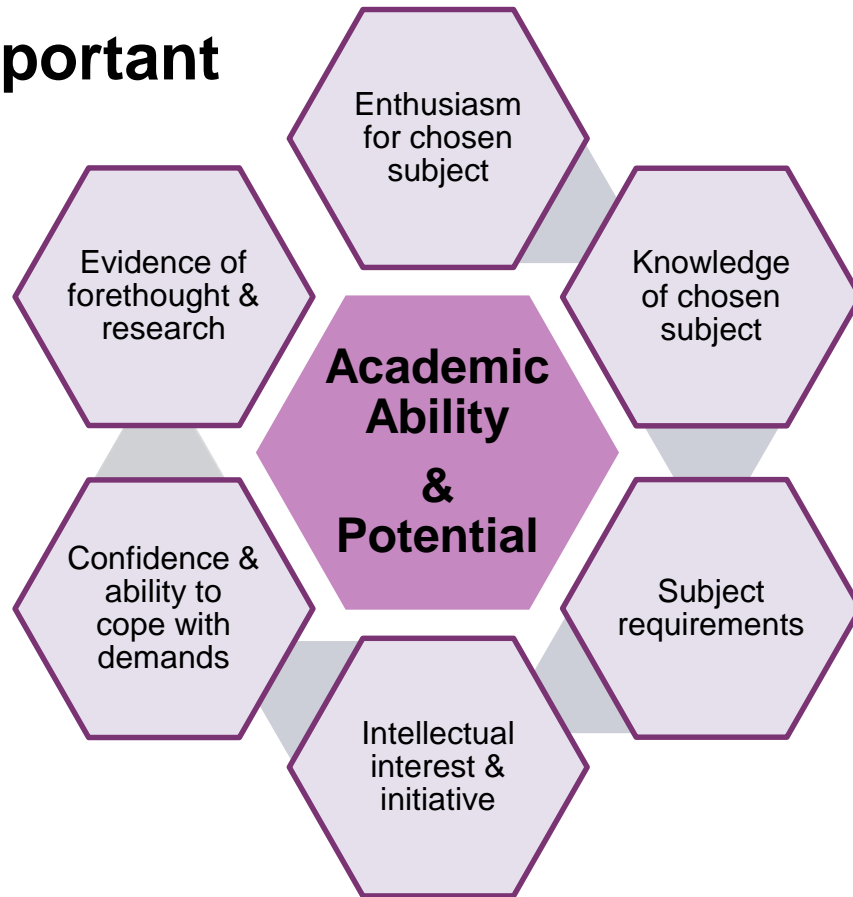


What information do we use?

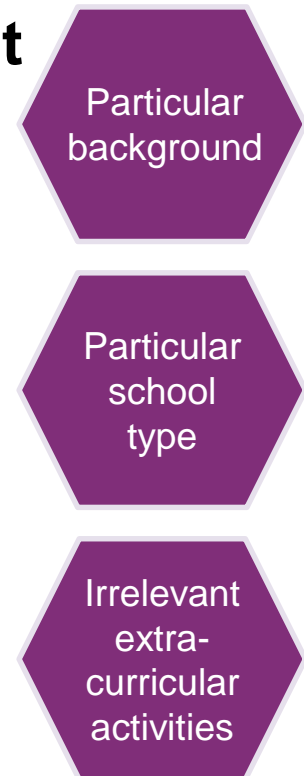


How we assess applicants

Important



Irrelevant



Application process

1 Choose your course

2 Choose a College or open application



3 Check admission assessment arrangements



4 UCAS application



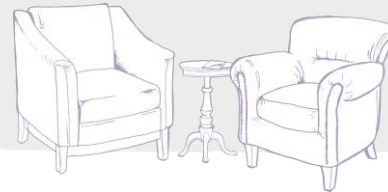
5 SAQ (22 October)



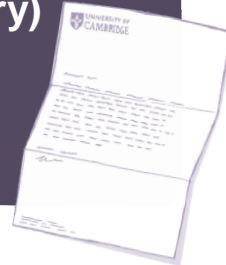
6 Submit written work and/or take admissions assessment



7 Interview (December)

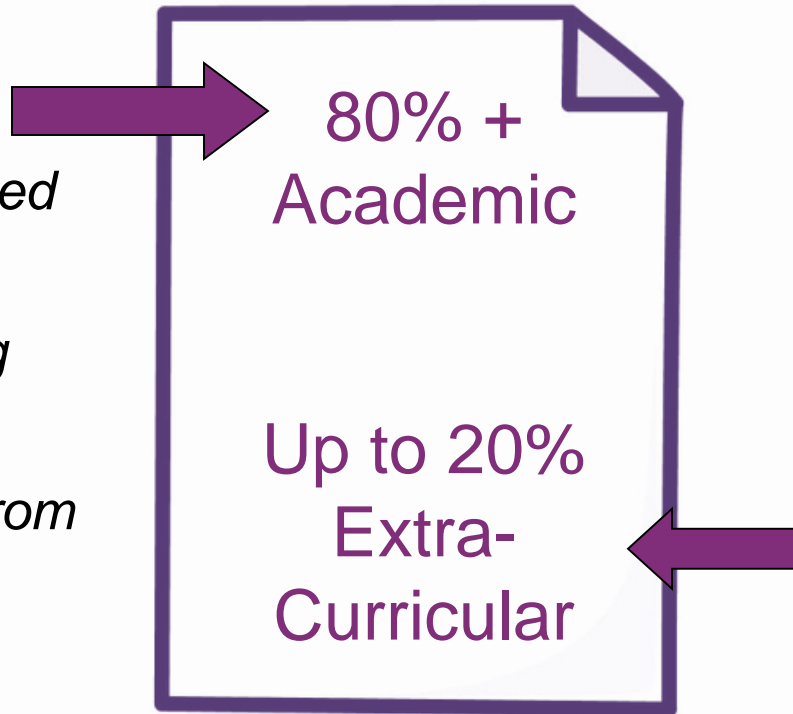


8 Decision (January)



Structuring the personal statement

- *I want to study...*
- *I have read/watched/visited ...*
- *It was interesting because...*
- *What I learned from this was....*
- *What was challenging was...*



- *In my spare time I play...*
- *I had some work experience at...*
- *I enjoy...*



Supplementary Application Questionnaire: SAQ

- Collect Cambridge specific information
 - Subjects studied
 - Additional personal statement



Why use admissions assessments?

- Differentiate between well-qualified candidates
- A common set of data
- To stretch and challenge applicants
- Assess the aptitude and potential of candidates
- If appropriate, assess subject knowledge and understanding



Interviews: What students should expect

Assessment of knowledge, understanding and flexibility of thought

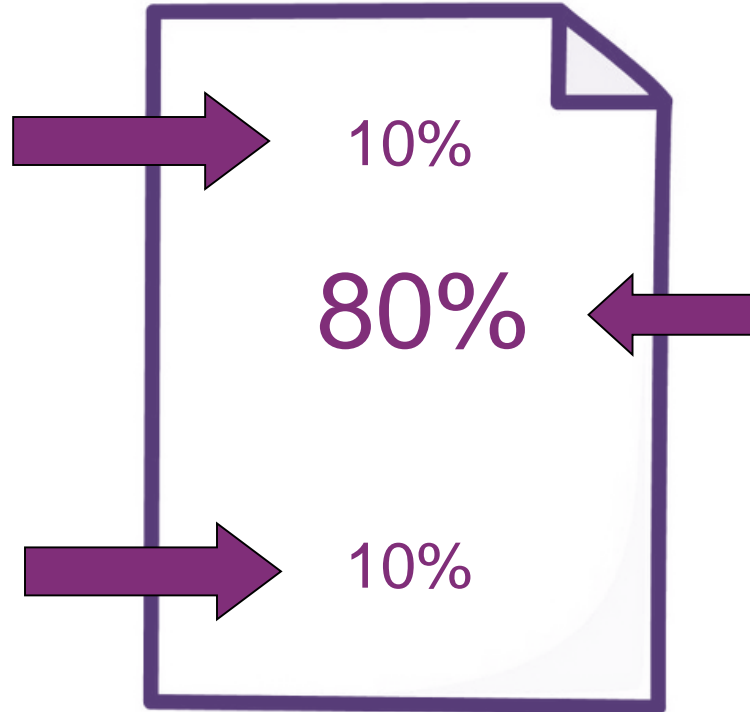
- Academic discussion based on personal statement, submitted essays, super-curricular reading and exploration
- Challenging questions relating to current study
- Subject related wider-awareness
- Application of existing knowledge to new situations
- Prompt material eg. text, picture, specimen

**No hidden agenda, no trick questions,
not the final hurdle!**



Structuring the Teacher's Reference: an example

School or college information
(particularly regarding qualification reform)



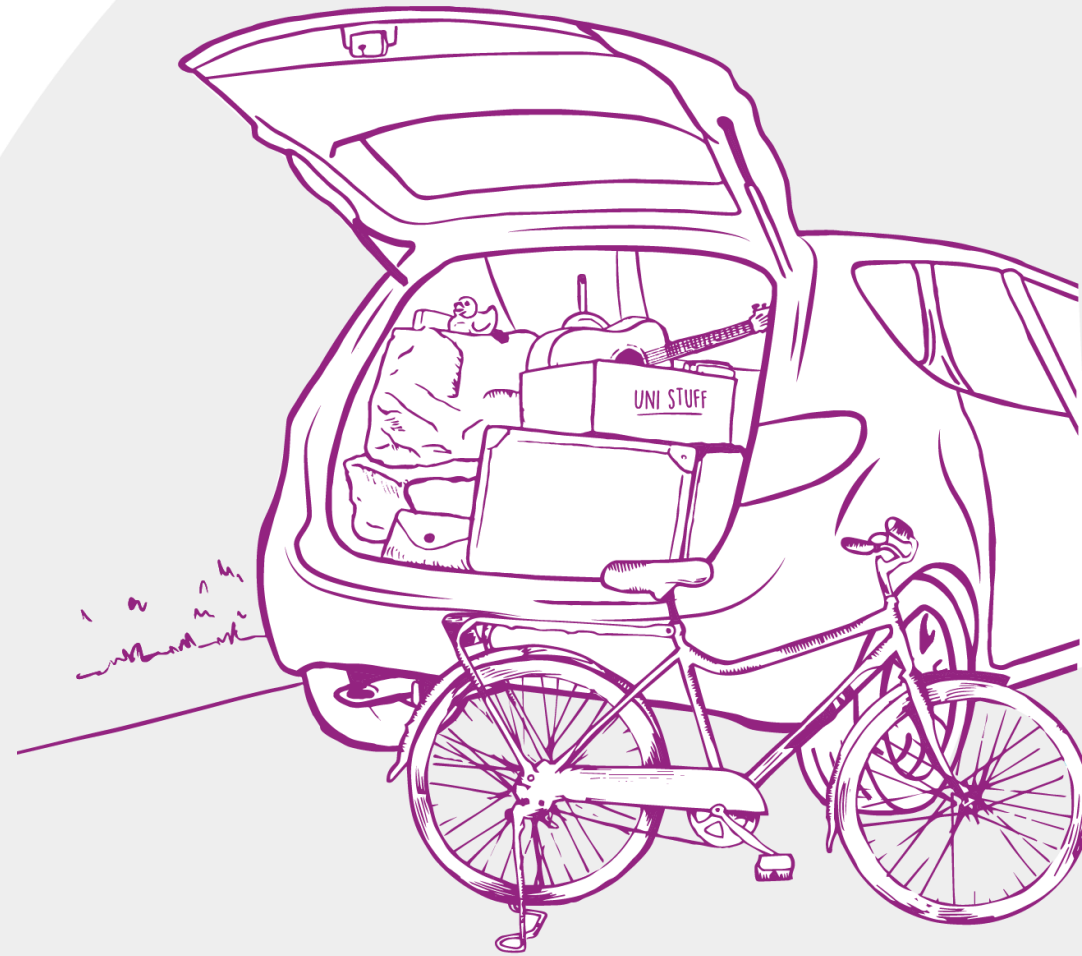
Any mitigating circumstances
(including nature and length of impact)

Concluding statement

- **Subject-specific information and aptitude for degree**
- Focus on subject choice
- Contextual achievement
- Areas of particular strength



How to support your students



Encouraging Super-Curricular Learning

Why?

- Helps students confirm subject choice and shows motivation & commitment
- Supports with personal statements and interviews
- Encourages students to ask questions, make comparisons and connections and critically engage with the subject



Encouraging Super-Curricular Learning

How?

- **Read** books, journals, newspapers – encourage deeper reading to explore areas of interest within the subject area
- **Watch/listen to** documentaries, TED talks, podcasts, radio
- **Visit** museums, galleries, theatres
- **Get involved** with competitions, lectures, subject societies
- **Explore**



Physics. You work it out.



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Virtual Open Days



Cambridge: 2-3 July

Oxford: 1-2 July

The Cambridge Open Days will be hosted through our new Virtual Tour platform, giving students an interactive opportunity to explore Cambridge. Pre-recorded sessions on courses and Colleges, as well as general topics will be available for the full open day week. On the Open Days themselves students can attend live Q&As on a number of topics to get their questions answered.

Oxford & Cambridge Outreach

www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk

For teachers:

- Cambridge Teachers' Conference – each September
- College and department teachers' conferences
- Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences
- Teacher newsletters

For school groups:

- Area Links scheme
- Department events
- Subject Matters (Y10 & 11)
- Science Festival
- Festival of ideas
- Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences



Finding out more

Teacher webinar series:

- Monday 6 July, 10:30-11:30: Cambridge admissions welcome and what next?
- Wednesday 8 July, 10:30-11:30: Supporting students to apply to Cambridge
- Monday 13 July, 10:30-11:30: Demystifying the interview process with live Q&A
- Wednesday 15 July, 10:30-11:30: My experiences of Cambridge and the application process - Student Panel

Teacher e-newsletter:

- Sign up here: www.cam.ac.uk/teachers



Thank you
for listening

Find out more:

www.cam.ac.uk/teachers